

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1051

“What’s wrong?! What happened?!” When Cooper heard Carmen crying, he flew into her room in a hurry. Then, he saw Sophia throwing Carmen’s favorite pink little bowl to the ground with a lot of force. It frightened Carmen so much that she started wailing again. However, Sophia did not comfort her child and screamed at Annabel instead.

“No wonder Carmen has been suffering from diarrhea ever since you returned! She couldn’t get well no matter what she ate; it’s all because you’ve been secretly feeding her this stuff! You knew Carmen has a frail constitution; how could you feed her something like this?! Is this something a child can eat?! She’s your granddaughter! I warned you about this the last time you fed her an expired jelly you bought from outside! What the h*ll are you thinking?! Are you trying to kill her?!” Although she had an aggressive air around her, her voice was tearful, and she couldn’t stop the tears from flowing down her face.

On the other hand, Annabel shrank back into a corner and sobbed as she was being berated. Once in a while, she whimpered. “I’m sorry, Sophia. I only wanted Carmen to get better faster. This home remedy works very well. Whenever the children back home get sick, they will take this—”

“Shut up!” Sophia’s eyes were shining bright red; she felt aggrieved yet furious at the same time. “I’ve warned you so many times! I’ve told you again and again not to feed Carmen any of this! Why?! Why won’t you listen?!”

Cooper noticed that some sort of black, unidentified object remained in the small bowl Sophia had thrown to the ground. Moreover, the corners of Carmen’s mouth were stained by something black. Looking back at Sophia, who was so furious that she seemed like an angry lioness, as well as Annabel, who was weeping quietly in a corner, he more or less understood what had happened. He heard from Annabel last night that she knew of a good home remedy that would surely cure children of their illnesses. It was concocted from a mix of incense ash, soot, and water. I can’t believe she actually made that home remedy! At the end of the day, it’s still nothing but a bowl of ashes!

Afterward, Sophia tenderly picked Carmen up. Wiping away her tears, she simultaneously used a wet cloth to dab away the soot residue at the corners of Carmen’s mouth. How dare Annabel dismiss the servants and secretly feed this home remedy to Carmen. If I was one step slower, Carmen would have finished that entire bowl...

Just two days ago, Annabel had bought a jelly for Carmen to eat from some random sundry shop. That jelly was nearly past its expiry date, and the plastic packaging was covered in dust. Despite that, she fed it to Carmen, who was not yet four years old, in large chunks with great gusto. Sophia had told Annabel off nicely at the time, so she had not expected that Annabel would feed Carmen something like that today.

Annabel was feeling extremely wronged. Walking over to Carmen and Sophia, she seemed like she wanted to apologize. She took several steps forward and came to a sudden stop before she could even touch Carmen; she was frightened by Sophia's sudden shout. "Don't come over!"

Sophia glared at Annabel warily while hugging Carmen tightly. In response, Annabel felt so wronged that her tears flowed freely. Looking up at Cooper, she sobbingly said, "Coop, I'm sorry... I'm sorry..."

After saying that, she ran out of the room in a hurry. Following that spectacle, Cooper glanced at Sophia, then at Carmen, who was crying in her arms. He chidingly said, "Sophia, she is your mother. Although her methods are wrong, she did it for both your and Carmen's sake."

Sophia held Carmen in her arms and stared at him incredulously; it was as if she didn't recognize the man standing in front of her. On the other hand, he hurriedly rushed out of the room to chase after Annabel.

For a moment, she simply stared blankly in the direction he had left, tears spilling from her red-rimmed eyes again. I can't believe Cooper said that to me. He has changed. Ever since Annabel came back, he has changed.

Her chest heaved up and down violently; the rage in her heart was converted into the fiery tears that spilled out of her eyes. However, Carmen was still crying in her arms. The sound of Carmen's sobs seemed to wake Sophia out of her daze, and she loosened her grip on Carmen. "Quickly! Start inducing vomiting!"

The family doctor, who had been on standby for a long time, quickly started to induce vomiting in Carmen. After some effort, Carmen threw up some black, unidentifiable stuff. She cried so hard that her voice became hoarse. Meanwhile, Sophia was so sad that her tears kept flowing. Wiping her tears away determinedly, she turned around and contacted the people at The Imperial.

On the other side, Cooper finally calmed Annabel down after much effort. Annabel was feeling very guilty, but he did not blame her. She had suffered too much pain over the years. Now that she finally had an easy life, the living conditions at the Edwards Residence were so different from what she experienced in her past that she couldn't fit in well. Thus, she constantly butted heads with Sophia over differences in opinions.

