My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1126

But right now, there was no way to explain this misunderstanding.

Callum did not feel like explaining either, so he simply called out, "What about my people? Aren't you going to clean up this mess?"

Sophia did not turn back. "Your people tried to pull guns on us, and it triggered my mechanical bodyguard's defense system. It calculated and analyzed that you might do something to me, so it released electronic bullets. They've just fainted, so they'll wake up after ten minutes. By the way, I've spoken to the real estate agent. As one of Bayside City's top real estate agents, he respects me and has agreed that he will no longer work with the Yard Family in the future!"

With that, she disappeared.

Callum sat back in his seat and looked at the termination agreement as he began to contemplate his life.

He just wanted to buy a nice house to live in. I really just want to buy a house!

He had no interest in her dad whatsoever!

No interest in her nephew or her brother either!

Anne, on the other hand, was sobbing. She grabbed onto Callum's pants and cried, "Callum, you have to help me! Cooper and I are truly in love..."

Callum did not speak. His expression was indifferent and dejected, and they sat like that for ten minutes.

Ten minutes later, his people woke up at almost the same time. They drew their guns and started to make a fuss.

"Protect the young master!"

"What happened just now?"

Upon seeing this, Callum stood up swiftly and kicked away Anne, who was still grabbing onto his thigh, before hurrying off.

It would be a waste of time to exchange any more words with this idiot!

Anne cried her heart out as she chased after Callum; even her high heels had broken. When she came out of Crimson House, she did not expect to see that Callum's car was long gone, leaving her alone by the road.

Anne carried on crying, feeling extremely desolate. She stood on the side of the road and wept for quite some time. Usually, her clothing, accommodation, and transport were handled by an assistant or a nanny, so now, she didn't even know how to hail a taxi!

Meanwhile, in the presidential suite of a six-star hotel, Anna was looking at Callum with disbelief. "Did she really say that?"

Callum nodded. "Yes."

Anna had sent Callum to persuade Sophia, so she was surprised when Callum brought back a termination agreement with a look of frustration!

This was the first time in history that somebody had rejected the Yard Family.

That girl has such nerves! She even wants to make the Yard Family a test question in next year's college entrance exams?

Although it sounded trivial, if the Yard Family really became an examination topic, their actions from back then would be exposed, and they would be nailed onto Cethos' pillar of shame for all of eternity.

The Yard Family had certainly been careless to have done such a thing. At the time, foreigners had come knocking on Cethos' door, and countless people had died. The Yards were accountable for nearly half of those deaths, so it served them right that they were destroyed.

Later on, after their branch family took control, the Yard Family wanted to save face, so they fought with Cethos for a long time. In the end, Cethos used the inclusion of their deeds in history textbooks as a bargaining chip to force the Yard Family to withdraw from the United Nations.

Now, Anna had returned to negotiate, and she had contributed many cultural relics and investment projects. One of the conditions she proposed was to never talk about the Yard Family's dark past. They also had to sincerely admit to their wrongdoings. The Fletcher Family did not want to retaliate with injustice, so they mediated and reached a preliminary agreement.

However, it was only preliminary. If anyone in Bayside City could not tolerate the Yard Family, it would only take a couple of minutes to kick them out. After all, they had no roots in Cethos.

It was no wonder that the agent, Mr. Clarke, had called just now to say that he would no longer be working with them.

Besides him, several of Bayside City's top real estate agents had been given the notice to not work with the Yard Family too.

They were new to the area, and now, they could not even buy a decent house!

If her guess was right, Sophia was the one giving them notices behind the scenes.

She was Bayside City's local tyrant after all. Her father was a Mitchell, her husband was a Fletcher, and she had incredibly strong connections in Bayside City.

After listening to the series of events, Anna was stunned for a long while. Then, she laughed helplessly.

This was all just a huge misunderstanding.

Thus far, she had asked to meet with Cooper a total of four times. The first time, she was indeed annoyed by Anne's constant cries and complaints, so she invited Cooper out to talk about their marriage as her aunt. But of course, Cooper declined.

She did not care much about it but had invited him out of kinship.

As for the other three times, she had only done it for the house!

Inadvertently, she had stepped on the local tyrant's tail.

