

## Extraordinary 451

### [Chapter 451](#)

To Ashlyn's surprise, the woman had gone crazy to the extent of smudging poison all over her body. She regretted her action—she shouldn't have underestimated her foe.

"Lilian, you'd better give me the antidote at once! Otherwise, I'll kill you!" Ashlyn warned Lilian, fastening her grip on the latter's chin. Consequently, Lilian's face puckered due to the racking sensation she felt.

"Ashlyn, to hell you go! No one can possibly save you because I have purchased these from those affiliated with the NN Terrorist Group. There's no antidote to the poison. Soon, you'll turn into a hideous-looking old woman. I'm sure Mr. Nolan will be disgusted by your looks! Hahaha!" Lilian laughed to her heart's content.

Crimson blood gushed out of the crazy woman's nostrils and mouth. All of a sudden, the stench of blood permeated the air.

Ashlyn moved away from her immediately. Her eyes widened in disbelief. "Since you have smudged the poison all over your body, the toxin has long made it into your system. Therefore..."

"I'd rather die along with you! Once you're dead, Mr. Nolan will keep me in his mind forever... I-I'm sure he will avenge me... H-He definitely will avenge me..." Lilian puked a mouthful of blood.

Bam!

A gunshot could be heard.

Lilian curled up on the ground in pain while blood gushed out of her chest; she had been shot in the chest.

Ashlyn turned around and saw Lucas nearby. Exuding a menacing aura, he stared at Lilian on the ground.

"Lucas? That's your maid." Ashlyn frowned. "She has to bear the consequences of her actions since she has hurt you!" The moment Lucas finished his sentence, he sprinted over with his slender legs, stretched his arms, and held Ashlyn.

"Are you okay?" Lucas asked in a serious tone, expressing his concerns.

Ashlyn shook her head. With her eyes on Lilian, who was drenched in blood, she told Lucas, "No matter what, she will die soon because she has been poisoned."

Lilian lost herself gaping at Lucas's stunning visage in awe, as if she weren't aware that he was the one who had shot her in the chest. Drenched in blood with a horrifying hole through her chest, she started

muttering as she stretched her arm in an attempt to reach Lucas.

As if she wasn't aware of her pathetic condition, she murmured, "M-Mr. Nolan, have you come to bring me back with you?"

Like a leech, Lilian wriggled her way over to Lucas with all her might in spite of the difficulties.

Ashlyn was afraid Lilian would poison Lucas, so she stepped in front of him instinctively and bellowed, "Get the hell out of our sight, Lilian!"

"B\*\*\*\*, you're the one who should get the hell out of our sight!" Lilian rebuked with an atrocious look.

On the other hand, Lucas was stunned for a moment as he stared at Ashlyn's back. He did not expect her to react this way.

Is she trying to protect me? I can't believe it... She actually got in Lilian's way without any hesitation.

It seems like she has reacted instinctively to defend me.

All along, Lucas deemed protecting her beloved woman one of his duties due to his identity and social status.

Never had he thought there would be a day when the woman, whom he loved wholeheartedly, would get in front of him and defend him in such a manner.

All of a sudden, Lucas was overwhelmed with a heartwarming sensation, which he had never felt throughout his life.

He couldn't help but hold Ashlyn in his arms gently. "Honey, have you lost your mind? Aren't you afraid of her?"

Immediately, Ashlyn replied without any hesitation, "As long as I'm around, I won't allow anyone to hurt you!"

She noticed the man grinning the moment she made her proclamation.

Ashlyn frowned. "Why are you grinning? Do you have any idea of the potential consequences of this incident? She's a walking poison! Move aside and stay away from her immediately!"

Using one of her uncontaminated hands, she pushed Lucas away with all her might, but Lucas held her hand firmly and brought her into his arms once again.

Ashlyn rolled her eyes. "Are you sure you haven't misperceived my intention? Get away from me immediately! Otherwise, your life will be at stake!"

She then pushed Lucas away once more.

Jealousy had completely taken over Lilian's mind as she observed the pair behaving all lovey-dovey in front of her.

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Lilian couldn't fathom the reason Lucas fell head-over-heels in love with Ashlyn, when he would cast her aside indifferently without a second thought.

"Both of you should join me in hell!" Lilian made up her mind and for the last time, she catapulted her way over to them with all her might.

