

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1116

The more Michael thought about his upcoming schedule for the reality show, the more he regretted signing up for it in the first place.

Upon their arrival at The Imperial, they received the warmest welcome the family had to offer.

Cooper and Linus stood by the entrance, along with Stanley, Justin and Celine. Relatives from both sides of the family were here—even the Michels showed up with words of congratulations. Sam was present as well and he had brought a homecoming gift for Carmen to congratulate her on starring in the reality show.

Michael, Sophia and Carmen made quite an entrance with a piglet and a rooster in tow. Harry, on the other hand, had only Ashton in his care.

Stanley was taken aback when he registered the diaper-wearing rooster. “I guess money makes all the difference when it comes to rearing chickens!” he mused. “That’s something us ordinary folks can never understand!”

Michael’s expression looked sour despite the occasion. It was hard for him to muster even an ounce of a smile, especially when there was a diapered piglet and rooster waddling in front of him.

Cooper, on the other hand, was in a terrific mood. Seeing Michael, he clapped a hand on his son-in-law’s shoulder and said, “You didn’t do too badly.”

Cooper had dispatched countless men and drones to spy on his precious little granddaughter, so he had managed to see everything that had taken place throughout the three days during which the episode was filmed.

His old son-in-law had done fairly well throughout the process but that was likely because all the other dads were completely hopeless by comparison, thereby magnifying Michael’s babysitting skills.

The shot of Michael carrying the piglet, in particular, had become an international sensation.

After all, it was a photo that captured the very essence of fatherhood!

It was not merely a pig that Michael had carried on his shoulders, but the sacred responsibilities that came with being a father!

Michael grew slightly cheerful upon being praised by his father-in-law.

As everyone adjourned to the living room, Sophia began distributing the truckful of village specialties that she had bought as souvenirs.

It was nightfall by the time the last of the guests departed. When Sophia was done with her dinner and had taken a shower, she switched on the news.

The team behind the reality show had only released a couple of teaser clips on their official channel, but there was no doubt that this season would see solid viewership ratings as it continued to gain traction among the fans.

Michael had only carried the pig for all but five minutes, but apparently that was all it took for his name to make waves in the entertainment industry. All anyone could talk about was him and his piglet.

Meanwhile, Carmen was ecstatic. Starring in this season of 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' was her dream come true and she was basking in the joy of it all as she climbed into Sophia's bed, keen on getting an early night's sleep.

Having seen Carmen writing in her diary earlier, Michael became curious and decided to sneak into her room after he had washed up. As Carmen's vocabulary expanded, Sophia encouraged her to keep a daily journal, even though there were words that she couldn't quite spell just yet.

Michael's eyes gleaned over Carmen's diary. He was excited to find out what she thought of his performance for the past couple of days.

'My Daddy is the best superhero in the whole world. He saved the world once when he was Doctor Strange.'

'I'm going on 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' with Daddy. This makes me really happy.'

'Daddy is always so busy. I'm happy that I get to spend a hole day with him.'

'I'm happy that Daddy cooked for me.'

'I'm happy that Daddy got rid of mosquitoes for me.'

...

When he was done reading through the pages, Michael felt himself tear up. Filming over the past three days had worn him out but the joy he had gained from it was far beyond anything he could imagine.

He carefully stored the diary away before retreating to his room, thereupon finding Sophia and Carmen fast asleep as they snuggled in bed; they must be tired after the past couple of days.

He kissed both his girls goodnight.

After all, he was the best father and husband in the world.

It wasn't even daybreak the next morning when the rooster crowed loudly, startling Sophia before both her alarm and biological clock went off.

The voice-control lighting that was installed around the neighborhood lit up at the sound of the rooster's crow. Sophia bolted upright with her heart beating fast and she was still bleary-eyed as she turned to see that Carmen was still sound asleep. Michael, on the other hand, was nowhere to be found.

Hmm, that's early, Sophia noted curiously.

She shuffled over to the bathroom but Michael wasn't there either. Thinking that he had gone out, Sophia certainly did not expect to bump into him when she entered the kitchen.

He was looking serious in an apron as he made breakfast out of the local specialties from the village.

Sophia's eyes sparkled and she was fiercely determined to try Michael's cooking.

It didn't take long for the feast to be served; there were potatoes, cobs of corn, sandwiches, burgers, noodles and mac and cheese.

Soon, the family gathered around. Cooper was keen on sampling the local specialties from the village and Linus arrived early too, seeing as he always had his meals here. With the addition of Justin and his family, there was now a crowd surrounding the breakfast spread.

Sophia dipped the potato into some sauce after she had peeled it, then took a bite. Meanwhile, Michael had taken off his apron and was now seated with the rest of the family. In the midst of the ongoing friendly conversation, Michael turned to address Cooper with a somber expression. "Dad, is it true that Anne attempted suicide because of you?"

Cooper was startled and he stopped peeling the potato in his grip. His face gave nothing away as he answered stoically, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Michael suppressed a smile. He knew the truth but he pressed on nonetheless, "So why aren't you and Louis speaking to each other?"

Cooper did not answer but there was confirmation in his silence.