As for Cade, he was a little frustrated. Initially, they had decided to work with Sophia because her luxury pet products had potential, she had the Fletcher family's backing, and she was the local tyrant. At that time, the Yard Family had intentions of reconciling with the Fletcher Family as well. If they partnered with Sophia, it would help with the Yard Family's arrival in Bayside City. Unfortunately, all was lost now.

Anna said nothing. Her young, well-maintained, and wrinkle-free hands were holding a cup of tea as she gazed thoughtfully out the window at Bayside City's magnificent view.

"This matter needs to be further discussed."

That night, Xena carried Anne, whose face was swollen from being beaten up, to Anna.

As soon as they got there, Anne grabbed Anna and cried, "Aunt Anna! You have to back me up! That b*astard wants to ruin my marriage with Cooper! Aunt Anna, you have to help me! My mom is going to kill me!"

Anna glanced at Anne, who was beaten up and swollen, but her eyes no longer held the love it used to.

What a useless person. She can never do anything right.

Xena was usually very gentle, but today, she was extremely harsh. She could only see red as she lashed out at Anne with a whip.

"What did I tell you in the first place? Have you forgotten everything?! You useless girl! Sooner or later, you're going to get us all killed!"

Although Xena and Anna grew up in different environments, when the violence in them was evoked, they were equally vicious. With one whip, Anne's skin was flayed, and her exquisite cloud brocade dress was torn open, exposing her battered flesh. A few whips later, her body became badly mangled.

Anne was crying so much that her voice had become hoarse, but she still did not know what she had done wrong.

All she wanted was to marry Cooper!

"Who told you to be so delusional? Who told you to disobey me? Who do you think you are? Do you think you're a princess? You're nothing!"

Once Xena started, there was no stopping her as she hit Anne until she was rolling on the ground. The bodyguard that was standing to one side did not look away, though he seemed completely oblivious to what was happening.

Meanwhile, Anna was intently studying the information in hand. It was as if she did not notice that someone was being beaten half to death in front of her.

Xena did not want to hit her only daughter either, but she had to do it today for Anna to see.

Previously, she and Louis had repeatedly urged Anne not to be carried away by her wishful thinking. Who knew that she would ask Anna for shares and even criticize Callum's business?

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They were twins, so how could Xena not know what kind of a person Anna was?

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1127

Ever since she was recognized by the family, Xena had never mentioned anything about money to Anna. Except for their family name, Xena dared not ask for anything else!

Since ancient times, all of the Yard superiors were twins. Now that Anna was the only high-ranking Yard, Xena's identity as her twin was an extremely sensitive topic. This was because she too had reasonable rights to the Yard Family's inheritance, but she knew that Anna would never give it to her. In fact, she was rather fearful of her sister's existence. Her good behavior was the only reason she was still alive right now.

However, if she started to ask for shares and the rights to her inheritance, it would be a futile attempt as Anna would undoubtedly make Xena disappear without a word.

Therefore, Xena had to prove herself at all costs, even if it meant killing Anne today!

Standing before Anna, she lashed out viciously at Anne.

However, up until now, Anne still did not know why Xena was lashing out at her.

She just wanted to have a part of their shares. Was that so wrong?

She grew up pampered and spoiled, so she had never suffered this badly before!

All this while, she led a carefree life, and Xena had never so much as chastised her before. So why was she beating her now?!

Stubbornness overtook her, and Anne suddenly got up to grab the whip that had yet to lash out. As her entire body trembled with pain, she raged against Xena. "What's so wrong with me wanting shares? Ronney Group is the Yard Family's property, and I'm a part of the family. I too have inheritance rights! Why can't I have some shares? Even that cat, General, has some shares! So, why can't I have some? Why not? I'm obviously a direct descendant of the Yard Family, but Cooper's b*stard daughter called me an outsider to my face, all because I have no shares! If I had some shares, Cooper would already be engaged to me! I can't take it! I can't! I want Ronney Group's shares!"

At this moment, Callum came to give Anna some documents but had unexpectedly heard Anne's words as soon as he walked into the office.

He shook his head and gave a low chuckle. She's so silly that it's pathetic!

He walked in and placed the stack of documents on Anna's desk.

Meanwhile, Xena was stunned by Anne's remarks.

She's going to bring the whole family trouble!

"You vile creature! I'll strangle you to death!"

Crazed by anger, Xena rushed forward and throttled Anne, leaving her no room for escape. She choked her until her eyes rolled back into her head.