She could not understand Michael and Sophia's mentality of spending almost a million on Carmen. She could not understand why Sophia, with her children in tow, was staying with her natal family despite being married. She could not understand why Cooper's vast business was being passed down to Sophia. In her opinion, Sophia should only help to manage it for several years at most. She believed that once Sophia gave birth to a son, she should step down to give way to her younger brother. Alternatively, she believed that Sophia should hand the business over to her elder brother once he returned.

In spite of that, Cooper understood Annabel.

At this moment, Annabel was crying while packing her bags to leave. By the time Cooper managed to calm her down, he turned around only to discover that Sophia's room was empty. After questioning Roger, he learned that Sophia had taken Carmen with her and returned to The Imperial. Moreover, she left a message before she left, saying that she would never return again since she was a married daughter that no longer belonged to the family.

Additionally, Celine went with her too. Despite trying to call her again and again, his calls never went through. He was about to go and talk to her himself when he heard Annabel calling him from behind. "Coop—"

Pondering it briefly, he decided against going after Sophia. She is furious right now. Once her anger fades after several days, she will surely return. Although he did not agree with most of Annabel's views, he agreed on one point—a married daughter no longer belonged to the family. All this while, he had interfered in her marriage affairs. He forced her to get a divorce and break off with Michael. However, he felt as if his outlook on life had expanded now that Annabel was back. Besides, Sophia was an adult who had her own family—she could not remain as his precious child forever.

After leaving the Edwards Residence in a hurry, Sophia tried to call Michael while sitting in the car. Unfortunately, there was no signal on the other end, and her calls could not get through.

On the other hand, Carmen had just been forced to vomit. Her throat hurt, and she was still crying. At this moment, she lay in Sophia's arms while sobbing softly. Reaching out her tiny hands, she wiped at her tears and pouted aggrievedly.

Unable to contact Michael, Sophia felt anxious and sad. She nearly couldn't stop her tears from falling, but she forced them back again—Carmen was here. Hanging up the phone, she put her phone aside, hugged Carmen, and asked in a gentle voice, "Baby, does your tummy still hurt?"

Carmen had been suffering from diarrhea for the past two days. No matter what she ate, it would come back out. So, she had been wearing diapers all day long. Her entire being seemed to have shriveled, and her limbs were weak and soft. Moreover, she had been fed a bowl of soot today. Although she had been forced to vomit it up, Sophia was still worried.

Carmen pouted and said aggrievedly, "My tummy says it'll be fine once Daddy comes home."

At that moment, Sophia nearly couldn't hold back her tears. She hugged Carmen tightly and said, "Oh, darling... eat your medicine properly, okay? When your daddy comes back, he will bring you with him to film 'Where Are We Going, Dad?'."

Nodding obediently, Carmen's small hands gripped Sophia's shoulders. The backs of her hands still had traces of the needle marks from the intravenous drip.

Soon, they arrived at Villa No. 8, The Imperial. Sophia stared at the house that looked like a castle and sighed. I can't believe I'm back here again. She stayed here for a long time previously, but she no longer had any recollections of her time here. This house belongs to Michael and me. This is my true home! In the future, I will stay here, lest people talk sh*t about me!

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When the butler of Villa No. 8 heard that Sophia was about to return, he happily cleaned up the rooms to welcome her back.

Sophia had no plans of returning after moving out this time. Not only did she bring Carmen, her medical team, and her team of professional educators, but she also brought all her cats, dogs, alpacas, and eels along with her. She even dug out her favorite plants and brought them along with her.

Linus had been busy with the matters involving Sophia's banquet all day long. To his surprise, he received a phone call from Sophia's assistant, saying that the banquet was postponed. Only then did he learn about the events that had occurred today. Thus, he anxiously rushed back to The Imperial.

Celine and Sean relocated along with Sophia, lest Annabel said something hurtful again.

"How is Carmen?" Linus hastily rushed over but lowered his voice as if he was worried about disturbing Carmen.

Then, Sophia led him to Carmen's room. Now that Carmen had returned to the place she grew up in, she seemed to be in a good mood. Unfortunately, she was still feeling sick and snuggled in her bed, refusing to move. When she saw Linus entering her room, she softly called out, "Uncle Linus..."

Upon hearing her calling him 'Uncle Linus' softly, his heart melted. He sat by her bed and stroked her hair. He gently said, "Good girl. But, you should be calling me Grand-uncle Linus!"

She pursed her lips. "No. Daddy said that when Grandpa isn't around, I should call you Uncle Linus."

He smiled and teased her, "Then, did you eat your medicine properly when I'm not around?"

Cheering up, she said, "I did! Mommy fed me a lot!"

