

## Extraordinary 651

### [Chapter 651](#)

Lucas tilted his head, bit Ashlyn on the crook of her neck, and let out a warm exhale from time to time.

Ashlyn's eyes twitched in anger, and she fiercely pinched Lucas on his waist as revenge.

However, her ears were perked up, and she was constantly listening to all the voices in the room.

Lucas smiled sweetly at her and asked, "Honey, do you think I should drink that?"

"That is a piece of trash. You would probably die from having just a sip of that." Ashlyn smiled innocently and replied.

The corners of Lucas' lips curled into a smirk. Then, he narrowed his eyes and said, "Those who are not willing to drink can leave this place with me. As for those who are willing to drink it, feel free to stay."

With an icy expression, Leonardo yelled, "Mr. Nolan, it seems like you are determined to embarrass me. Don't forget that you are in my territory! All of you have to drink it no matter what!"

Lucas grinned slyly and replied, "Leonardo, in all these years, the Nolan Group had steered clear of your business. Are you trying to ruin that peace?"

"Mr. Nolan, you've misunderstood me. I just want everyone to be closer to one another and know each other better," Leonardo replied with a bitter chuckle.

"Close?" Lucas suddenly reached out and pulled out a few photos from his pocket. "Without your wife, your company wouldn't have been able to enter the Fortune five hundred. What do you think your wife will do after I show her these photos?"

With that, Lucas swiftly threw the stack of photos on the table. Everyone couldn't help but look over.

Those were intimate photos of Leonardo with other women, and all of the photos were clear.

Seeing that, Leonardo's face completely darkened.

“Lucas, watch your mouth! What are you trying to prove with a stack of photoshopped photos? Are you trying to ruin my relationship with my wife? Or is your intention to ruin my reputation and image? The Tasker family is one of the four greatest families of North Anglandur!” Leonardo yelled after slamming the table in anger.

“Leonardo, you know best what you usually dabble in. Just ten days ago, you ordered the best prostitute named Amy to bring a few other girls to accompany you to the King Card Hotel. Have you already forgotten about it?”

Lucas looked at Leonardo lazily. At that moment, he looked like a lion that was about to doze off.

Seeing that, Leonardo's body stiffened.

He narrowed his eyes and stared at the man who was sitting there and smiling mischievously.

He couldn't help but tremble. “Lucas, what is your goal? If you are not willing to drink Cyrus with us, why did you accept my invitation?”

“If I didn't come, how would Interpol have found this place?” Lucas replied as his smile deepened.

“W-What did you just say?” Leonardo's face instantly turned pale. “You reported me to the police?”

With a smile, Lucas snapped his fingers and said, “It's simple. Interpol has been dying to capture the man who has been selling Cyrus. They already had their eyes on you a long time ago. I'm just cooperating to make things easier for them.”

Leonardo's face had turned as pale as a sheet, and he was sweating profusely.

Lucas stopped talking, but his smile was extremely chilling. Then, he propped up his perfectly streamlined chin.

"If that's the case, why are you still wasting your time with us? Where are the international police? Why don't I see them? Lucas, do you think that I'm a three-year-old? Do you know how many people you've offended with your actions?"

Leonardo clenched his fists tightly.

As soon as he finished talking, he suddenly heard the sound of machine guns coming from outside.

In an instant, his face turned extremely pale.

I have always been careful. How did Lucas manage to destroy everything?

When some of the men who had been collaborating with Leonardo saw that their secret was exposed, they tried to escape.

However, as soon as they stood to their feet, the woman who had been in Lucas' arms suddenly pulled out a gun.

With a bang, she managed to shoot the leg of a middle-aged man who had his hand on the doorknob.

Everyone's faces went pale immediately. They sat in their seats and didn't dare to make another move.

Meanwhile, Ashlyn played with the black revolver in her hand. It was the gun that Lucas had stuffed into her pants a while ago.

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She never expected this man to have complete trust in her that he would just hand her a gun.

Everybody looked at her in astonishment. How can this woman be so merciless and vile?

"Go ahead. Tell us where you obtained your Cyrus. How were you able to get your hands on such a large amount?" Lucas raised his eyebrows as he asked.

Leonardo, who previously looked high-spirited, had turned pale.

He seemed to have aged in a flash. "I will never tell you where I got my hands on these things. I'm sure the Interpol can find my source if they are capable!"

Leonardo widened his eyes and glared at Lucas. "Aren't you the almighty Lucas Nolan? Go and find out yourself!"

"Leonardo, it seems that you intend to bring down the entire Tasker family with you."