Despite having everything to do with Anne's attempted suicide, Cooper had remained relatively unfazed, which infuriated Louis. In retaliation to that, Cooper had given away his collection of paintings by Louis that he kept around the house.

"What happened? What is it? Linus, tell me!" Sophia demanded after seemingly picking up on something.

Upon seeing the resentful look on Cooper's face, Linus hesitated as he murmured, "I don't think it's my place to tell you the specifics..."

With that, Cooper finished his meal and went upstairs without a word. He occupied the entire third floor of the house and he rarely came down other than during meal times.

The moment Cooper left, Linus began to spill the beans. "Anne insists on marrying Dad and she dropped by the Mitchells' place just so she could see him. The Mitchells came to us instead but they were denied entry, and Dad wouldn't come out of his room at all. In order to talk things over, Louis invited Dad over for tea but Dad turned him down; after that, Louis got Anna to send Dad an invitation, but he rejected it as well. So, Anne lost her mind and she threatened to kill herself unless Dad showed up. She even got someone to send him a video of her hanging herself. She went to see the Fletchers, too!"

Having heard all this, Sophia angrily slammed her chopsticks down on the table.

This is outrageous!

Anne Osborne has crossed the line. Did she somehow lose her mind when she became obsessed with the thought of marrying Dad?

Sophia clenched her jaw. It is time to put that woman in her place!

Sophia had only just finished her meal when she received a very hostile phone call from Sandra.

“Sophia Edwards, you better bring your father over here this instant! The Osborne girl is hospitalized because of him and none of you even bothered to visit her! If anything happens to her, it’ll be the end of the Mitchell Family!”

“Tell me where you are and I’ll go over immediately,” Sophia replied swiftly.

She ought to teach Anne a lesson later.

Sophia cursed inwardly, How dare the woman assume that she is good enough for Cooper? How delusional can she be? He is completely out of her league!

As far as Sophia was concerned, Anne could go screw herself.

Sandra was elated at the thought that Sophia agreed to show up with Cooper, but her tone was malicious as she snapped into the phone, “Methodist Hospital, inpatient ward, room number eight. Be here within the hour.”

Upon hearing that, Sophia scoffed. “Don’t insult me. I’ll be there in half an hour.”

Sophia was feeling impatient, wanting nothing more than to teleport to Anne’s hospital room and give that delusional girl a harsh slap on the face!

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1117

Perhaps Sophia had agreed to turn up at the hospital out of fear for Sandra, but Sandra knew it was more likely than not that they conceded out of fear of the Yard Family.

The situation now was not under Sophia's or Cooper's control; it wasn't as if they could do anything about Anne's infatuation with Cooper.

Cooper was left with no choice but to marry her!

Anne's family longed to return to Bayside City and as Anne was about to become part of the Yards, they had hoped she would marry into the local upper-class social scene. The Yard Family had initially set their eyes upon the Fletchers, but were let down immensely by their inability to make things work. Now was the chance for the Mitchells to rise to the occasion.

Sandra had thought that perhaps one of the Mitchell boys could capture Anne's heart; alas, the woman had become obsessed with Cooper instead.

Sandra had no intentions to make things easy for Cooper in the event Anne did marry him. While the Mitchells would become in-laws with the Yards, Sandra needed to make sure that Anne would always be on her side and never Sophia's. To do that, she would have to ruin both Sophia and Cooper's reputation in front of Anne's family, namely the Yards and the Osbornes.

After that, she could easily use Anne as a stepping stone to get closer to Anna Yard and if Sandra could marry into the Yard Family, everything would fall into place.

If Cooper really were to marry Anne, the Yards would never allow her to move out of the family home, which meant Cooper would have to move into their place of residence instead. This could provide the Mitchells the perfect excuse to keep all of Cooper's assets under the Mitchells' family name.

For hundreds of years, it was never a concept for any son of the head of the Mitchell Family to move into their wife's place of residence after marriage; the very idea of Cooper being forced to do so would completely uproot the dignity of the family!

With that, Sandra could kill three birds with one stone!

Hanging up the call, Sandra turned to look at Anne. "Don't worry," she consoled. "Sophia is coming over soon. I'll make sure to put her in her place!"

Anne broke into a small smile upon hearing this. She lay in bed as she recuperated, looking pale after her suicidal endeavors which saw her slitting her own wrists and hanging herself.

“You know Cooper likes you—” Sandra started to say. “—but Sophia has been getting in his way of pursuing you. She’s worried that if you and Cooper have kids one day, she’d lose out on the family assets. Don’t worry though, because I’ll stop her from ruining everything.” Pausing, Sandra gazed down at Anne with a serious look on her face. “Remember, Anne—you’ve got the looks and you’re a Yard. Nobility runs in your blood. You have suitors lining up for you all the way to France! If you ask me, Cooper should be honored that you’ve taken an interest in him at all. You’re obviously way out of his league!”

Anne’s heart fluttered at the thought of Cooper. She had known he was the one for her from the very moment she laid eyes on him, and she would do anything to marry him.

However, a surge of fury overcame her as she thought about how Sophia was trying to come between her and Cooper.