Afterward, he revealed the toys he had brought for her. He had personally gone to his studio to retrieve them. Contrary to his expectations, he discovered that Sophia had moved out as soon as he arrived home. Handing the gifts over to her, he said, "Look! I prepared a new royal sweetheart cup! As well as a royal sweetheart bowl! Don't forget; there's also the stamp you designed yourself! And, your Royal Sweetheart Alpaca doll!"

Carmen happily accepted the toys from Linus. Michael treasured her very much—so much so that even the small bowls and spoons she used daily were unique items. They even had the logo she designed herself on them. Sophia had smashed her royal sweetheart bowl in a rage today, and she was still feeling sad over it. So, she was pleasantly surprised to see the new bowl. However, the sight of her sickly smiling face made Sophia feel very sad.

Upon learning that Carmen was sick, Lorelei & Co. quickly gathered at her house to accompany her. Similarly, Nathan also joined them. However, Stanley came and brought Sean and Maisie home with him when the afternoon rolled around. The words Annabel casually uttered had probably saddened Sean too—she claimed that it was inappropriate for outsiders like Sean and Celine to be staying in their house.

Meanwhile, Sophia was busy settling the issues over her sudden relocation and her work. Carmen's illness and the fight with Cooper had also left her exhausted. She worked until late at night before she could rest. Fortunately, Linus was with her, and Sarah also came over to help her. Otherwise, she would have driven herself nuts.

Recently, the atmosphere at the Edwards Residence was rather strange. Annabel seemed quite critical of Linus' presence. She believed that it was inappropriate for Cooper to let an outsider manage his assets. She believed that it should have been left to their son. Hence, Linus took advantage of the turmoil today to move back into Villa No. 2 and became neighbors with Sophia.

It was very late when Linus finally left Villa No. 8 after putting Carmen to bed. Sophia saw him off. Along the way, she took the chance to go out and walk her dogs. She wanted to get some air. Too many things had happened today, and she needed some time alone.

"Linus, thank you. It's too bad that Carmen isn't feeling well. The banquet might need to be postponed for several days." She felt very apologetic.

It was the first time she fought with Cooper. She felt like she had fallen from heaven to hell, all in one day, upon discovering that she and Carmen meant so little to him. Although she couldn't bear the difference in treatment, she had to remain strong and firm. Luckily, I have Linus with me. It makes me feel slightly better. But, I really don't have the mood to attend the banquet in my current state.

"No problem. Carmen's health is more important. You should spend some time with her over the next few days. It's not a problem if the banquet is postponed for a bit."

Sophia was filled with gratitude. Linus had been busy helping her with the banquet during this period. Thus, she felt bad for canceling it. "Don't worry. I will not forget about the marriage agreement. Having promised you, I will definitely help you with it."

It was getting late. Therefore, Linus urged her to go back and rest. Walking Lucky, he headed back to Villa No. 2. Before he left, he said to her, "It's inevitable for the younger generation and the older generation to have some conflicts in opinion. It's best if you resolve the misunderstanding. It's not like your mother planned to harm Carmen. So, you should try to be a little considerate of her perspective."

She did not respond to his words. Enjoying the cool night breeze blowing outside, she calmed down and reflected on what happened. The words Annabel had said were unpleasant, but she is still my mother. She gave birth to me despite the tremendous pressure she suffered back then, so she must love me. At the end of the day, it's because of our generational gap. Besides, Cooper waited for more than 20 years for Annabel to return. I shouldn't have done that to them.

Taking a deep breath, she decided to call Cooper and admit to her mistakes. Cooper immediately answered on the first ring. Most likely, he had been waiting for her to call. He worriedly asked as soon as the call connected, "Darling, have you settled your relocation arrangements? I heard Carmen didn't eat much for dinner. How is she feeling? Has she gone to sleep?"

Listening to his voice nearly made her burst into tears. He still cares for me! Hence, she calmed down and answered all his questions.

After listening to her answers, he finally felt relieved. He fell silent for a moment before saying, "Your mother's views are somewhat more conservative than most. Don't take her words to heart. Her intentions are good, but her approach is wrong. Allow me to apologize to you on her behalf. You should know that she cried all day long out of guilt today."

She sniffed, suddenly feeling extremely delighted. All the unhappiness she felt before miraculously disappeared. "No, it was my fault. I should be the one apologizing."

With that, the matter was resolved.