He smirked as a gust of cold wind blew past the hair on his forehead.

Ashlyn looked up and saw a ferocious glint flashing across Lucas' eyes.

It was such a powerful glint of emotion and was as beautiful as light zooming across the sky.

She was instantly attracted by its beauty.

Before she had the time to get a closer look, she heard the sound of gunshots being fired.

At that moment, a loud bang could be heard.

Two teams of tall and well-built men in black police uniforms came rushing in. They had stern looks on their faces as they barged in. These men wore military boots and carried the latest machine guns.

They looked intimidating, and one should never trifle with them.

“Don't move!”

They aimed the domineering machine guns in their hands at the people there.

The leader in the group was wearing the same black uniform. However, the military epaulets on his shoulders were proof of his identity.

He was an extremely handsome young man, and nobody would think that he would be a part of the police that would cause bloodshed every day.

The man glanced at the business tycoons, who were usually almighty in the eyes of others, with a steely look in his eyes.

Jackson? Ashlyn was stunned to see the highest-ranking commander of Interpol personally carrying out the arrest.

Lucas and Jackson are working together?

She remembered that these two weren't acquainted when she forced Lucas to kiss her at the airport to hide from Jackson.

How did they...

Ashlyn's thoughts were a mess. Lucas seemed to be getting more and more mysterious by the minute.

Apart from being the current clan leader of an ancient martial arts clan, what other identities does he have? What other disguises does he have?

“What a summit! I see that you have some Cyrus here too.” Jackson sneered. He was a handsome man and always surrounded by an aura of bloodlust.

Despite the simplicity of his words, his tone was still overwhelming for everybody.

“Commander Bush, do you think your presence is sufficient to arrest us?” Leonardo was putting up a final struggle.

He was in disbelief and couldn't understand how he was defeated.

Leonardo personally arranged the security details for this summit. On top of that, it was held in his home country.

How could I end up being arrested? I don't believe this. This cannot be happening!

"Mr. Tasker, the evidence speaks for itself. Please come with us." Jackson's handsome face remained expressionless as he looked at Leonardo.

He waved his hand and ordered, "Take those involved away and start investigating this case!"

His subordinates immediately carried out his order.

Jackson's piercing eyes landed on Lucas, and it only took a split second before he saw Ashlyn.

His long-time experience in investigating cases told him that this woman had on a hyper-realistic mask. She was hiding her true appearance and identity.

Why would a female companion hide her face?

Jackson lifted his hand, intending to yank off the mask on Ashlyn's face, and his fingers were about to touch her face.

Ashlyn frowned and was prepared to kick Jackson.

At that moment, Lucas stopped Jackson's hand from getting nearer to her. He focused his gaze on Jackson's handsome face and raised his eyebrows. "Commander Bush, I've done you a great favor, and I hope you will not go back against your words."

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Jackson looked at Lucas as his lips curled into a smile, but it was obviously a dry smile.

"Mr. Nolan, we had a deal, and rest assured that I will fulfill my promise. However..."

He looked straight at Ashlyn. "Does your female companion have something to hide? Why is she wearing a hyper-realistic mask?"

Lucas held Ashlyn's waist with his arm intimately before leisurely glancing at Jackson. "She's my woman, and I don't want anybody to see her face because..."

"Because?" Jackson had no idea what Lucas was hinting at and pressed on relentlessly.

"I will get jealous." Lucas' unruly voice sounded beside Ashlyn's ear.

What a scoundrel!

Jackson also did not expect Lucas to show his affection in public.

He could not believe his ears.

“You're such a joker, Mr. Nolan.”

Ashlyn felt like she had been scalded by the heat exuding from the man's chest. Following that, Lucas bit her ear.

“Excuse us, Commander Bush. It's getting late. We should be heading back to get some rest,” the man said as he walked away. He had his arm around her the whole time.

Ashlyn shrieked in silence when she saw how the man was acting. You pervert! I only put on this mask and pretended to put on a public display of affection with you to prevent any unavoidable trouble!

Jackson was not someone to be trifled with, and she did not want to meet him yet.

The moment they left the room, Lucas pulled her onto his back. “Honey, I'll carry you.”

"Are you kidding me!" Ashlyn raised her hand, intending to hit him. However, Lucas grabbed her fist and said, "It's not a good idea to stick around. We should leave tonight."

"Where are we going?" Ashlyn was startled.

She was still in a daze when Lucas had already carried her onto his back. He started rushing toward the emergency exit.

He was as fast as lightning and moved around easily.

Even though Ashlyn always thought of herself as an agile person, she was amazed when she saw how fast Lucas was with her on his back.