Seeing Lilian decided to go all out, Ashlyn stopped holding back. She raised her leg and sent her flying with a merciless kick. Consequently, Lilian fell to the ground and puked a mouthful of blood before passing out.

Lucas stepped forward in an attempt to figure out if she had passed on or passed out because they couldn't be sure about it, but Ashlyn got in his way and stopped him. "Allow me," she suggested.

She squatted down and placed her hand in front of the woman's nose before announcing, "She's dead."

Lilian, who had passed on, had a pale and haggard face that seemed even eerier under broad daylight.

"What an insolent fool!" Lucas made a call and instructed indifferently, "Get rid of Lilian's corpse immediately."

Once he hung up the call, he reached over in an attempt to hold Ashlyn's hand, but she evaded him.

Lucas asked gloomily, "What's wrong?"

It was evident he was irritated by Ashlyn's response because he couldn't fathom the reason she moved away from him.

"I don't want you anywhere near me for the time being because there are bloodstains all over me." Ashlyn replied nonchalantly. She then attempted to divert the man's attention. "How do you know we're here?"

"Ever since I figured out she was the one who pushed you down the stairs, I have been searching for you everywhere." Lucas stretched his arms in another attempt to embrace Ashlyn, but she moved away from him once more.

Actually, Ashlyn was afraid that Lucas might have been contaminated by the poison when he held her

just as he found her. Even though she was faintly contaminated, the poison had proven to be highly effective. She couldn't be certain of the side effects that she would experience, so she wanted to stay away from Lucas for the time being and avoid all forms of physical contact with him.

"Why didn't you tell me anything about it?" Lucas broke the silence out of the blue, interrupting Ashlyn's thought process.

"Why should I tell you about it? I don't have any evidence to prove her guilty, either."

After all, only Ashlyn and Lilian were at the scene just now; there were no witnesses. Thus, Ashlyn couldn't be certain Lucas would buy into her words even if she were to bring it up in front of him.

"I have faith in you. Even without any evidence, I trust you unconditionally." Lucas looked into Ashlyn's eyes with determination.

Ashlyn was bewildered due to the man's stupendous remark. "If that's the case, thank you so much, Mr. Nolan."

"Ashlyn, even though you refuse to admit it verbally, I can feel it. You have been behaving differently whenever you're around me lately. Are you sure I'm not the one you have in your mind?" Lucas asked in a serious tone.

Ashlyn was dumbstruck with terror all of a sudden. It took her a few seconds before she returned to her senses. "I'm kinda hungry! What's for lunch today?"

"Stop trying to divert my attention because that's not going to work. By the way, your attempt sucks."

Ashlyn looked elsewhere and avoided Lucas's gaze. However, she could detect the man's penetrating gaze as he had his eyes glued to her.

She heaved a sigh and asked, "Lucas, do you really think things will work out between us?"

"If it's impossible, we wouldn't have been engaged to one another for four years. Since we were able to get into a relationship back in the day, I'm sure we'll have a great future together once we sort it out," Lucas assured Ashlyn with utmost determination.

Meanwhile, Ashlyn lowered her gaze and took a peek at her left palm. She noticed a small part of her palm and her wrist were bruised.

She quickly pulled down her sleeves to conceal the bruises on her hand and brushed the man off. "That sounds like a topic for another day. Let's forget about it for now."

She first succumbed to spirogyra, which had been troubling her all along. And now she was contaminated with the poison produced by NN Terrorist Group. She knew she had to figure out the

exact effects of the poison.

For the time being, she couldn't be bothered by trivial matters such as their relationship.

She walked past the man nonchalantly and returned to the manor. Although it was a sunny day, she had a relatively gloomy expression.

...

As soon as Ashlyn reached the kitchen, she put on gloves and started making pasta in tomato sauce from scratch.

Even though it was a relatively simple dish, the chef required finesse in order to turn it into a delicacy.

Ashlyn would have to pay attention to every single aspect involved in the preparation of the dish. Otherwise, it would turn out to be just another ordinary plate of pasta.

Before long, she had the main course ready along with a few side dishes.

Lucas, who had taken his seat at the dining table, was tempted by her creations.

Although it seemed to be a relatively simple meal, the dishes prepared were all Lucas's favorites.

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All the dishes looked decent to him.

Out of habit, he tried the noodles first. "Not bad."

He picked up a piece of beef and took a bite.