Cooper sighed heavily and said in a solemn voice, "Your mother reminded me that you are an adult now. I can't keep holding on to a daughter that has married into another family. I shouldn't have interfered with your marriage and your life. Allow me to apologize for my

stubbornness and the arbitrary decisions I made in the past. I'm sorry, my daughter. From now on, I will not interfere in the affairs between you and that guy. Live a good life after moving out, okay? If he bullies you, come back and let me know. My doors are always open for you."

Upon hearing those words, Sophia felt unbelievably happy—she was the world's most blessed child again. She lowered her head; her face was wet with tears. Then, she wiped her tears away and said, "Thanks, Dad. Please tell Mom that I'm sorry. Also, you have to come to my banquet."

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After Cooper finished talking on the phone, he felt very happy that he managed to resolve the issue with Sophia. Turning around, he saw that Annabel had fallen asleep. So, he quietly entered his study. He had been worrying about his wife and daughter all day long, and there were some work matters that he had not dealt with yet.

The moment the door closed behind him, Annabel, who was 'sleeping', slowly opened her eyes without making a sound...

Ten days later, Sophia's first banquet since returning to Bayside City was taking place as scheduled. The event could be described as a gathering of celebrities and prominent figures, which fully demonstrated her powerful network and connections. The attendees included Harry Winston of the Winston Family, Joel Fletcher of the Fletcher Family and his dogs, the vice president of the Michel Group, Linus Michel, and the prominent members of the Yard Family. Last but not least, the person Sophia had been wanting to meet—Jordan Edwards—was here too.

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Cooper, Linus, and Sophia had drawn up the invitation list for the banquet together. It practically covered all the prominent figures in Bayside City. Even Alex Mitchell of the Mitchell Family had received an invitation. The Four Great Families of Bayside City, as well as the Yard Family with whom Sophia had been cooperating, had all sent representatives to attend the banquet. Among them was Jordan Edwards.

Sophia had met Jordan before, but she had lost her memories of that time. Since returning to Bayside City, she had yet to meet him. He seemed to be rather mysterious and rarely showed his face; he was probably similar to Cooper—an extreme recluse. Nowadays, almost everything involving the Edwards Family was managed by Lucy, Ian, Sam, and several others.

Several people from the entertainment industry attended too. The second season of 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' was about to start filming in September. There were five fathers on the show, and the other four, except Michael, were here.

Unfortunately, Michael could not be contacted. Even though the banquet was pushed back by ten days, he still couldn't make it to the banquet. That was the thing about filming—the filming schedule was never certain. A small incident could affect the entire filming schedule. Therefore, it was common for delays to occur before they finished filming. Although she felt somewhat regretful, she understood his circumstances.

The banquet went on as scheduled, and an amazing performance had been prepared. The special performing guests were all internationally renowned singers that had been invited using Michael's reputation. It was a star-studded cast; even most domestic A-list celebrities were not eligible to be invited.

Still, the most important guests of today were none other than the Yard Family. Although they were added to the invitation list at the last minute, they magnanimously and respectfully sent their twin presidents to attend the banquet as their representatives.

The venue was bustling. Everybody was dressed glamorously, and the decorations Linus had prepared within the venue were extremely gorgeous. The theme tonight was fairy palace. Therefore, the entire venue was stunningly furnished like a scene from a fairytale, and the visual effects were breathtaking. It made Sophia feel very proud.

Meanwhile, the siblings, Callum and Cade Yard, sat down at the area where the sofas were arranged into a square. They were more or less dressed identically, and their faces were two peas in a pod. Even their movements were similar—the act of slightly loosening their tie

after sitting down was graceful and in sync. The elegant and aristocratic aura they exuded was exactly the same too. Every movement, down to their gazes, was done in unison.

The twins were rumored to be test-tube babies. After choosing from the best sperm and egg collected from their parents, they were the final results formed through a series of scientific selection and careful cultivation. Needless to say, a person born with the ideal genetic traits and raised with the best education available was bound to be extraordinary, to say the least. For some, they were already leagues above their peers at the embryonic stage.

The two of them had just taken a seat and were about to order something to drink when they noticed that another person had sat down on the sofa opposite. Moreover, that person was staring straight at them. At the same time, a wave of exclamations rang out around them.

“F*ck, it’s the Yard Family!”

“It’s the legendary Yard Family!”

“The Yard Family that nearly went extinct after our ancestors wiped them out!”

It only took several seconds for more than a dozen young men, who looked like they were created from the same mold, to sit down on the opposite sofa. They sported the same buzz cut, dressed in identical outfits, sat in similar postures, and had uniform, straightforward expressions. It felt like ten huskies were surrounding and eyeing two kittens hungrily. Among them, the leader of the group, Stanley, stood out fiercely with his thick eyebrows.