Under such a strong sprint, Ashlyn did not feel the slightest jolt even though she was on Lucas' back.

His balance was wonderful.

She was especially shocked when she realized that Lucas was moving up the stairs!

His target was the rooftop.

Could somebody be waiting for us there?

Before Ashlyn had enough time to think about it, Lucas had already put her down on the floor.

She was stunned, but Lucas soon threw her toward the rooftop's entrance.

The ladder toward the rooftop had broken into two.

Ashlyn gritted her teeth and tried her best to stretch out her hand. She skillfully grabbed the remaining half of the ladder at the rooftop entrance.

She was about to stretch out her hand to Lucas when she heard him say, "Climb up!"

Ashlyn looked at the man as he sprinted. Lucas was powerful and extremely fast.

He was the one who threw her up just now.

However, Lucas had no external assistance helping him at this moment.

Suddenly, several men in black appeared out of nowhere, and they instantly held up their guns, aiming at Lucas.



Lucas threw a kick, and the man failed to fire at him. The man could not help but cover his head with his hands.

Following a loud banging sound, Lucas sent the man flying with a single kick.

Then, the man felt a sharp pain in his neck following a flash of light.

He stretched out his hand to feel his neck. Blood instantly spilled out of his neck wound, and the man's eyes widened as he collapsed to the ground.

Lucas, who ended a man's life within seconds, did not linger around. He leaped into mid-air and kicked in different directions. Soon, he successfully got rid of two people who came to attack him.

The warm blood had stained the ground.

There was a faint look of bloodlust in the man's eyes under his stray hair.

The enemies were horrified by what they saw under the emergency exit's light.

Lucas soon turned around.

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His knife pierced through his opponents, and they were killed instantly.

The sound of disorderly footsteps approached, indicating that more pursuers were catching up with him.

These people were Leonardo's underlings. Since Jackson had only taken care of a portion of the matter, there were still many enemies roaming around the building at this time.

Numerous men dressed in black rushed out from the emergency exit, firing the machine guns in their hands rapidly. Their actions were similar to the villains portrayed in movies.

Meanwhile, Lucas swiftly darted out and killed the men swarming around him mercilessly.

Regardless, Lucas would be completely drained of energy if the situation persisted.

Moreover, more enemies were arriving, all armed with a gun.

If Lucas remained here any longer, more enemies might rush at him.

Has Jackson led the Interpol and left already? Are they eradicating the enemies?

While standing in the middle of the stairs that led to the rooftop, Ashlyn watched the man below with a frown on her face.

At the same time, Lucas, who was in the middle of eliminating the enemies, looked in her direction. He pursed his lips and stared at her intensely with his long, narrow eyes.

He opened his lips lightly and uttered two words.

Although Ashlyn could not hear what Lucas said, she could tell that he was telling her to run away.

“Catch him!” At that moment, another large group of men in black scrambled over. The man leading these people was a gray-haired elderly. He was Leonardo's old butler, Bernard. Pointing at Lucas, he howled at him in rage, “He's the one who betrayed Old Mr. Tasker! We must capture him to avenge our lord!”

Upon hearing Bernard's order, the group of men immediately encircled Lucas.

Lucas stretched out his arm and threw a punch at one of them. He suddenly raised his eyes and glanced

at Bernard with an amused smirk plastered on his face. "No wonder Leonardo would fail. Do you know why?"

"Why?" Chills ran down Bernard's spine when faced with Lucas' bewitching smile.

Lucas' lips quirked up, and he let out a burst of savage laughter. "It's because you people are too soft-hearted! At such a time, after managing to surround me, all you thought was only to capture me?"

However, his words caused Bernard to tremble from head to toe, and the latter felt himself dripping layers of cold sweat. Fear suddenly rose within him.

If we fail to capture this man today, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Even though the man gave an exuberant smile, it had only given Bernard goosebumps.

I must give an order to kill him! Otherwise, all of us, including our families, would get completely wiped out!

He felt exceedingly uneasy. "Kill him and avenge Old Mr. Tasker!"

Hearing the order, the men in black instantly held up their machine guns and fired their bullets at Lucas.

Grabbing the enemy standing closest to him, Lucas used the man's body as a shield.

Nevertheless, a short time had passed after the man got shot by the bullets, and his body was riddled with holes like a hornet's nest.

Lucas' lips formed into a curve. Bloodlust brimmed in his eyes, and he looked exceptionally unrestrained and wild under the dim light.

The warmth of fresh blood seemed to have triggered the bloodthirsty nature within him.