His movements were controlled, graceful, and pleasant to look at, as though he was born to be noble.

Ashlyn grinned and dug in.

She did not take off the rubber gloves she had been wearing, which made Lucas frown. "Why aren't you taking your gloves off?"

She never wears gloves when she cooks...

Something feels off...

Ashlyn glanced at her gloves and answered, "I'm going to wash the dishes later, so I'll just keep them on for the moment."

"You don't have to," Lucas said, dabbing at the corners of his mouth with a handkerchief. "We have maids for a reason."

Ashlyn grinned. "I like it. How about that?"

Lucas started to get suspicious, but he knew that any attempt to extort information from her would be futile.

\*

A private jet landed at the airport in the middle of the night.

Lucas turned to the woman beside him and tapped her on the shoulder. "We're here."

Ashlyn slowly opened her eyes as her muddled brain struggled to make sense of the situation. "Let's go."

She had been feeling fatigued for the whole afternoon and ended up sleeping through the entire flight.

Even after waking up, her mind was still in a mess.

Taking out her phone, she sent a message to Jared, telling him to investigate the poison from the NN Terrorist Group. I wonder if he's come up with anything...

They got into their Bentley after disembarking the plane.

Ashlyn's eyelids felt like lead, but she forced herself to stay awake as she took out her phone to check for incoming messages.

Jared had replied to her message. Boss, NN Terrorist Group is in possession of three types of incurable poison. Since the skin at the point where the poison entered your body is turning black, I'm going to guess that it's the Backtrack Poison. It will hijack your nervous system and turn back your mental age to that of a three-year-old. You will be paralyzed for life.

Ashlyn stared at his message intently.

Hijack nervous system... paralysis... for life...

No! I can't let myself turn into a vegetable!

Ashlyn typed: How long does it take for the poison to take effect? Will I die soon, just like Lilian?

Lucas had put all his time and energy into taking care of Ashlyn after dealing with Lilian's death. He could tell she was distressed with just one glance.

What's wrong? Did something happen?

She's hiding something from me...

Lucas had a bad feeling about the future.

However, he held back from peeking at her messages out of respect for her.

The only thing he could do was sit up straight and glance at her every so often.

However, she was too preoccupied with her own shock to notice Lucas's concern. She stared at her screen, waiting for a reply from Jared.

Jared did not disappoint. The dose is small, Boss. It won't kill you immediately, but I'd say you have about two weeks.

Ashlyn bit her lip as she wrote her reply: Find the cure, no matter what it takes. If Lilian can get her hands on the poison, then so can we. If all else fails, let's try and make our own cure.

Yes, Boss!

Ashlyn turned her phone off and leaned back.

She closed her eyes as a million thoughts ran through her mind.

Backtrack poison...

How did a maid like Lilian get in contact with the NN Terrorist Group?

Was someone trying to harm Lucas?

Her mind was all jumbled up.

As the car pulled into the driveway of Whitland Villa, Lucas gazed at the woman beside him. "Honey, we're home."

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Ashlyn remained fast asleep, much to his surprise.

Lucas frowned and stroked her cheek gently. "Honey?"

Why is she still asleep?

Is she really that tired after the flight?

Something's definitely wrong...

Suddenly, Spencer's phone rang. "Yes... Alright, understood. I'll convey this information to Mr. Nolan."

Lucas stiffened. "What happened?"

"It's Lilian, Mr. Nolan," Spencer answered. "The butler just informed me that her autopsy report is ready. She had smeared a lethal amount of backtrack poison on her body that acted up quickly. The shot you fired simply sped up the process. This poison is developed by the NN Terrorist Group and reduces the mental state of the victim to that of a toddler."

Lucas's eyes glinted dangerously. "Backtrack poison from the NN Terrorist Group? How is she connected to such a dangerous organization? Tell them to look into this matter immediately."

"Yes, Mr. Nolan."

Lucas picked Ashlyn up bridal style and lifted her out of the car.

After setting her down on the bed back home, he went straight for the bathroom.

Ashlyn woke up after a while to the sound of water rushing from the bathroom. She blinked a few times before realizing she was back at Whitland Villa.

She sat up slowly as spots danced across her vision, rubbing her throbbing forehead.

Goodness, I fell asleep again?

I need to find the cure...there's no telling how long I have before I turn into a vegetable!

Ashlyn looked at her rapidly-darkening palm.