Callum and Cade frowned in response. Sweeping their gazes across the group of Fletchers that looked like a bunch of vicious dogs, they singled out the leader, Stanley, and glared back at him. Callum and Cade’s gazes seemed to say: ‘Hmph, descendants of rebels!’ On the other hand, Stanley and the Fletchers’ gazes seemed to say: ‘Descendants of evil tyrants; traitors of the country!’

While they were having a staring contest with each other, Sophia came over. “Hey, move out of the way. These are my distinguished guests; please don’t scare them away.” She forced Stanley to the side, then sat directly opposite Callum and Cade. Smiling, she looked at the twins and said, “I’m honored that you came today. Please order whatever you like. We have several rare bottles of liquor in stock today.” Although she didn’t quite like the Yard Family, they were her business partners. For that reason, she was quite happy they could come.

A moment later, the serving staff came over with the drinks menu. Callum and Cade ordered something, then snapped their fingers to call their assistant over while saying, "We have our own tableware."

Sophia watched as their assistant took out two boxes. Each box contained a complete set of tableware in almost the same style and color. Furthermore, the tableware had their respective names written on them. Do they have their own 'royal sweetheart cups' too?

Soon, the items they ordered came. Callum and Cade reached out at the same time and accurately picked up their 'royal sweetheart cups' from the tray. Gracefully holding the cups between their fingers, they daintily took several sips. After they finished drinking, they used their 'personal' handkerchiefs to wipe their mouths and their hands. Every action they took was sophisticated and graceful. The image they gave off was probably that of the royal family during ancient times.

While speaking to them, Sophia subconsciously adopted a graceful attitude. In contrast, Stanley couldn't stand watching them anymore. He slapped his palm down on the coffee table and said, "Waiter, bring me a bottle of the French Cheval-Blanc hidden in the cellar!"

The serving staff quickly brought over a bottle of French Cheval-Blanc and placed several dozen glasses on the table. After that, the members of the Fletcher Family gulped down the alcohol with great vigor. The aura they gave off was impressively valiant. It was a stark contrast to the Yard siblings, who seemed rather feminine in comparison. It made the twins look like two ladies in suits—even a eunuch was manlier than them!

The two groups couldn't stand each other; they cursed and insulted each other's ancestors several times. Even so, the Yard siblings continued chatting and smiling under the imposing glares of the Fletchers.

There was a hidden agenda to the banquet tonight, and that was to set up a blind date with Cooper's daughter. Therefore, the number of outstanding bachelors attending the banquet was particularly high. Everybody was ready to make a move on the radiant and beautiful Sophia, especially since Michael was not around. It seemed to cement the fact that Sophia and Michael were divorced. Thus, the bachelors were even more excited than before.

Unfortunately, Sophia was constantly surrounded by Stanley and a group of men from the Fletcher Family. On the surface, they were acting as her bodyguards. They were afraid that somebody like Blade would appear to harm her again. However, Stanley had his own personal scheme. Nobody was allowed to lay their hands on a member of the Fletcher Family! Even if Sophia wanted to cheat, she was only allowed to cheat with him!

Meanwhile, Cooper formally introduced Annabel to the public as he went around announcing her existence by introducing her to his acquaintances.

Linus was attending the banquet too. However, his relationship with Cooper was still a secret. So, he was attending as a normal guest. As soon as he appeared, his gaze was drawn to the most beautiful figure in the venue. He subconsciously headed toward Sophia, but he was caught by Sandra before he could take more than a few steps.

"I lost all my money and my house... My initial estimate of my losses amounts to several hundred million!" Sandra sobbingly recounted the process of how she was deceived by a fake Lucile. Wailing about how miserable she was, she nearly cried so hard that she couldn't breathe as she leaned against him weakly.

Despite feeling impatient and irritable, the fake Lucile was actually a member of the Michel Family, and he couldn't stay quiet. Hence, he had no choice but to entertain her.

The atmosphere of the banquet was very lively. All of a sudden, Sophia, who was chatting with Callum and Cade, saw Cooper enthusiastically shaking hands with a person while chatting away happily. They were so friendly with each other that they were hugging and slapping each other's backs like old friends that had not met for many years. When the man turned in her direction, she saw his face—he had a conspicuous hooked nose.

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The man looked like he was slightly older than Cooper. His face was filled with the wisdom and shrewdness of the elderly, and his hooked nose seemed to have lost its sharpness over time.

Sophia held her wine glass as she walked over to Cooper. Then, Cooper happily introduced her to the middle-aged man. "Jordan, this is my daughter, Sophia Edwards. She takes after her mother, doesn't she?"