He stared at the group of men in front of him with a gaze filled with cruelty and excitement.

The chilly air seemed to have been released from the rooftop.

A menacing feeling instantly enveloped the surrounding.

Bernard, who stood in front, couldn't help but shiver fiercely.

Lucas exuded an aura of violence and bloodlust, which was like the aura on a battlefield and was seemingly accompanied by the lingering smell of death.

Bang!

An ear-piercing sound rang out.

At that very moment, the woman suddenly leaped down from the rooftop. She fired madly at the crowd with the gun in her hands.

She held the black revolver with her fair, slender fingers, which accentuated her creamy skin, making her look more dazzling.

The tall, slender woman also had a pair of cold and hostile-looking eyes, resembling a grim reaper from hell.

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She had remarkable marksmanship, and all the headshots she made were dead on impact.

Before these men in black could react, they had all fallen to the ground.

Looking at the woman who had landed on the ground, Lucas could not help but frown. "Didn't I tell you to leave?"

Ashlyn gave him a radiant smile. Then, moving as fast as lightning, she dodged every bullet and continued to fire headshots.

Blood splashed all over the walls.

The gun in her hand was modified. It was unlike the ordinary one, which could only hold ten bullets.

Her current pistol could hold thirty bullets.

Due to her excellent marksmanship, she could score headshots after headshots at ease. One could even call her a skilled sharpshooter.

The men in black did not expect that a woman with such precise marksmanship would suddenly appear, and they did not dare to move forward.

After all, being afraid of dying was a trait of human nature.

Seeing this, Bernard fumed with anger instantly, "Get them! What's the use of keeping you bunch of people around if you can't even defeat a woman?"

The couple they had cornered was a handsome yet cruel man and a woman who had a beautiful, cold face. The image of them together looked as gorgeous as a painting.

Ashlyn coldly swept her gaze at the crowd with her almond-shaped eyes. At that moment, she suddenly

felt an itch on her face. She turned her head in surprise and found herself face to face with the handsome man.

The man's eyes contained a trace of inexplicable excitement while smiling unrestrainedly.

The expression on his face only caused his already attractive appearance to be even more alluring.

"Lucas, can't you read the situation?" Ashlyn snapped at him as she could not hold it in anymore.

The man drew closer to her and gently kissed the corner of her lips. He whispered in a suggestive tone, "Honey, why did you jump down? Was it because you don't want to see me die?"

Ashlyn was flabbergasted.

Feeling the man's refreshing yet bloodthirsty breath sweep across her lips, she abruptly felt a tingling sensation all over her body.

It pricked her to the point where her heart was pounding uncontrollably.

She lowered her eyes before looking at Lucas. Ashlyn admitted unhesitantly, "No matter what, we used to be married for four years. Even if we can't remain as husband and wife, I can't just watch you throw your life away."

Not only did she not avoid the topic, Ashlyn even flashed him an enchanting smile. "You're also the first man I had ever been with. Also, if you got shot by the bullets and became a hornet's nest, I'll truly become unlucky. I don't wish to get plagued with misfortunes."

"Is that so?" Lucas responded with an eerie smile.

His eyes were glued to the woman's lovely face before him.

This wife of mine is too stubborn. Is confessing her feelings of not wanting to leave my side such a difficult thing to do?

However, when he thought of Franklin and Livia, his eyes turned dim, and his heart sank.

Ashlyn allowed Lucas to look at her earnestly. However, while speaking with him, her attention was still on the men in black, and she did not dare to let her guard down even for a second.

"Honey, that's so heartless of you. I was very moved at first, but now that feeling is all gone." While glancing at Ashlyn, Lucas suddenly chuckled.

Ashlyn's lips twitched at his words. "Who cares? I don't expect you to repay me too."

With that said, she faced the enemies and attacked them again.

Dozens of bullets were fired at the targets as the people hit the ground like before.

Seeing that the number of subordinates under him was reducing, Bernard shouted in exasperation, "Kill them both!"

While facing the large group of men in black, Ashlyn suppressed her smile and glared at them coldly.

Suddenly, she had an ominous feeling.

She turned around to look at Lucas and became wary. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

The man narrowed his eyes and suddenly inched closer. He spoke close to her ear with an evil grin. "Honey, if it wasn't for the wrong time and place, I really want to... get intimate with you right now!"

His words caused Ashlyn's pretty face to darken.

Even at this moment, this man is still behaving like a hooligan. He's always making me speechless!

She shot him a look with a gloomy expression. "Shut up. Hurry up and find a way to escape!"