I can't stay here any longer... I'll poison Lucas as well...

She slipped out of bed and sent a message to Jared: I'm at Whitland Villa. Come and pick me up.

By the time Lucas emerged from the bathroom, Ashlyn was long gone.

Alarmed, he rushed to the door to look for her when a small piece of paper on the bedside table caught his eyes.

In Ashlyn's beautiful handwriting, it read: I need to leave.



His face darkened as his grip on the note tightened.

Why are you leaving?

We've gone through so much, and you're bailing on me now?

How dare you!

\*

A Land Rover sped along the roads under the cover of darkness.

Ashlyn forced herself to stay awake, her voice growing lower and lower with every passing minute.

"Let's go to the office," she commanded.

"How are you doing, Boss?" Jared asked. He was genuinely concerned for her. She went overseas for only a short while, and someone managed to poison her already?

"I won't die," Ashlyn drawled sleepily. Forcing her eyes open, she continued, "Tell everyone to get ready for an emergency meeting."

"Yes, Boss!"

They arrived at the Centennial Healthcare pharmaceutical research center soon after.

All researchers were already at the scene.

Some of them were yawning and looking half-asleep while the nocturnal ones were scoffing at them. "Boss is going to scold you all for this!"

"Urgh... Why did she call for a meeting at this ungodly hour?"

"Is she crazy? I'm so tired..."

Their bickering was cut off by hurried footsteps and the sound of the door opening.

A tall woman clad in white walked in, visibly fatigued.

A slender man followed her closely.

Everyone turned to look at them the moment they made their entry.

Ashlyn sat at the head of the table and gestured at Jared weakly. "Speak for me."

"Yes, Boss."

Five minutes later...

The researchers stared at Ashlyn in disbelief upon hearing Jared's words.

"Boss, are you going to..."

"What's going to happen to you?"

"Boss, you're still so young!"

"No need to pity me," Ashlyn said, "I don't have much time left. I need all of you to find something that can slow down the progression of the poison and buy time for the development of the cure."

#### [Chapter 455](#)

"There's definitely something that can counter the poison. Everything has its antidote!"

Her voice reverberated around the room.

The next morning...

Ashlyn was rudely awakened by the shrill sound of her alarm; her body was aching.

She had fallen asleep on the way home from the research center the previous night and had not woken up since.

She pulled herself off the bed and headed to the bathroom.

After a simple breakfast, she glanced at her palm and realized that the dark patch had grown overnight.

The poison is still spreading...

She decided to ask Harrison to drive her to the research center instead of going behind the wheel herself.

Jared was a productive worker. By the time she arrived at the research center, he was already analyzing a bottle of backtrack poison.

"It's a complex poison. It must have been the brainchild of a genius," he muttered in awe.

"It's a threat to mankind," Ashlyn growled. "Who knows how many innocent people will die if this

appears on the market?”

She pulled on a hazmat suit and continued, “I want to take part in the research process. Tell everyone to drop whatever they’re doing and focus on this project.”

“Yes, Boss!”

She gave herself an adrenaline shot to keep herself awake.

Jared began to feel sorry for her. “Boss... Someone poisoned you! You should take a break and leave everything to us.”

“The more manpower, the merrier. I’m also a doctor, after all,” Ashlyn said nonchalantly, “Let’s begin.”

The experiments ended at 2 o’clock in the afternoon.

Peeling the hazmat suit off her lethargic body, Ashlyn turned to the researchers and announced, “Manufacture the delaying agent first. I need to go to University T.”

She went straight to the lounge to take a bath and change her clothes before giving Harrison a call.

She fell asleep yet again the moment she got into the car.

\*

Meanwhile, in a classroom at University T...

Tinsor scooted over to Blair’s seat with an evil grin on his face. “I heard that a beautiful top surgeon from the First Hospital is going to the med school for a talk! Is it Ashlyn?”

Blair scoffed. “That’s my sister-in-law, for goodness’ sake!”

A few other rich kids crowded around them out of curiosity.

“Hey, I heard that she’s a hot chick with an amazing body!” someone commented.

Recently, Blair and Tinsor became the most hardworking students in the class, to everyone’s surprise.

Instead of fighting, they began to try outsmarting each other.

Each time one of them made some progress, the other would start burning the midnight oil to catch up.

The other rich kids in the class found this bizarre, and that was why they perked up the moment they heard their conversation about Ashlyn.