Although Anne had been pampered and spoiled since young, she was only in her early twenties, so she was much stronger than Xena—who was in her forties—and managed to choke her mother in return.

At this moment, Anna lifted her gaze. Callum immediately understood and dragged apart the mother-daughter duo, who were still strangling each other.

The world turned quiet at once.

Anna silently read through the documents, flipping one page after another.

After all this time, she was still more used to reading stuff on paper.

The stack of documents contained all of Sophia's personal information. They had found everything they could, including details that most people would not be able to find.

Previously, Anna had roughly looked up Sophia's information, but it was not as detailed as this.

Sophia's life before she was eighteen was terribly tragic. She worked hard and tried to change her life through studying, but she was ill-fated and had even been molested as a child.

After the age of eighteen, her destiny took a sudden change. She got into Bayside University, where she excelled in her academics and career. During her time in school, she founded Plum Technology Co. Ltd., which was the predecessor of Plum Technology Group Co. Ltd.

At Bayside University, she was known as the smartest and prettiest girl, as well as the model entrepreneur on campus. Besides that, she was the daughter of the Edwards Family and the Mitchell Family, and was also a member of the champion team of the Esports World Championship.

As Anna flipped through Sophia's life history, a glimmer of awe shone in her eyes.

It was as if she was watching a seed in the desert desperately trying to survive even though everything was extremely dry. Using its last bit of strength, it rolled forward; it was as

insignificant as a grain of dust, but it had an unyielding soul. Even amidst all the dust, it knew that it was unique. Even though everything seemed hopeless, it still carried hope.

Sophia knew that she was not insignificant, nor was she a grain of dust. Even when she was surrounded by dust, she kept her uniqueness.

Until one day, the light she was waiting for appeared, and she managed to find fertile soil and water. With their nourishment, she soon took root and grew into a towering tree with luxuriant leaves and roots that ran deep.

After reading Sophia's information, Anna set down her glasses and was about to speak when Callum suddenly held up a picture and said, "Mom, look. The girl in this picture looks a lot like you."

Anna studied the picture. Sophia was still young, around eighteen or nineteen years old, and she was dressed in Bayside University's uniform. With pearly-white teeth and bright, black eyes, she bore some resemblance to a younger Anna.

But ten years had passed, so her appearance had changed drastically. She was still a mixed-race girl, but her face had undergone surgery because of the injury she suffered. After all these years, her face had begun to look more and more westernized, but one could still vaguely see her original features.

"There is indeed some resemblance."

The world was big, so it was nothing too strange.

A thought began to form in Anna's mind, and she wanted to talk about it with Callum, but at this moment, a bodyguard brought Xena in.

Xena sobbed miserably. "It's all my fault. I've spoiled her too much since she was young, always giving her the best. Now she's developed into a person that's unaware of proprieties. Don't take the child's words to heart. I've already taught her a severe lesson. In the future, she won't dare to have such silly notions anymore."

Louis had come in as well, and his heart tightened when he heard what Xena had just said.

He did not want to see his own twin daughters destroy each other, and Xena never had any intentions of snatching anything from Anna anyway, so he hurried forward to mediate the situation.

After all, Anne had been hospitalized by her own mother, and Anna did not wish to pursue the matter for the time being.

Fidgeting, Louis said, "I heard that your business had fallen through, but it's okay. I'll go talk to Mikey."

Anna did not want to continue cooperating with Sophia, but Sophia had gotten them stuck on square one. It was unfavorable for their development in Bayside City, so they did, in fact, need someone to act as a peacemaker.

Since Louis had volunteered, they decided to let him go.

Eventually, Louis met with Michael. They were having tea when Louis brought up the matter.

These days, Michael was busy with his own affairs, leaving home early and returning late, but he knew about the dispute between Anne and Sophia.

After the incident, Sophia's cooperation with the Yard Family was completely wrecked. Sophia did not wish to have any contact with the Yards, but carrying on like this would not be good for either party. Therefore, Louis acting as a mediator was a way out of this mess for both parties.

Now that Anne was hospitalized from being beaten up, Sophia's anger had slowly melted away, so she agreed to make a few calls. This led to several real estate agents contacting Anna to say that they would help her look for houses, but Cooper's property was off-limits.

It went without saying that this misunderstanding would be impossible to resolve.