If the situation dragged on, they would be at the losing end.

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Lucas suddenly leaned closer to her body and buried his handsome face in Ashlyn's neck. Then, he took a breath lightly.

Infuriated, Ashlyn shoved him away. "Lucas, get lost!"

Bernard was fuming with rage when they ignored him. "Charge! Why aren't you all attacking now?"

How can we go? We'll get shot in the head if we do. That woman has terrifying abilities. She has yet to miss a shot, and all the headshots killed her targets!

They started to panic at that instant.

To their surprise, Lucas abruptly fished out a smoke bomb, and a loud bang followed.

Instantly, thick, billowing smoke filled the air in the emergency exit. The people had difficulty opening their eyes and breathing due to it.

Lucas seized Ashlyn's arms and threw her upward. "To the rooftop!"

Ashlyn flipped in mid-air, and both her hands grabbed onto the ladder.

Then, she started climbing toward the rooftop. As Ashlyn turned her head, she saw Lucas sprinting and lunging upward with extended arms. Surprisingly, he could reach the bottom step of the ladder.

Soon, that guy followed behind her.

Before the smoke dissipated, both of them rapidly ran to the rooftop.

As soon as they reached the rooftop, they shut and locked the rooftop door.

After locking the door, Lucas stuck his body close to Ashlyn, and no matter how hard she tried to push him away, her efforts were in vain.

He brushed his lips against hers, doing what he wanted to do when the girl jumped down for him.



“Let go of me!” Ashlyn became livid and kicked him.

“Honey...” Lucas grinned before grabbing her leg and caressing it.

She was clinging onto him at that instant.

A mischievous smile then appeared on Lucas' face. “Honey, I didn't know you would become this enthusiastic after such a terrifying incident.”

It was evident that the smoke had settled when Ashlyn heard the noise of someone kicking on the door. “Why didn't you use your smoke bombs earlier if you have them?”

“It would put us into a more dangerous situation if I used it too early as there were many of them,” Lucas said as he embraced her.

After finishing his words, he fixed his gaze on the night starry sky.

At that moment, no one knew what he was looking at.

Frowning, Ashlyn wanted to fish out her phone to contact Jared. She then remembered that her phone had been confiscated before entering the meeting room.

Instantly, she had a grim expression. Beside her, Lucas was oddly calm when he shot a signal flare toward the sky.

Following that, the signal flare blasted straight up into the darkness.

The sound of a helicopter gliding through the sky reverberated after a while.

Then, Ashlyn saw a green helicopter approaching them gradually before landing on the huge rooftop.

The propellers rotated speedily, creating gusts of strong wind in their wake.

Then, about a hundred young men in black of various skin colors exited the helicopter, clearly well-

trained.

There was only seriousness on their faces when they looked at Lucas.

Lucas, whose clothes were black, looked at them and ordered, "Kill them all! Don't spare any of them!"

His tone was extra cold as it reverberated in the night.

His voice had even drowned out the noise made by the propellers.

The people became more serious, standing upright after hearing Lucas' instructions. Their eyes filled with immediate awe and obedience at once. "Roger that!"

Lucas swiftly hugged Ashlyn into his arms. "Honey, we'll entrust the rest of the matters to them!"

A frown flitted across Ashlyn's face when she was hugged tightly by the man.

She watched those well-trained men with rifles in their hands shoot incessantly at the rooftop's exit.

The sound of bullets flying was continuously heard as it resonated in the peaceful and silent night.

The cries of pain and the noise of heavy things falling to the ground echoed behind the door.

The scene left Ashlyn totally flabbergasted. She narrowed her eyes while watching that.

Why does Lucas have such a powerful troop? They even look like they have undergone formal training, judging from their shooting skill. They don't look like outlaws.

A few minutes later, the entrance to the rooftop regained its peacefulness, but the smell of blood had filled the air.

#### [Chapter 657](#)

Lucas' lips curled into a smirk. Mockery flashed in his eyes as he said, "The world is peaceful now."

As soon as he said that, the door was kicked open by one of the men in black before the people started jumping down.

"They'll clean up the mess for Jackson." Lucas gave a swift peck on Ashlyn's lips and added, "Let's go."

Before Ashlyn could understand what was happening, Lucas had already carried her and boarded the helicopter.

After boarding, Ashlyn noticed Spencer sitting in the pilot's seat while the one who sat in the passenger's seat was Jared.

Well, fine.

In Bayview Villa, Ashlyn sat in the living room.

Her delicate facial features were arranged into a cold expression.

Jared gulped after seeing Ashlyn's expression, which he had not seen for a long time.