As I suspected... "Nice to meet you, Mr. Edwards. My name is Sophia." She greeted Jordan. He seemed like just another run-of-the-mill ordinary middle-aged man—there was nothing

special about him. He was completely different from the man Cooper had described; he was also different from the person she saw in the documents.

“Haha, my niece has certainly inherited your temperament, Cooper! You two sure look alike!” The two men acted like friends who had not met each other for many years, drinking with each other as they chatted. However, when Cooper turned around after finishing his greetings, the smile on his face vanished immediately. Sure enough; it was a façade. Although he had not seen Jordan for more than 20 years, he was certain the moment he laid eyes on this man—he was not Jordan Edwards.

On the other side, Sandra bugged Linus for a bit and finally succeeded in adding him as a contact on Messenger. He also promised to take responsibility for the matter regarding Abbie and the fake Lucile. Thus, she walked away contentedly. Compensation was not her main target; her main target was adding him as a contact on Messenger.

After that, she immediately started uploading some flirty selfies and photos of herself that were very sexy and revealing on her IG Stories. It was set so that only he could view them. However, she did not realize that he had blocked her on Messenger as soon as he turned around. She felt like she was reaching the pinnacle of her life upon adding him as a contact on Messenger. Therefore, she happily played with her phone, dreaming about countless romantic encounters with him. Contrary to her expectations, she immediately caught sight of Sophia, who was talking to Lucy, the moment she looked up from her phone.

The last time she made a blunder, Sophia had exposed a series of information on various shady contracts, tax evasion, and tax fraud incidents. As a result, she lost her position as the primary distributor of the Serpent mobile phones. She initially thought she was going to die, but Lucy unexpectedly stepped up rapidly to settle the entire incident for her and allowed her to walk away safely.

“Miss Edwards, it looks like you and Miss Mitchell are close friends.” Sophia secretly made fun of Lucy. She did not understand why Lucy had taken such a huge risk to save an idiot like Sandra.

Lucy knew what Sophia was referring to. However, she did not wish to delve further into that topic. Changing the subject, she said, “Congratulations. The sales of the Dragon Eye mobile phones are doing really well in Cethos. If you work harder, the day you obtain the distribution rights to the high-end phones will be just around the corner.”

Sophia pursed her lips in a smile. “You flatter me. It can hardly compare to how much profit the Serpent mobile phones are raking in.”

The two of them clinked their glasses together, drinking and chatting as if they had a good relationship. In some ways, Sophia admired Lucy greatly. Not only was Lucy very intelligent, but she was also extremely capable.

All of a sudden, Sandra walked over proudly. "Hey, you're all here!"

She sashayed over to them in her eight-centimeter-high stilettos. After adding Linus on Messenger, it wasn't too much to say that it was equivalent to her sleeping with him. Therefore, her confidence soared as high as the Himalayan peaks, and she looked down on everybody else. Raising her eyebrow slightly, she walked over to them with a wine glass in her hand. "I'm sorry. I was busy chatting with Linus and didn't have the time to join you girls for a toast."

Her words were incredibly smug. She already subconsciously regarded herself as Linus' girlfriend. In the past, Lucy had courted him and failed whereas Sophia had eagerly invited him to the banquet tonight. She was certain that Sophia was trying to find an opportunity to approach him. But, I beat them to it! These two losers! I'm the one that got Linus in the end!

Sophia's eyes twitched slightly in annoyance. Even so, she decided to be a bigger person. Let's not pick a fight with Sandra today. She lazily touched her glass to Sandra's and said, "Please watch your behavior. I'm older than you. Moreover, I'm technically your grand-aunt."

In response, Sandra snorted without replying. As soon as Sophia turned away, Lucy heard her softly ridiculing Sophia, "Old hag; Linus isn't interested in you at all..."

Lucy said nothing as the corners of her lips lifted into a mocking smile. Lifting her wine glass to take a sip, she used that action to cover up the subtle change in her expression.

On the other hand, Sandra seemed oblivious to the scorn Lucy felt. She even took out a mirror, studied her reflection, and dolled herself up. Touching up her lipstick, she used her fingertips to wipe off the excess. Then, she said to Lucy in a discourteous tone, "Linus and I had a pleasant conversation together. In the future, I want you to help me out. It will benefit you greatly if I marry him."

Lucy remained silent. Instead, she turned around and left without saying anything.

Sandra looked at Lucy's arrogant back and curled her lips with a look of self-satisfaction in her eyes. She was holding onto one of Lucy's weaknesses, thus, Lucy did not dare to disobey her. With Lucy's help, as well as her status and reputation, she believed that Linus

was as good as hers. Soon, the Mitchell Family will be tied in marriage to the Michel Family. Cooper, what are you going to use against the Michel Family?! When that time comes, I'm going to make Sophia, that old hag, kneel and beg for mercy! Contrary to all her expectations, Linus not only blocked her on social media, but he was also bringing Sophia around to meet the Michel Family.