How dare Sophia try to disrupt what she and Cooper had? How dare she try to stop true love in its tracks?

Sandra leaned in and continued, “I’ll let you in on this little secret. Cooper has never been in love before but Sophia’s mother—who was a young, lowly servant—seduced Cooper and somehow made him fall for her. He was young and he had no idea what he was doing, but he got that b*tch pregnant. Then, she tried to use her pregnancy to force Cooper into marrying her.”

“It was a dirty move. She thought that she could use her pregnancy as leverage to marry Cooper and live her life as mistress of the family, but little did she know that the Mitchells saw right through her despicable act. In the end, they sent her packing and told her to get rid of the child!”

Anne’s eyes had widened to the size of saucers as she took all of this in. She had never heard of anything like it—how anyone could be so wicked was beyond her! She asked urgently, “What happened after that?”

“Well—” Sandra began with fervor. “—Sophia’s mother realized that there was no way she could marry into the Mitchells, so she found herself an honest man and passed off the child as his instead. The man was an Edwards, so she took on his shares and played mistress for a couple of years. When the family discovered the truth, they cast her out.”

“What? I can’t believe she did that! How shameless of her!” Anne gasped, affronted.

Sandra did not stop with the lies—she was practically a playwright at this point. “Cooper was in an accident over a decade ago and he went into hiding after that, but when he returned a couple of years ago, Sophia somehow found out that he was her biological father. She tracked him down and won him over completely. I don’t know how she did it but Cooper will do anything for her, even if it means going against the Mitchells.”

“You have to watch out for Sophia. She’s no ordinary, simpering wench; she has Taylor Murray wrapped around her little finger and she made Cooper betray his own family. You can’t underestimate her.”

“Also, that brother of hers is not to be overlooked. I don’t know how he ended up as the adopted son of the Michel family. He was close to becoming the heir to the family and the conglomerate, but thank goodness he was kicked out of the family before that happened! These siblings are as scheming as they come and they’re all leeches. Linus is nothing but a gigolo who spends his days hoping to marry a woman like you just so he can climb up the social hierarchy. You have to watch out for them both. They’re a family of crooks!”

Anne felt chills run down her spine after Sandra was done with her storytelling. She couldn’t help but feel sorry for Cooper.

He was completely swindled by Sophia and her family!

If she didn’t get rid of Sophia and Linus, Cooper would suffer in their schemes forever!

Anne was determined to rescue Cooper from this horrible fate. She had to let him see how evil Sophia and her brother were!

Satisfied with how angry Anne looked, Sandra went on to add fuel to fire. “Why don’t you show them who’s really in charge here? You’re Anne Yard. They are meant to show you respect and you should make them.”

Anne nodded fiercely at that and Sandra mirrored her.

Everything was going according to Sandra’s plan. Now, even if Anne did end up marrying Cooper, she would never think of Sophia and her brother as anything but a pair of wicked twins.

On the other hand, Sandra could soon find herself in the Yards' good graces, seeing as she and Anne were becoming such good friends.

It would be even better if she could end up marrying either Callum or Cade.

Eventually, Sophia turned up as expected.

She had flown over in a chopper, not wanting to waste any time. She could hardly wait to give Anne two slaps across the face.

Sophia was fuming, unable to comprehend how shameless Anne was.

"Miss Anne," the bodyguard greeted in a low voice after rushing through the door. "Miss Sophia has arrived."

Anne was well on her way to becoming a young lady of the Yard family and certainly that would have warranted her a royal title if they were in ancient times. She felt important as she indulged in the privilege of being escorted by the Yards' security team.

She had made sure that the security team would give Sophia a hard time when she arrived later!

"Right. Let her in," Anne ordered in an imperative tone. She didn't like speaking this way but she was a young lady of the Yard family now and she had to act like one in front of others.

The bodyguard hurried out of the room and brought Sophia in. She had arrived with several bodyguards in her wake, all of them wearing the insignia of the Mitchell family, which was crafted during Cooper's leadership.

"I hear somebody has tried to kill herself because of my father, so I decided to bring a little gift to cheer her up," Sophia mused. Following this, something landed in a thump on the headboard behind Anne; one of the bodyguards had thrown a bottle of brain health supplements and as Anne turned to glance at it, she saw that the supplements were meant for geriatrics.

She glared at Sophia incredulously as she brought her hand down on the table and commanded, "Sophia, you b*tch! Stay away from your father! You have no right to come between us, not when we're about to be married!"

Sophia had dressed for business today. She wore a white blouse, which was tucked into a pair of black and white checkered palazzo trousers. She had coupled her outfit with a pair of simple stilettos and her hair had been pulled back into a no-nonsense chignon. Her look was completed with a pair of oversize shades that covered half her face.

Lifting her shades, Sophia gazed at Anne with bemusement, clearly impervious to her threats. "Oh?" she sneered. "So, you intend to marry my father, but what do you have to offer? Your long list of suitors who have lined up all the way to France?"

Anne lifted her chin with the hope of intimidating Sophia, then retorted, "I am a young lady of the Yard Family! I have plenty to offer!"