“Is she hot? Shall we have some fun with her after the lecture?”

Hayden grinned lecherously at the sound of that. “I bet I’ll lose control if I see her!”

“I heard that the best surgeon of the First Hospital is pretty and talented!”

“Really?” Hayden exclaimed in excitement.

“There’s a photo of her on the med school bulletin board! She’s really hot, Hayden!”

“What are we waiting for? Let’s attend the lecture!” Hayden declared as he led the bunch of rich kids out of the door.

“Let’s go, too.” Tinsor patted Blair’s shoulder.

Blair stood up and followed Tinsor out.

When they passed by the bulletin board near the med school, Blair noticed a photo pasted on it.

“It’s Ashlyn!” Blair exclaimed, smiling brightly.

“Stop smiling like that! You look like an idiot!” Tinsor complained.

#### [Chapter 456](#)

The two of them rushed to the lecture theatre where the talk would be held.

By the time they arrived, the corridors in the med school were swarming with people, with the latecomers pushed all the way to the back.

Hayden and his gang had gone straight to the lecture theatre without looking at the bulletin board in order to snatch front row seats, but they were still too late.

“Hey! Get out of the way!” he yelled at the med students.

“You’re not from med school, are you? Get out!” they retorted.

“You have no right to tell me what to do!” Hayden snarled. “That hot doctor is coming home with me tonight! She’s not as pure and innocent as you think!”

His gang of rich kids began to scoff. “Of course! No woman can resist the lure of money!”

“If Hayden wants it, he’ll get it!”

Blair and Tinsor walked into the theatre just in time to hear the perverted conversation.

In a fit of rage, Blair walked up to Hayden, grabbed him by the collar, and pinned him against the wall. The students around them screamed in shock.

He raised his fist and sent it flying into Hayden's face.

The rich kids rushed forward, only to be stopped by Tinsor.

"Stop right there!" he yelled, startling the rich kids.

As a child of the Jaquin family, Tinsor was well-versed in the art of self-defense.

At that moment, the principal of University T and a few board members walked into the lecture theatre, only to witness a huge fight.

"What's wrong with you, Blair? All he did was to joke about the hot doctor!"

"Why are you getting yourself involved, Tinsor? What did Hayden ever do to you?"

That only made matters worse.

Hayden's face slowly turned into a bloody, unrecognizable mess as the assault continued.

"Nolan! Jaquin! My brother shall avenge me!" Hayden screamed.

"I'm beating you up for not being able to keep your mouth shut and for bullying my sister!" Blair yelled.

The principal finally realized what had been going on and bellowed, "Stop it!"

"Call the security guards!" the teaching director yelled.

Meanwhile, a female teacher greeted Ashlyn as she alighted from her car outside the building. "Dr. Berry, am I right? Please follow me."

Ashlyn nodded and followed her to the lecture theatre.

The door to the lecture theatre was wide open, yet it was so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

Ashlyn raised an eyebrow. She walked into the lecture theatre, and the first thing she saw was two boys huddled in the corner with their heads down and faces covered.

Meanwhile, on one of the front row seats, another boy sat there with blood dripping from several open wounds on his face.

Did a fight break out?

“What happened?” Ashlyn asked, confused.

Everyone looked in her direction the moment she spoke.

To their surprise, a tall and slender woman in white stood before them, her beautiful features being fully illuminated by the bright afternoon sunlight.

She’s...she’s gorgeous!

The principal rubbed his hands together awkwardly. “Apologies, Dr. Berry... There’s a tendency for fights to break out in crowded areas.”

The two boys in the corner seemed to retreat further into their hiding spot when they heard her familiar voice.

“Dixon...please...help me! I got beat up again...” Hayden sobbed into the phone as tears fell freely from his eyes.

The principal began to feel uncomfortable. “Mr. Haddock...you should go to the nurse’s room.”

Haddock?

Ashlyn glanced at Hayden’s battered face but could not tell who he was.

Conversely, when two rich kids rushed forward to help Hayden up, Hayden immediately recognized that devilishly pretty face the moment he lifted his head.

## [Chapter 457](#)

“AH!”

Hayden let out a loud screech and almost fell to the ground in shock. “W-why are you here?”

Ashlyn Berry! What in the world is that spawn of Satan doing here? Hayden shivered as he recalled the events of that hellish night with Ashlyn in the private room.