Linus introduced Sophia to every member of the family. Unfortunately, she couldn't recognize any of them. To this day, she could not tell the Westerners apart. She could only recognize Linus and completely relied on their clothes to differentiate one from the other. Since she was going to rejoin the Michel Family sooner or later, she worked hard to create a good impression in front of several elders. Using fluent English, she described her work and its performance recently. As a result, the elders seemed satisfied with her and frequently nodded affably.

The one good thing about the Michel Family was that they did not discriminate against those with mixed blood. Even if Cooper and Sophia were of mixed races, they were treated equally. If it were a family like the Yard Family, which did not tolerate the addition of foreign blood into their bloodline, those with mixed blood would forever be excluded from the center of power. Only the purest Cethosian bloodline could inherit the 'throne' of the Yard Family.

After their short chat, the elders broached the topic of Sophia and Linus' marriage. When it came to this topic, Sophia immediately felt slightly uncomfortable. She kept silent; she was afraid that her stiff expression would give her away. Thus, she left all the talking to Linus.

Linus sat next to her and held her hand with a smile. He truly looked like a happy man that was about to get married as he said, "Lucile and I are planning to get married in the near future. But, the wedding might be held later."

She felt extremely uncomfortable when he held her hand. Smiling awkwardly, her entire body was covered with goosebumps. Even so, she had to pretend to be loving and affectionate with him. This feeling... is very hard to describe... Forget it; I'm only doing this to fool the Michel Family.

The people of the Michel Family looked upon their marriage favorably. When Linus first entered the Michel Family back then, they only agreed to include Linus in the genealogy record book because Fass promised that Linus would marry somebody from the family in the future. Now that Fass' long-lost daughter had been found, Linus' standing in the family would soon change from being an adopted son to a son-in-law. Therefore, their marriage could not be more opportune.

The people of the Michel Family also asked about the details of their marriage. Things such as the marriage certificate, the wedding ceremony, and the issue of children were questioned in detail. However, Linus answered all their questions with aplomb. It was as if he was really going to get married and had planned everything already.

Finally, the conversation with the members of the Michel Family ended. As soon as it was over, Sophia ran to the toilet to relieve herself. When she went back to the banquet venue, she let out a long sigh of relief and tried to make the goosebumps all over her body disappear. That experience was nerve-racking! I hope there won't be a second time!

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The moment she appeared, someone came up from behind her in a fit of anger. "Sophia Edwards! Where do you think you're going?"

She turned around to see Stanley storming toward her with a large group of Fletchers who all surrounded her.

Stunned and confused, she looked at Stanley who was raging with anger in front of her. He came up to her and immediately jolted her by the arms like a doll. "I can't believe you're getting married to Linus!"

Her eyes widened in shock, and she noticed the people at the banquet glancing her way with perplexed looks on their faces.

Feeling guilty, she quickly muttered, "Keep your voice down! Who told you that?"

Stanley's eyes turned red from the anger. There was alcohol in his breath as he spat, "Your mother is telling everyone she meets! Just look for yourself. Look!"

He pointed to where Annabel was yapping away joyfully with a group of ladies. It turned out that she was telling them about Sophia and Linus' engagement.

Crap!

Sophia was in shock.

She forgot to inform Annabel!

Stanley kept shaking her. "I'm telling you. I firmly oppose this marriage. If you dare to marry Linus, I will turn your wedding into a bloodbath. I won't spare a single person! Try me, if you dare!"

She was lost for words and completely dumbfounded.

Originally, she planned to lie low and just register her marriage with Linus. Who would have thought that this would happen?

All of a sudden, she broke out of Stanley's grip and sprinted toward Annabel.

Annabel was also a main character at the banquet. She was currently talking about her daughter with the group of ladies.

"Sophia's dad likes Linus too. Linus is living at our house now. I feel very optimistic about those two!"

"Sophia and her ex-husband have been divorced for so long now. The assets have all pretty much been divided. It was an amicable break-up. Our Sophia is such a good child. Wherever she goes, she's just loved by everyone."

Sophia never would have imagined that Annabel was telling people all of that. She quickly ran out and pressed, "Mom! Don't talk about things that aren't certain yet. How can that happen between me and Linus?"