"A young lady of the Yard Family?" Sophia sputtered before she burst into laughter. She wiped away her tears as a smirk fixed itself onto her face. "Tell me then, princess—how many shares do you own in the Ronney Group? Are you next in line to take over the conglomerate? Do you even matter to the rest of the Ronney Group?"

"Also, that brother of hers is not to be overlooked. I don't know how he ended up as the adopted son of the Michel family. He was close to becoming the heir to the family and the conglomerate, but thank goodness he was kicked out of the family before that happened! These siblings are as scheming as they come and they're all leeches. Linus is nothing but a gigolo who spends his days hoping to marry a woman like you just so he can climb up the social hierarchy. You have to watch out for them both. They're a family of crooks!"

Anne felt chills run down her spine after Sandra was done with her storytelling. She couldn't help but feel sorry for Cooper.

He was completely swindled by Sophia and her family!

If she didn't get rid of Sophia and Linus, Cooper would suffer in their schemes forever!

Anne was determined to rescue Cooper from this horrible fate. She had to let him see how evil Sophia and her brother were!

Satisfied with how angry Anne looked, Sandra went on to add fuel to fire. "Why don't you show them who's really in charge here? You're Anne Yard. They are meant to show you respect and you should make them."

Anne nodded fiercely at that and Sandra mirrored her.

Everything was going according to Sandra's plan. Now, even if Anne did end up marrying Cooper, she would never think of Sophia and her brother as anything but a pair of wicked twins.

On the other hand, Sandra could soon find herself in the Yards' good graces, seeing as she and Anne were becoming such good friends.

It would be even better if she could end up marrying either Callum or Cade.

Eventually, Sophia turned up as expected.

She had flown over in a chopper, not wanting to waste any time. She could hardly wait to give Anne two slaps across the face.

Sophia was fuming, unable to comprehend how shameless Anne was.

"Miss Anne," the bodyguard greeted in a low voice after rushing through the door. "Miss Sophia has arrived."

Anne was well on her way to becoming a young lady of the Yard family and certainly that would have warranted her a royal title if they were in ancient times. She felt important as she indulged in the privilege of being escorted by the Yards' security team.

She had made sure that the security team would give Sophia a hard time when she arrived later!

"Right. Let her in," Anne ordered in an imperative tone. She didn't like speaking this way but she was a young lady of the Yard family now and she had to act like one in front of others.

The bodyguard hurried out of the room and brought Sophia in. She had arrived with several bodyguards in her wake, all of them wearing the insignia of the Mitchell family, which was crafted during Cooper's leadership.

"I hear somebody has tried to kill herself because of my father, so I decided to bring a little gift to cheer her up," Sophia mused. Following this, something landed in a thump on the headboard behind Anne; one of the bodyguards had thrown a bottle of brain health

supplements and as Anne turned to glance at it, she saw that the supplements were meant for geriatrics.

She glared at Sophia incredulously as she brought her hand down on the table and commanded, "Sophia, you b*tch! Stay away from your father! You have no right to come between us, not when we're about to be married!"

Sophia had dressed for business today. She wore a white blouse, which was tucked into a pair of black and white checkered palazzo trousers. She had coupled her outfit with a pair of simple stilettos and her hair had been pulled back into a no-nonsense chignon. Her look was completed with a pair of oversize shades that covered half her face.

Lifting her shades, Sophia gazed at Anne with bemusement, clearly impervious to her threats. "Oh?" she sneered. "So, you intend to marry my father, but what do you have to offer? Your long list of suitors who have lined up all the way to France?"

Anne lifted her chin with the hope of intimidating Sophia, then retorted, "I am a young lady of the Yard Family! I have plenty to offer!"

"A young lady of the Yard Family?" Sophia sputtered before she burst into laughter. She wiped away her tears as a smirk fixed itself onto her face. "Tell me then, princess—how many shares do you own in the Ronney Group? Are you next in line to take over the conglomerate? Do you even matter to the rest of the Ronney Group?"

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1118

Anne was rendered speechless by Sophia's questions. Growing defensive, she glowered at Sophia and countered, "I don't own any shares now in the Ronney Group, but it's only a matter of time before I do. I am Young Lady Yard, after all. You're just a nobody!"

Sophia laughed at Anne's remark. Standing at the foot of the hospital bed, Sophia surveyed Anne's pale face with cool appraisal. "You dare call yourself Young Lady Yard when you

don't even own a single share in the Ronney Group? You have no right to call yourself that at all!" she spat.

Anne's face twisted into a grimace. Sophia is just as despicable as her low-life mother!

"Shares?" Anne wanted to retch and she snarled at Sophia in detest, "People like you only care about money and power. You're just as shameless as your mother! You're nothing but a despicable low-life! How dare you assume the Yard Family would ever stoop as low as you? I didn't come back to the Yards just so I could have shares in the company—I came back for honor, which is something you would never be able to understand! You're nothing compared to us!"

At this, Sophia went still.

Indeed, there was no denying that she was despicable.

Shares, money and power were all she ever talked about.

And yet, these were all the same things that prompted Anna Yard to eradicate her entire family!

Sophia sat down on the corner of the bed and tried to appear as amiable as possible. "Fine; let's not talk about money. My dear Miss Osborne, what makes you think my father would ever be interested in you?"