His bloodied face turned ashen and his legs became jelly.

Ashlyn looked at him calmly. “I’m here for the lecture.”

Hayden could only stare at her, petrified. The lecture... no wonder Blair and Tinsor were so mad...

He wanted to detonate himself on the spot.

With tears streaming down his face, he pleaded, "I'm sorry, Superheroine! I didn't know it was you!"

The turn of events shocked everyone around them.

He went from attempting to rope in his brother to avenge him to pleading for Ashlyn's mercy on the floor.

The crowd erupted in chatter as they glanced at Ashlyn every so often.

Ashlyn took a closer look at Hayden; she finally recognized him. Raising an eyebrow, she asked, "Who are you?"

Hayden started to bawl his eyes out as though the end of the world was near. "I'm Hayden Haddock! I'm sorry! I deserve the beating!"

The two boys in the corner exchanged surprised looks.

They had thought that Ashlyn would give them an earful for stirring up trouble, but they did not expect her to take a jab at Hayden.

Hayden's behavior satisfied them more than any fight they picked with him.

Everyone stared at Ashlyn and felt her dominating vibe. It made them apprehensive of her.

No wonder Blair and Tinsor beat Hayden up!

Wait a second...did the two of them know Dr. Berry?

Even the principal looked on with a mild shock.

Hayden had been terrorizing the students of University T since day one, and this was the first time he admitted defeat.

"How long more are you guys planning to stay there?" Ashlyn asked suddenly, casting her cold gaze on the two boys in the corner.

We got busted!

The two boys stood up and turned around to face her silently.

They glanced at her for a second before looking down again.

Is she going to scold us? Slap us? Beat us into a pulp?

I'm sure she won't do that...

She didn't even do anything to Hayden!

Suddenly, several police officers burst into the lecture theatre.

Captain Lewis had been the one leading the charge, and his eyes lit up the moment he saw Ashlyn. "Ms. Berry!" he greeted her.

Ashlyn nodded. "Apologies for the trouble my two little brothers caused, Sir."

Little brother?

Tinsor looked up at Ashlyn excitedly.

Is the goddess herself taking me in as her little brother?

"Rest assured that we will deal with the troublemakers accordingly," Captain Lewis promised as his subordinates hauled Hayden, Blair, and Tinsor into the police car downstairs.

After the police left, the principal turned to Ashlyn and said, "My sincerest apologies, Dr. Berry. I hope this incident did not affect your mood for the day."

"Of course it didn't," she said with a smile. Feeling weak, she prayed that her makeup would hide the fatigue in her eyes. She walked onstage and greeted the students. "Good morning, everyone. I am Ashlyn Berry, a surgeon from the First Hospital. The topic I would like to talk about for today's lecture is 'Misdiagnosis of Acute Abdomen As Appendicitis'."

No one had expected her to talk about that particular topic.

"What is there to talk about?"

"It's not like they're serious ailments or anything..."

"I was looking forward to hearing about surgery techniques!"

"I heard that the surgeons at the First Hospital are super adept with scalpels..."

"Quiet! The lecture is starting!"

The students' excitement began to die down, replaced with mild disappointment.



Ashlyn took in the scene before her with a calm demeanor.

#### [Chapter 458](#)

She had a sleek figure and she carried herself with grace and elegance.

With dark and silky hair, porcelain skin, and sparkly eyes, she was the epitome of beauty.

Her voice echoed around the lecture theatre as she spoke.

“Misdiagnosis is particularly high amongst female patients, due to the resemblance of its symptoms to acute appendicitis. To date, the First Hospital has taken in three thousand and eighty-seven female patients complaining of acute abdominal pain, in which fifty-nine of those cases were misdiagnosed as acute appendicitis. This is not a small number,” she said.

The convincing evidence made the med students’ ears prick up.

“As doctors and nurses, our jobs don’t just stop at dealing with case after case of different illnesses. We are responsible for the lives of our patients, and we cannot afford to make even the tiniest of mistakes. I’m sure you understand the repercussions of misdiagnosis from the examples I gave earlier,” she continued. “Principal Potter?”

Principal Potter, who had been listening to her lecture attentively, jumped when she mentioned his name. He stood up immediately. “Yes, Dr. Berry?”

Ashlyn showed him a thumb drive. “The slides for today’s lecture are in this thumb drive. I hope you can help me out and give every student here a copy of the slides for self-study.”