He could not even remember the last time Ashlyn was infuriated.

Jared turned around and hoped to flee from the scene.

"Mr. Quickton, since when did you become Lucas' subordinate? Why didn't I know about that?"

“B-Boss, please listen to my explanation...” Jared forced an awkward smile. “Spencer and I worked with Mr. Nolan so we could coordinate both on the outside and inside. Both of you worked on the inside while Spencer and I worked on the outside...”

“So, I was kept in the dark the whole time. Was it fun?” Ashlyn raised her brows, and the hint of mockery in her smile intensified. “Jared, since you can work with Lucas today, does that mean you can also cooperate with others and betray me in the future?”

“Boss, that situation was an emergency. When Mr. Nolan wanted to work with me, he was afraid that you would find out and fail to cooperate with us...” His explanation merely made things worse.

“Fail to cooperate? Am I so weak in the eyes of the men?” Ashlyn stared at Jared coldly. “I can't tolerate you anymore. Go and find Lucas instead.”

“Boss!” Jared called out in a low voice and stared at her pitifully. “Boss, can you forgive me... if I tell you

a big secret?"

That woman looked at him while wearing a poker face, and an oppressive aura exuded from her.

She was resentful that the guy she trusted the most cooperated with Lucas without her knowing.

"Boss, this secret is related to Mr. Nolan. Are you not interested to hear it?" Jared pleaded with her bitterly.

Truth be told, Jared was left with no choice but to cooperate with Lucas in that situation. He did not mean to hide it from Ashlyn. He merely did not want Ashlyn to take the risk alone, so he agreed to cooperate with Lucas.

"He is scum. What's so interesting about him?" Ashlyn rose to her feet and was about to leave.

Jared stopped her. "Boss, that antidote that saved your life was not from our company. It was from Lucas. He was the one who saved you."

That woman's beautiful face stiffened when she heard that. A hint of appalling light glinted in her cold eyes.

She grabbed Jared's collar and asked, "What did you say?"

"In order to detoxify Backtrack poison, the donor has to be a rhesus negative. That donor had to donate

the blood from their aorta that was sufficient for you to consume for twenty-one days. One hundred cubic centimeters of blood were required to create a pill, and you needed to swallow two tablets each time. Can you imagine how much blood he had donated to you?"

Jared carefully observed the lady's expression while he spoke to her.

Ashlyn was stunned, and her head became muddled after hearing Jared's words.

She had encountered many different situations before this.

However, she felt her heart skip a beat after hearing that.

How is that possible? Lucas donated the blood from his aorta to me? Did he really donate that much blood to save my life?

"Jared, are you lying to me?"

Her voice was so husky that she had practically squeezed those words out of her with much effort. Her heart ached as she said that.

"That medication was not only made with blood from his aorta. They even extracted Lucas' bone marrow to develop the pill. When you were recuperating in the lab, Mr. Nolan observed you the whole time in a grand ward opposite the hospital. He kept an eye on your every move there."

#### [Chapter 658](#)

"He lied and said that he had gone abroad for a business trip, but it was actually for him to recover. For you, his health greatly deteriorated at that time. Just go through your memories of that moment again, and you'll know whether or not I'm lying to you. With how smart you are, I'm sure you'll come to the right conclusion."

Finally, Jared spilled the secret he had been keeping deep in his mind. At that very moment, he felt a weight lifting off his shoulders.

He could barely keep it a secret from the person closest to him anymore.

It was especially so when he saw that the two were a couple who could not be together. Even he was anxious for them.

"I had done the wrong thing tonight. I shouldn't have hidden that from you. I'll take the punishment for it, and I swear I won't do it again." With that said, he went to the training room and punished himself by doing shooting practices two hundred times.

In the blink of an eye, the living room was empty. Ashlyn stayed in her spot as the entire world seemed to turn white around her. At that second, it felt as if she was the only one in the world.

No wonder... No wonder he said he was going on a business trip back then. I was so glad that I didn't need to see him every day at that time since I wouldn't have needed to lie about my condition to him to prevent him from finding out. But as it turns out... He knew that I'd been poisoned, and he found the antidote.

Tears welled up in her eyes, and her heart thumped loudly against her ribcage.

Hundreds and thousands of emotions washed over her, but she did not know what to say or do.

Lucas... Lucas...

Ashlyn slowly closed her eyes as the man's attractive face flashed past her mind.

She remained in her spot for a long, long time. Even when Jared came out from the training room, sweating, she was still standing there, as still as a statue.

The very sight of her was intimidating, and it felt like she was warning everyone to stay away from her.