At that moment, Annabel realized that she had misspoken and her hand quickly flew to her mouth. She faced the group of people and said awkwardly, "Look at me and my big mouth, talking about things that I shouldn't. Please don't believe what I said. Just take it as a joke."

The ladies laughed half-heartedly, but they all had their own thoughts.

Cooper and the Michel Family were uniting through marriage!

No wonder they saw so many members of the Michel Family there. Aside from Linus, several representatives of the Michel Family also showed up.

However, Annabel's words had left her mouth and spread throughout the whole banquet in a short amount of time. Numerous gazes looked in Sophia and Linus' direction. The different parties who found out showed different reactions.

The big names in Bayside City were making their way over to curry favor with Cooper.

Meanwhile, The Yard brothers did not show much of a reaction after hearing the news.

After drinking two shots of French Cheval-Blanc, Stanley staggered around the venue to chase Linus down. He also wanted to call Michael and have him come back to punish Sophia.

But, it suddenly occurred to him that Michael was filming a movie, and he was unable to reach him. He did not know where Justin had gone to slack off, but he could not find him anywhere. Sean was recuperating at home, so he did not attend the banquet. Harry was also absent because he was taking care of the baby with Sarah.

Fearing that Stanley would do something foolish, Joel quickly brought him to the lounge area to sober up.

Joel looked at Sophia with concern.

Is she really going to marry Linus?

He could not forget how Linus helped the Phantom Wolf kidnap Mark back then.

That person might look harmless on the outside, but he has many hidden intentions.

Is Sophia really doing the right thing in marrying him?

The person who was most in shock was none other than Sandra. After speaking to Linus briefly earlier, she added him on Messenger and started acting as though she was his girlfriend as she showed off to a group of ladies who were way below Linus' league. But, little did she know that she would soon find out about Linus and Sophia's engagement.

While reapplying her lipstick, the force she had in her hand broke the lipstick in half. Her shaking hands also made it hard for her to hold the lipstick properly.

What? Sophia is getting married to Linus? Who does she think she is? Wench!

The group of ladies who were displeased with Sandra's arrogant behavior was now extremely content after she was humiliated on the spot. They were chortling away, leaving Sandra to fume with anger by herself.

It almost seemed like there was a fire burning in Sandra's eyes. When she looked over at Linus and Sophia who were being surrounded and congratulated by the crowd, sparks shot out of her eyes.

On the other side, Sophia had wanted to talk to Linus when they were abruptly surrounded by people.

"Congratulations! You make an excellent pair. You look perfect together!"

"Truly a match made in heaven. You're so lucky, Linus!"

Sophia felt extremely awkward and uncomfortable. She could only force an awkward smile because she did not know how to answer them.

Michael was still a celebrity. As the ex-wife of the Academy Award winner, she was also under the spotlight, and the news about her engagement with Linus was probably all over the globe by now.

After she attended to the people in the crowd, she quickly looked for Cooper to discuss a countermeasure.

In the lounge area, Annabel was standing on one side with her head hung low and a repentant look on her face, but Cooper did not blame her for it. He fell silent for a while, then turned to Sophia and Linus. "Since word is out now, let's just make it public. We can make this banquet into an engagement banquet too. Anything that happens after this we will deal with when the time comes."

Sophia looked at Linus with a troubled expression, but he could only look back at her helplessly.

News had gotten out. If she denied it now, how was Linus going to answer to the Michel Family?

Since things turned out this way, Sophia let out a sigh and said, "Let's make it public then. Besides, celebrities get married and divorced all the time. Michael already knows about this, so he will understand."

Linus let out a sigh of relief. A slight smirk appeared at the corner of his lips; he was satisfied and happy.

The banquet was still going on, but beneath the extravagance and indulgence was a threatening undercurrent. Sandra was currently hiding in a corner after getting humiliated in front of everyone. She looked at the blinding smiles on the faces of the people in the crowd and felt as though they were all laughing at her for overestimating herself.

Sophia, that unfaithful hag. What right does she have to marry Linus? Linus must have been possessed to have fallen for her! He is mine. Don't even think about taking him away!

Sandra decided that, no matter what, she was going to interfere in this engagement today!

In the lounge area, Stanley had his phone out and was dialing a number. Miraculously, he was able to reach Michael.

"Stupid dog." Michael's calm and attractive voice came through the phone.

Finally being able to hear Michael's voice and not the static sound of an unstable connection, Stanley cried, "Uncle Michael, Aunt is getting married to Linus. You have to come back now. Your wife is getting taken away!"

That voice still remained calm and composed. "I know."

"You should come back and stop them now! Where are you?" Stanley wiped away his tears.

Michael seemed like he was in a hurry. A moment later, he replied, "At the door."