However, Sandra interjected before Anne could answer, "Please take note that she will no longer be called Miss Osborne. She's already part of the Yard family so she will only be addressed as Anne Yard from now on."

Hearing that, Sophia thought the Osborne name was better suited for Anne.

Anne ought to look at herself in the mirror before deciding to take on the Yard family name.

After all, it wasn't as if Anna Yard and her sons had gotten rid of the rest of their family just so they could make room for another person to clamber into their ancestral hall.

The thing was, it seemed as though Anne had truly deluded herself into thinking that she had suitors lining up for her all the way to France, because she began to list her many qualities. "I'm beautiful and young. I come from a family of scholars. I'm gentle as well as intellectual. I play eight different musical instruments and I'm well-versed in everything from law to Sanskrit." Anne appeared to be pleased with herself as she eyed Sophia with disdain. "Cooper and I will be the perfect couple if we end up together. We were made for each other! What we have is true love and you can never come between us, so why don't you back off for your own good?"

Sophia could only stare blankly at her.

Is Anne trying to insinuate that Cooper is not good enough for her?

Cooper had only ever met Anne on two occasions—the first being an exhibition where he had spoken to her briefly and the other had been at the Fletchers'. Altogether, they had barely spent more than two or three hours in each other's company, so how in the world was she convinced that they were in love? How could she even believe that they were meant for each other?

Sophia couldn't be led astray by Anne's crazy talk. Composing herself, she tried to reason, "Miss Osborne, please don't take this the wrong way but my father is just as much of a low-life as I am. All he cares about is money. We're a bunch of money-crazed people and as vulgar as we are, we would never be good enough to become your in-laws. It would be easier if you let him go."

Sophia wasn't wrong. After all, Cooper was vulgar enough to have become an armament magnate.

He had set up a pharmaceuticals laboratory in Africa and during the cholera outbreak that nearly wiped out the continent, he refused to hand over the treatment that could otherwise save the people. The conference room had been filled to the brim with government officials from all the African countries as they demanded for the treatment, but he had denied them all. He used the treatment as leverage, refusing to give up the cure until the countries had signed over the diamond mines to him; he wanted to monopolize the diamond mining industry in the entire continent.

He was nothing but a capitalist, a corrupt businessman who cared only about making a profit. If they were to turn back time and go back to the revolution, a man like Cooper would have been dragged out and flogged on the streets.

But this only further infuriated Anne. She slammed a hand down on the table and snarled, "You useless b*tch! How dare you stab your father in the back by saying these horrible things about him? You ought to be struck down by lightning for insulting your family like this!"

Anne appeared to be under the belief that she was destined to be with Cooper, which inevitably led her to assume the role of Sophia's stepmother.

When Anne snapped, she did so in a way that was akin to how a stepmother would put down her husband's illegitimate child. "You were born out of wedlock. What right do you have to butt into your father's affairs? You're ridiculous! It doesn't even make sense for your father to spoil you the way he does, and now you think you're above everyone else? How dare you interfere with his private affairs and speak badly about him behind his back? If I were you, I'd have died of shame!"

Sandra chose that moment to chime in, "Exactly! All of this is absurd! Clearly, you have no respect for your elders and you don't know your place. You're a daughter born out of wedlock, so who gave you the right and the confidence to meddle in your father's business?"

Anne then tilted her chin in an effort to look superior. "Have you no shame? You're married with a family of your own but you and your husband continue to reside at Cooper's place. You've completely destroyed the Mitchells' reputation!" She scowled resentfully. "You'd better move out of Cooper's house this instant!"

Sophia was stunned into silence.

After all, Cooper was the one who was staying at her place, not the other way round!

The man loved being around them so much that he couldn't bear to stay away for more than a day. In fact, there had been times when he hadn't been able to eat or sleep without seeing his beloved grandchild, so he had decided that the best solution was to move in with Sophia.

But to be fair to Anne, Sophia understood why this seemed a ridiculous notion.

At this point, Sophia realized that there was no use in trying to reason with Anne.

If the woman refused to listen to reason, then Sophia had no choice but to be harsh with her.

She slowly put on her shades, effectively shielding the icy look in her eyes, and drawled, “I have nothing more to say to you, Miss Osborne, but let me tell you this—you may be as perfect as you say you are, but my father has more than his fair share of gorgeous admirers in Bayside City. While your family may be formidable, there are others whose family names carry more weight than yours. You won’t be the only young lady of the Yard Family; it’s not as if you’re the first person to have adopted a different surname to get into the Yard’s ancestral hall.”

Sophia’s tone grew cold as she continued, “So, seeing as my father isn’t short on admirers who are prettier, more capable and have better breeding than you do, what makes you think he’d be interested in you in the first place?”

One would think that Sophia’s speech would keep Anne in check, but instead, Anne remained impervious. Worse still, there was a dreamy look in her eyes as she retaliated arrogantly, “Cooper would never abandon me! We are in love! There’s no way that those cheap floozies out there can even begin to compete with me!”

Sophia was at a loss for words.