Jared could not help but say, "The sun's about to come up. Boss, go back to your room to rest."

Ashlyn's eyes flitted to the side. In a hollow voice, she uttered, "Jared, why did you only tell me about this now? How am I going to face him after everything that happened between us?"

At that, she lifted her heavy legs and headed upstairs.

It was as though she never expected Jared to reply to her.

Jared stared at her in a daze. When his eyes drifted to the floor and saw the water droplets on the spotless floor, his eyes widened.

Did... she cry? She's such a strong person, but she's crying? No, that can't be.

At the Count's Mansion in Maredania, Mary angrily threw the remote control in her hand.

“D\*mn old woman. She's useless. She can't even deal with one Ashlyn Berry.”

“Mom, what do we do now?” Penelope whispered as she looked at her mother's angry expression. “We can't possibly let Ashlyn continue doing anything she wants, right?”

“Our dear family was forced to go separate ways, and this b\*tch still continues to bully us. I'm an idiot if I don't take revenge for this!” Mary's eyes were bulging from the anger. Every time she talked about Ashlyn, she would be absolutely livid.

“Uncle Ryan's already in H Nation. Why don't we... look for him?” Penelope pursed her lips. “At the very least, he's internationally famous—he's a renowned pianist. If we go to him and ask him for a favor...”



“Do you think it's that simple? Your uncle seems nice to us, but he has never accepted us!” Mary replied in frustration. However, in the next second, she blinked and continued, “But... if your granny speaks to him, he might agree to it.”

Ryan had always been an unruly individual. Although his pretty eyes told others that he was someone who would flit around many women, he was a dutiful son at his core.

He listened to everything his parents told him.

“Wait, you should...” Mary then leaned toward Penelope's ear and whispered something to the latter before leaving.

Penelope worriedly mumbled under her breath, “Will this really work? Will Grandpa and Granny really listen to me?”

#### [Chapter 659](#)

“As long as you do as I say, it'll work,” Mary reassured confidently.

Half an hour later, Penelope went to the main house of the mansion.

There were a few houses at the Count's Mansion. Mary and her daughter lived in one of the houses on the side.

On the other hand, the count and his wife lived in the main house. The main house was a grand mansion. Clearly, the count was a rich and influential figure in Maredania.

Bianca was playing chess with Matilda, who had been serving her for many years. Bianca did not have many hobbies, except for playing chess.

The maids who served her all knew a little about chess. Thus, they would accompany her for a few rounds when they had nothing to do.

“Ms. Berry's here.”

When Matilda raised her head, she saw a maid leading Penelope into the living room. Immediately, she spoke to inform Bianca, who was focused on the game, about the visitor.

Bianca slowly looked away from the board to Penelope. When she saw the red dress Penelope was wearing, she furrowed her brows a little.

However, a gentle smile soon appeared on her face. “Penelope, you've come.”

“Granny.” Penelope smiled sweetly before handing a pretty gift box to Bianca. “These are the new,

fresh, and high-quality tea leaves from H Nation. Please give them a try.”

“That's nice of you, Penelope.” Bianca smiled. “Come and play a game with me.”

Penelope's smile froze as guilt flashed past her eyes. She had no idea how to play chess at all.

As Bianca liked playing chess, Penelope had been learning it recently. Nevertheless, she had no talent in it at all. Every time she looked at the chess pieces, she could feel a headache forming.

However, she dared not reject Bianca. Thus, she had no choice but to steel herself and sit down. Furthermore... she needed to ask a favor from Bianca.

After a few moves, Bianca's brows drew together even tighter.

What in the world is this? Not even the gardener, who plays the chess terribly, is as bad as her.

Immediately, she lost interest in continuing with the game. I heard that she's been learning how to play chess, but what is she even doing?

Anger was starting to accumulate in Bianca's chest. “Forget it. Let's not play chess today. Penelope, why have you come to me today?”

Hearing that, Penelope quickly said, “Granny, I miss Uncle Ryan. It's been a few days since he left, and the house already feels so quiet.”

“The age gap between your uncle and your mother is rather big. Back when I gave birth to your uncle, I was already of advanced maternal age. Well... You're around your uncle's age. Naturally, you'd be closer to him.”

At that, Bianca smiled. All the upsetting feelings she felt earlier was gone.

Penelope's smile froze as guilt flashed past her eyes. She had no idea how to play chess at all.

Ryan was thirty years old, and he was one of the most eligible bachelors in Maredania. Not only was he handsome and talented—his piano performance had won him countless awards—but he was also the son of a count.