Everyone was shocked.

She’s willing to share such a rare gem?

Ashlyn left immediately after the lecture, only to bump into a young police officer standing by the door.

“Ms. Berry?”

“Yes?” she asked, slowing to a halt.

“We need you at the police station,” the police officer informed her awkwardly.

She could tell that Blair and Tinsor were in trouble by the look of it.

She arrived at the police station soon after.

The moment she entered, she saw a man sporting a grim expression standing beside Hayden, with one hand in his pocket.

Hayden stared at the tip of his shoes. The wounds on his face had been cleaned and dressed.

Dixon glanced at Blair and Tinsor before he scoffed. "You're asking me for help just because you got beat up by these two gangsters?"

"Dixon..." Hayden whined. The Haddock family had plenty of sons, but Dixon had eliminated the rest so that only he and his blood brother, Hayden, were left. The latter feared Dixon greatly.

He began to panic when he realized that Dixon did not have his back this time around. To Hayden, however, nothing mattered more than taking revenge. "Dixon, that scary woman is back...you have to help me!"

"Which scary woman?" a crisp voice rang from the doorway.

Hayden trembled when he realized whom the voice belonged to. He rushed to hide behind his brother's back. "It's her!"

Dixon raised his eyes lazily to look at Ashlyn.

A cold grin spread across his lips. "Oh, it's Dr. Berry. My grandfather's surgery is scheduled for tomorrow morning, am I right?"

"That's correct," Ashlyn answered, before turning to Hayden and raising an eyebrow at his rapidly paling face. "Hayden, are you trying to stop me from operating on your grandfather?"

Hayden took a deep breath, almost choking on air.

The truth was clear: Ashlyn had been the surgeon operating on his grandfather!

Oh my! Help me!

He began to shiver violently.

Before he knew it, Dixon had grabbed him by the arm and shoved him onto the floor with a kick.

Hayden fell to the floor by Ashlyn's feet with a loud thud.

“Ah! It hurts!” he screeched.

“Apologize to her!” Dixon ordered.

Hayden’s eyes reddened as he trembled uncontrollably. “I’m sorry, Ms. Berry...it’s my fault! I shouldn’t have picked a fight with Blair and Tinsor!”

#### [Chapter 459](#)

I’m the victim, and yet I have to apologize! How embarrassing!

“Hmph! Listen up! If you dare to insult my sis-in-law one more time, I’ll beat you up for sure!” Blair growled at Hayden.

“Have some self-control, Hayden! I don’t care about the idols or models you’re after, but you don’t deserve my goddess a single bit!” Tinsor spat.

“Who insulted her?”

Suddenly, the door to the office opened. A man clad in a black suit strode in on his long legs.

He had a well-chiseled face and charming features that could intimidate anyone who dared to go near him.

He glanced around the room before settling his eyes on Ashlyn.

“Lucas!” Blair exclaimed, his eyes widening in surprise. He rushed over to Lucas immediately. “Lucas, Hayden insulted Ashlyn and I beat him up for it!”

“Why is your brother here?” Tinsor huffed. When is my brother ever going to come?

Ashlyn raised an eyebrow. So these two kids beat Hayden up just because he insulted me?

Were they trying to avenge me?

Well...

She glanced at the two youthful and energetic boys before her.

I would never have guessed that two kids would step up to protect me one day...

She grinned.

Her smile was warm and bright like the early morning sun.

Everyone looked towards her at that moment; they were all mesmerized by the beauty of her smile.

“Not bad,” Lucas praised, pulling out a credit card from his pocket and throwing it to Blair. “Here’s five million as a reward.”

“Thank you, Lucas!” Blair was elated.

He was convinced that Lucas was going to beat him up the moment he arrived at the police station. The last thing he expected from Lucas was a reward.

What a pleasant surprise!

Ashlyn walked over to the two boys. “Fighting isn’t the right way to deal with problems, but I’ll let you two go this time. As the young masters of your respective families, you have to learn to be responsible. Don’t get yourselves into trouble too often, alright?”

The two boys froze, feeling a little embarrassed.

Because they had beat up Hayden for Ashlyn’s sake, getting lectured by her kind of spoiled the mood.

Even so, they felt as though someone had drizzled honey onto their hearts, and they savored the feeling of being able to talk to her.