“Pfft!” The bodyguards who flanked Sophia began to snicker.

It was as if Miss Osborne was a one-woman comedy show!

Sophia, on the other hand, had never been more exasperated in her life.

She had been right to give Anne that bottle of brain health supplements; the woman clearly needed it more than anyone else.

Sophia knew she had to switch tactics. She would go crazy if she went on like this!

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1119

Sophia was also beginning to understand Anne. She was nothing more than a naive little girl who saw the world through rose-colored glasses, and her delusions belied her sheltered

upbringing. She'd never had to endure life's many cruel punches, and she was clueless as to how vicious mankind could be—she didn't know how ruthless it was out there in the real world.

Sophia hadn't wanted to be too hard on her, but as of now, she had to be cruel to be kind. "So, Miss Osborne, it seems as if you're set on marrying my father."

Anne was determined. "You have no right to interfere with our plans to get married."

With a low chuckle, Sophia cast a fleeting glance at Sandra, who was practically buzzing with anticipation, and sneered, "Anne, I think it's time you get that brain of yours checked."

At this, Anne was outraged. "Sophia, I suggest you watch that mouth of yours. I'm older than you, and you should show me some respect! You rude little wench! Just wait till your father and I get married, I'll—"

Sophia cut her off mercilessly, ready to burst the girl's bubbles. "Oh dear, Miss Osborne, it seems as if you're far too naive to understand what's going on. You speak as if you are Young Lady Yard, and I bet you've thought about how you'd be a princess if we were in ancient times. But think about it, Anne, what happened to the rest of the Yards? The Yards were a clan before this, and now look at what's left of them! Have you ever wondered why they were so desperate to claim you back as their own even after you've taken on a different surname?"

She did not wait for Anne to respond. "Are you really that stupid, Anne? Your Aunt Anna and her sons killed off the entire clan! That was her whole family—people who shared the same blood as her—but your aunt spared none of them!"

Anne began to falter. "Shut up!" she cried, panicked.

But Sophia did not shut up in spite of Anne's obvious distress and continued sardonically, "Didn't you know that your aunt is renowned as a bloodthirsty tyrant? She killed off the uncles and sisters who helped her climb up the family throne, and she spared none of those who came from the branch family—that's the reason why she and her sons are the only ones left! My dear lady, do you understand what I mean by 'branch family'?"

Anne was clearly in shock. She refused to believe in these ugly lies. She was a princess, and she wanted nothing to do with any of these, but Sophia's voice grew menacing as she went on to say, "Much like yourself, the branch family consisted of those who were collateral

descendants and had no rightful claim on the Yard family fortune! As far as your aunt is concerned, you are not of direct descent, and that means you're worthless! She and her sons are lineal descendants of the Yard family, and only they have a rightful claim to the family name. You, on the other hand, are just a nobody! Do you really think your aunt brought you back so that you could be the young lady of the family? I'm sorry to say that she only sees you as a pet dog!"

Then, Sophia leaned forward with a malicious smirk on her face, and pointed a finger toward Anne. "If these were the ancient times, you would be the type of 'princess' who got married off to some old fart in another reigning family, and once he died, you'd be forced to marry someone else in the same family—you'd just be traded around from one man to another like a wh*re! Right now, you're just a lowly dog in the Yard family, and your aunt could just as easily get rid of you as she did with the others. What's sadder still is that you actually believe you have far more value than that. You thought you could fit in with the rest of them, but you can't change the fact that you are nothing more than a b*tch of collateral descent!"

Anne was sobbing by now. She covered her ears with her hands and screamed, "Go away! Stop talking! I won't hear it!"

However, Sophia was relentless as she drove her point forward. "Your aunt and her sons hold 61% altogether in Ronney Group, thereby securing control over the board of directors and gaining power within the family. The three of them hold 20% of shares each, and the remaining 1% is held by General." She paused, looking at Anne with a thoughtful gaze. "Do you know who General is? He's Anna Yard's cat! Her cat owns 1% of the shares in Ronney Group, and how many do you hold? None! My dear Miss Osborne, you can't even begin to compete with their cat!"

There was no use trying to block out Sophia's words. By the end of it all, Anne could feel herself fall apart in shock and despair; her dreams of becoming a real-life princess were shattered before her eyes.

She remembered being over the moon when she first heard that she was a long-lost relative of the Yard family. She had thought that she was royalty!

But today, Sophia had destroyed everything she fantasized about.

She was no better than Anna Yard's cat. Even General was a shareholder in Ronney Group, while Anne had nothing! She had no place in the Yard family at all!

Anne sobbed piteously on the bed as she felt her pride and faith fade away.

The fact that she was not of lineal descent of the Yard family had made her lose out to a cat!

And Anna Yard had become the powerful woman she was by eradicating the whole branch family—the people who, like Anne, had no direct claim on the Yard family fortune.

Xena Osborne had once told her to not get too close to her Aunt Anna, and had cautioned her not to go after any part of the Yards' fortune. Other than association, the Osbornes would ask for nothing more from the Yards.