“That's why I miss him. I wonder how he is in H Nation. He's so handsome, so I'm sure there are tons of girls who like him,” Penelope said with a smile.

It was as if she was an innocent girl, eager to meet her aunt-in-law.

“It'll be great if he can bring a pretty lady back so I can have a little cousin soon! That'll be amazing.”

Just as she said those words, Bianca's expression darkened visibly.

A moment later, she said, "Penelope, you miss Uncle Ryan, right? Why don't you and your mother return to H Nation?"

"Huh? Go back to H Nation?" Penelope looked at Bianca in confusion. "Granny, you're going to let me and my mother go back to H Nation?"

"Your uncle already has someone to take care of him, so you and your mother should go there together. That way, your mother can have a good talk with her brother."

With a soft smile, Bianca said, "Matilda, book flight tickets for tomorrow for the two of them."

"Of course," Matilda quickly replied.

After thanking Bianca, Penelope merrily left.

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Once Penelope was out of hearing range, Matilda tentatively said to Bianca, "Mrs. Yates, you know that..."

Bianca sighed. "Maybe it's because I lost my daughter at a young age and she never grew up with me around that I always feel as if there's a wall between us. If they want to go back to H Nation, they should go. If I let them do as they wish, maybe they'll think of me as someone good."

Bianca always felt that the daughter she finally got back was very unlike her and the count.

Maybe it's because she didn't get to grow up in a good family in H Nation. She was raised as someone ordinary, so there's nothing she's particularly good at. It's the same for her daughter, Penelope. My daughter's short-sighted, and my granddaughter's a master of none. Among the socialites, they're... I don't know what to say about them. They have no skills in fine arts, let alone master any of the fine arts.

Back when Bianca finally took them in, she had been overjoyed. She had wished she could tell the whole world about the delightful news.

However, they would have to report to the king about the return of the count's daughter. After that, they would have to deal with the complicated procedures of including her in the family tree and whatnot.

The more Bianca learned about Mary and Penelope, the more the initial happiness Bianca felt dissipated.

Eventually, they never put the mother-and-daughter duo into the family tree, and the matter was gradually dismissed.

Perhaps that was something Bianca would only do when her mood changed for the better.

At the start, Bianca loved bringing Penelope and Mary out to gatherings. She wanted her peers to see that she, too, had a daughter and a granddaughter.

However, when she realized that all the mother-and-daughter duo did was embarrass her, Bianca became reluctant to let them meet the other rich women.

With that thought in mind, Bianca let out a sigh.

"It's really as if she's not my daughter."

When Matilda saw the disappointed look on Bianca's face, she quickly consoled, "Not everyone can be as excellent as you were when you were younger. Even if your blood is flowing in her, she might not have inherited your traits, so don't be too upset, Mrs. Yates."

"It's fine. Just let them be." Bianca sighed. "Come, let's end this game of chess."

The movie that Fraser Corporation and Haddock Group invested in was doomed because of Helena. Its reputation had plummeted into the abyss.

Helena's incident also affected the director Frank, but he managed to cover up the scandal.

As his wife had received a large sum of money, she pretended to be lovey-dovey with him in public and even apologized to the others.

Despite that, the people still did not forgive him as they continued cursing at him.

Stressed, Frank grew a few ulcers in his mouth, and they were painful.

The scandals of the lead actress seemed neverending. More and more blackmail-worthy news of her kept popping up on the internet, and it was as if the matter would never blow over.

Perhaps that was something Bianca would only do when her mood changed for the better.

Left without a choice, Frank decided to search for another lead actress.

However, the reputation of the show was in the dumpster. No one would want to grab the hot potato.

Everyone was afraid that their reputation would be in ruins after taking on the role.

Thus, Frank panicked even more.

He was restless, but there was nothing he could do about the matter.

In the other film crew, Ashlyn was sitting on her chair, watching the expressions on Jonathan and Naomi's faces as they acted.

Although Ashlyn did not learn acting, she could see that Naomi had improved quite a bit.

It was as if the girl was born to be an actress. Her acting was natural, and her expressions were intense but not over the top.

Once the scene was over, Greg took a chair and sat by Ashlyn's side. "Ms. Berry, thank you."

"Why are you thanking me?" Ashlyn picked up a bottle, opened it, and drank the water.

"Thank you for standing up for me."

The pretty woman's eyes narrowed as her lips curled. At that moment, she seemed domineering. "This is nothing. The revenge is only done when this show is released, and the box office surpasses his show's sales."

As she spoke, her eyes trailed to a distance away, seemingly lost in her thoughts.