Tinsor, in particular, had never been discouraged from answering a threat with violence due to his family background.

He struggled to come up with a reply to Ashlyn.

The more he looked at her, the more he fell for her.

How great would it be if I could stay with her and listen to her beautiful voice all day long...

Urgh, when is my brother ever going to come?

Seeing how silent they were, Ashlyn simply grinned and continued, “Thank you for standing up for me. Dinner’s on me tonight.”

“Dinner?” Blair said, perking up.

“Really?” Tinsor asked with his eyes twinkling in surprise.

“Just this once,” she quipped with a smile. “We should celebrate! You’ve matured so much!”

Lucas’s face darkened at the sound of that.

She’s never asked me out for dinner before...

Dixon was not very happy about this. “You see, Dr. Berry, my brother has admitted his mistakes. Can’t you take him along?”

“Why? He insulted Ashlyn!” Blair retorted angrily.

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His temper flared, ready to blow its top any moment.

Hayden picked himself up from the floor and said, “I promise I won’t do that ever again!”

How embarrassing! Even Dixon couldn’t do anything against her! The only thing we could do is to suck up to her...

Since when did I have to suck up to anyone?

Hayden was mad, but there was nothing he could do about it.

“I’m not that forgiving,” Ashlyn said coolly. “Apologies, Mr. Haddock.”

Dixon’s eyes flashed dangerously, but he remained silent.

Lucas turned around and caught up to Ashlyn as she walked towards the door. She asked with a frown, “Why are you following me?”

He lowered his eyelids and gazed at her. “I want to have dinner with you, too.”

“No, you should stay and settle this matter,” Ashlyn instructed, her eyes sparkling.

It was obvious that she did not want him around.

She glanced at the transparent gloves on her hand. I shouldn’t spend so much time with him, or he’ll be suspicious.

Something told her that it would be a bad idea to tell him that she got poisoned.

Lucas gazed at her attractive features as though he was looking at a shining star in the night sky.

Something's fishy...

He could not shake the strange feeling of doom that had been plaguing his mind for days.

She looked completely normal, her makeup and her smile as perfect as ever. However, there was something seriously wrong with her, and he could feel it.

For starters, her usual makeup routine was simple - some light foundation, a little lipstick, and eyeshadow at times.

However, he could see today the thick foundation caking her skin along with a considerable amount of blush and even colored contact lenses.

Colored contact lenses?

Since when did she ever need that stuff?

She was beautiful even when bare-faced, so it was strange to see her wearing so much makeup.

Something's really off..

Lucas stared straight into her eyes. "Is there something you're hiding from me?"

"What are you talking about, Lucas?" she asked, panicking a little on the inside.

She could feel her innards twitch in fear.

Turning around, she quickened her pace and walked towards the door.

Blair noticed his brother's displeased expression and rushed forward to follow Ashlyn out.

Sassy as always!

Tinsor followed them closely.

What's going on between Mr. Nolan and Ashlyn?

The atmosphere around them feels strange...

\*

After Ashlyn and the two boys left, Dixon glanced at Hayden's bandaged head without a hint of pity in

his eyes.

Dixon berated his brother, "You idiot!"

Suddenly, Lucas barged into the room and stared at both of them. "Are the two of you done?"

Dixon glowered at Lucas. "Well, Mr. Nolan, Dr. Berry doesn't seem too happy to be around you!"

"Mind your own business," Lucas retorted.

At this time, Spencer walked over with a dossier in his hands. "Mr. Nolan, please sign here."

Lucas signed his name on a document inside and looked at the police officer beside him. "Can I go now?"

"Yes, of course, Mr. Nolan," the police officer replied, a little too eager to chase him away.

Dixon left with Hayden soon after.

Suddenly, Winsor rushed into the station and ran up to a random police officer. "Where's Ashlyn? Where's my brother?"

"Oh, are you Tinsor's brother? He's just left the station," the police officer answered before returning to his duties.

Winsor muttered something under his breath and left the station.

\*

Meanwhile, at the Imperial Hotel...

Ashlyn sat down with the two boys at a table and waved her hand at a waiter nearby. "Three orders of ice cream, please. I'll have the usual."

"Sure, Ms. Berry," the waiter replied before rushing off to fulfill her order.

The ice creams arrived within minutes.

The two boys turned red in the face. As young men, they felt a little reluctant to eat the ice cream.