Sophia continued attacking Anne despite the latter's heavy sobbing. "Your aunt single-handedly built the foundation for the Yard family, and your cousins are the ones benefiting from it. Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for them to eradicate the entire Yard clan, and the price they had to pay in order to wield power over Ronney Group? The honor and glory are theirs, and theirs alone—you have no right to any of it. You are nothing but a tool in the Yard family's shed. You're no different from a princess in the ancient times who were married off against her own will, be it for in-breeding or intermarriage purposes. Do you really think you get to have a say on who you wish to marry? Wake up and smell the hummus, Anne Osborne!"

Anne was trembling under the sheets, feeling as if she'd just been gutted. She stammered pathetically, "Stop it, stop it! I-I won't hear any of it! I'm going to marry Cooper!"

Sandra recovered from the initial shock that came with Sophia's speech and quickly came to Anne's defense as she countered Sophia fiercely, "Don't you dare fill Anne's head with your filthy lies! Do you take her for a moron? How can she be from a branch of the Yard family? She is a direct descendant! You're the only one here who's not of direct descent, and outcasts like you can't stand to see our kind better off than yours ever will be! Guards, take her away immediately!"

The bodyguards moved to usher Sophia out of the room. While Anne held no shares under her name, she was still a young lady of the Yard family.

These bodyguards were confidants to Anna Yard, and they had followed her orders to kill off many of the Yard clan. Anna had to be ruthless to gain all that she had now; she had been unforgiving toward her uncles and siblings, killing all of them when they so much as disagreed with her. She had been amiable since her reconciliation with Louis Osborne, but if

he or Xena were caught scheming against her, there was no doubt she would be just as merciless toward them.

After all, what was kinship compared to profit and power?

She'd rather have her cat hold 1% of the shares than let her own father and sisters have anything to do with the conglomerate—that alone was enough to speak volumes of her character.

Fortunately, Louis and Xena were both smart enough to not go after what wasn't theirs in the first place. The Yards might be family, but Ronney Group indeed had nothing to do with the Osbornes in the slightest.

Anne was still far too young and naive to understand any of this. She would survive if she chose to remain an airhead for the rest of her days as Young Lady Yard, but if she so much as even asked for shares in the conglomerate, there was a very high chance that she would end up dead the next day.

Miss Edwards, on the other hand, seemed a lot sharper.

As such, it was no surprise that Anna was fond of her.

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1120

Bearing in mind the fact that Anna Yard was fond of Sophia, the bodyguards weren't too harsh on her when they said, "Miss Edwards, this way, please."

Sophia got onto her stilettos-clad feet and began to make her way to the door. She didn't look back at Anne as she drawled, "Miss Osborne—no, Miss Yard, let this be my warning to you: stay away from my father. He's a lineal descendant and the head of the Mitchell family. People like you of collateral descent will never be good enough for him!"

Anne did not miss the cruel emphasis on the last few words.

She also did not miss the mockery in Sophia's tone when she addressed her as 'Miss Yard'.

Sophia's message was as clear as day: the title was meaningless, and the novelty was lost on Anne.

Anne claimed to be a young lady of the Yard family, but she did not even have one single share to her name.

The door did not close all the way following Sophia's exit, so Anne could still hear her contemptuous voice resonating down the hall. "My father's a busy man, so don't bother looking for him if you ever decide to kill yourself again because it has nothing to do with him! He has no time to entertain your petty life decisions! He can't be bothered to remember the faces of those he's only met once or twice, so don't even think that he knows what you look like, Anne Osborne! How dare the Yards think that I would set my father up for some twisted arranged marriage just to gain the benefit of a business deal? My father is too good for any of you, so you can go screw yourself if you think he would ever be interested in someone like you!"

.....

Every one of Sophia's words pierced through Anne's heart with unrelenting precision.

She was struggling to come to terms with the possibility that Cooper didn't love her.

Why would he keep quiet all this while if he had never loved her?

And why did he go along with her to meet Louis Osborne on the day of the art exhibit?

Meanwhile, Sandra tried her best to console the shell-shocked girl. "Hey, it's okay. It's all over now. She was only lying to you. She just wants you to think that you're not good enough so that you would back off on your own. She's jealous because she's a b*tch born out of wedlock, whereas you are a direct descendant of the Yard family. She knows her life will be ruined once you marry Cooper, so she's doing everything she can to stop that from happening! How could Cooper not love you when everybody else adores you so?"

The words were empty lies. Sandra knew that Anne was worthless without shares in Ronney Group. The girl had neither power nor authority, and she was only collateral for the Yards to gain a powerful ally in the Mitchells. She was no better than a pawn.

Sandra had managed to become a Mitchell by way of her many accomplishments. She didn't want to live in fear, so she did everything she could to expand her influence. She knew that it was meaningless to have only a title to her name when what she really needed to have was power; her worth was tied to nothing else other than the shares she held in and the control she wielded over the conglomerate.

Without the authority that came with being a shareholder in the conglomerate, one would find themselves in danger of being disposed of at the whim of others who were far more powerful.

But now, in order for Sandra to get closer to the Yards, she needed Anne to marry into the Mitchell family. If the marriage fell through, Sandra would never have a chance like this ever again!

This meant that she had to do all she could to placate Anne before the silly girl gave up on the idea of marrying Cooper!

For the past two days, Sandra had done little else other than visit Anne at the hospital, and each visit would last for hours. Many young masters of the Mitchell family had dropped by between intervals to talk about business, but their presence had been deliberately arranged by Sandra so that she could show Anne the finest men the Mitchells had to offer.

But Anne was adamant that Cooper was the only one for her, and she would not consider anyone else despite Sandra's best efforts to persuade her otherwise.

Oh, Cooper. Just what did Anne see in him? He was nothing more than an obsolete figurehead—an outcast in the Mitchell family who had nothing to offer. There were plenty of other men in the family who were younger and more accomplished than him, but Anne could not be bothered to even spare them a glance.

Anne's stubbornness had now led to Sandra's predicament. Presently, she was thinking of ways to make Anne take interest in other men in the Mitchell family while trying to console her.

She knew she was racing against time, for there were others in Bayside City who had their eyes on Anne.

The Yards' return was followed by their reconciliation with those who had either drifted away from the family or adopted different family names, and while it was true that such

reconciliation had brought forth the emergence of many young ladies of the Yard family, it still couldn't be denied that Anne was the most important one of all.

Even as she lived now without holding a single share in the conglomerate, she was still Anna Yard's niece—that alone ought to have warranted her a more favorable disposition in the family than the other young ladies!

So what was Cooper trying to achieve by playing hard to get? What more could he ask for when Anne was already so far out of his league? Did the old man really think he could do any better?

Meanwhile, Sophia had left the hospital. She had managed to let out a string of abusive remarks toward the bodyguards who worked for the Yards, but in reality, she had intended for Anne to hear every single disparaging word. Once she was escorted outside, Sophia had regained her composure.

After all, someone had to knock Anne down from her high horse before the little wench thought she was above everybody else.

Sophia scoffed in disdain as she thought about how Anne had asked to be addressed as Miss Yard.

Not once had Sophia ever made the public declaration that she was a young lady of the Michel family.

She was well aware that Michel Group would never have risen to the peak of its glory if it hadn't been for the efforts of those who came before her. Brick by brick, Michel Group had been built up by the likes of Cooper, Linus and Alice. These geniuses were behind the conglomerate's power and glory, whereas Sophia had contributed nothing at all. She had no right to ask to be a shareholder because she had no credit in any of the conglomerate's success.

She had no desire to be a young mistress of Michel Group—she wanted to be the president!

Previously, Sophia and Michael had bought up most of the shares in the conglomerate, which had been sold off by panicking shareholders when they had first gotten word that Michel Group would be undergoing a major internal restructuring due to Linus' termination.

Unlike Anne, who was going to be married off for a profitable agenda, Sophia was waiting for the right time to use these shares to enter the conglomerate so she could take her rightful place as the young mistress of Michel Group.

But not everyone shared the same sentiments.

While Sophia thought of ways to procure more useful resources, Sandra was obsessed with fortifying her position, and Anne was thinking of ways to convince Anna to give her some of the shares in Ronney Group.

...

Anne was discharged from the hospital the next day.

She had made up her mind that there was no point in staying in the hospital any longer. After all, it seemed as if Cooper was completely under Sophia's spell as he had never bothered to pay Anne a visit himself.

However, Anne was determined to marry Cooper, and there was nothing Sophia could do to ruin her plans.

She must ask the Yards to make her a shareholder. That way, Cooper would have no choice but to marry her, and no one could get in the way of that!

Upon leaving the hospital, Anne hurried over to the hotel where Anna was staying.

Anna was in the middle of a briefing with a property agent on the matter of purchasing the building.

Seeing as the Yards were keen on returning to the country in addition to their plans of establishing Ronney Group here, they needed to purchase a large family estate in Bayside City so that the whole Yard family could lay down their roots. Anna was also looking for a mansion for her own private use.

The Yard family originated from the banks of the Lombardi River, and while some had fled the country, there was still a large number of the clan that remained in the country. The hundreds of years that followed had seen the continuous return of members of the Yard family, who had subsequently set up their ancestral halls along Lombardi River.

Nonetheless, Ronney Group would have to establish their branch in Bayside City as it was the country's economic stronghold.

In light of this, Anna had been perusing properties in the country. She was determined to pick the best out of a wide selection of houses, office buildings, family homes and private mansions.

She was in the midst of browsing through the folders given by the property agent when Anne showed up with her unreasonable demands. Anna couldn't begin to wrap her head around what the girl was actually requesting for.

"Anne, what did you just say?" Anna lifted her head to look at her niece in askance. There were no lines that marred Anna's smooth, porcelain skin; even without an ounce of make-up, the woman looked as though she had defied all laws of time and physics.

Anne bit her lip nervously, then stammered, "Aunt Anna, I'd like to have some shares in the conglomerate. Cooper thinks little of me because I have no place in Ronney Group and won't marry me otherwise."

Upon saying that, she cast a resentful glance at the sleeping General. Surely, in light of the cat owning 1% of the shares, her aunt would not think she was crossing the line by asking for a mere 2% or 3% out of all the shares in Ronney Group, would she?