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1128

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Late at night, Sophia sat in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, looking out at the scenery. With Bayside City's landscape reflected in her eyes, she stayed silent and dazed as her mind drifted away.

It was already midnight when Michael, who was out filming, returned. He walked in to find Sophia curled up into a ball on the windowsill and still in a daze.

"What's the matter? Why aren't you asleep yet?" Michael whispered as he stepped forward to rub her hair.

Sophia's chin lifted and motioned upstairs as she said, "My dad isn't asleep yet, and neither is my brother."

When Michael came back, he saw that the lights on the third floor were still on, and so were the ones in Villa No. 2. It seemed that the father and son were still awake, and Sophia could not sleep either.

"What happened? Can you tell me about it?" Michael sat across from her, taking her hands in his and kneading them. Her hands were soft and seemed boneless, but by touching them, he could feel the scars and calluses that used to be on those hands.

Sophia's eyebrows sank. After a while, she said, "You've all been hiding it from me, but actually, I know everything... Anna's my mom, isn't she?"

Michael remained silent. All this while, he did not tell her because he was afraid that she would be hurt.

But ultimately, the truth could not be hidden from her.

Sophia gently leaned her head on Michael's arms and continued, "In fact, I knew about it a long time ago. I knew that she was a pawn that Jordan had placed beside my dad. I knew... But I still wanted to get close to her; I thought that I could still salvage something."

Hearing her words made Michael's heart turn heavy.

Annabel Johnson no longer remembered Cooper, nor did she know about Sophia and her siblings, but Sophia and Cooper still knew her.

Sophia did not say anything more. She had destroyed her relationship with the Yard Family because she wanted to get rid of any remaining hope. Afterward, she would not have the chance to get close to Anna anymore. She would just have to treat it as if she never knew this woman.

However, she still reckoned Cooper did not deserve this.

Cooper had been missing her for more than twenty years, and yet this was the result he got.

Sophia had never felt the love of a mother before, and now she had lost it, but it did not feel like that great of a loss. Cooper, on the other hand, had loved her so much...

Michael hugged Sophia and said softly, "Have a good rest. Don't think about it too much."

Obediently, she leaned into his arms, immersing herself in the warmth that she had gotten so used to.

Even though she had lost her memory, she still remembered this warmth—the warmth that had appeared countless times in her dream. In fact, fragments of the past would occasionally appear in her mind, but they could not be captured clearly as they were always muddled and would disappear in an instant. However, she knew that those memories were related to Michael because she would always feel this familiar warmth—his warmth.

On Saturday, a neighbor at The Imperial had sent an invitation to Sophia in advance as they were going to have a birthday party.

Currently, Michael and Carmen were out filming 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' and had yet to return. When Sophia went there the last time, it had caused so much trouble that it was nearly impossible to shoot the reality show. This time around, Michael did not bring Sophia along no matter what.

Previously, Sophia had followed him for two days. Now that she trusted Michael's ability to take care of their daughter and to deal with problems, she decided that she did not need to follow along. After all, their daughter would not starve even if she went with him.

In the afternoon, Linus arrived all dressed-up, ready to bring Sophia over to the neighbor's party.

"Linus, wait for me! I'll be ready in a minute!"

Sophia had rushed back from the office to change her clothes, then hastily applied some makeup. She had been out for the whole day, so her makeup had worn off. She hurriedly retrieved her foundation to touch up her appearance.

"I'm not in a hurry. Take your time fixing your makeup." Linus smiled and went to the living room where he sat and scrolled through his phone. Wagging its tail, Cash came over to him, and Linus patted the dog while he waited for Sophia. Meanwhile, Carmen's chicken, which was wrapped in a golden diaper, strutted over.

The pig that was being raised in Villa No. 1, on the other hand, would only be released when Carmen returned.

Tsk. I wonder what weird creature Carmen will bring back this time.

Celine was chasing the chicken all over the house while Justin stood helplessly at the side.

Suddenly remembering something, Linus looked upstairs and asked, "Isn't Dad going?"

While applying her makeup, Sophia answered, "Dad's not going. He's staying home, but I don't know what for."

Nowadays, Cooper would only show up during meal times.

Ding dong!

The doorbell rang. Maria went to check the surveillance video, then reported, "Madam, Young Master Linus, a beautiful lady is at the door, and she's even carrying a cat."

A lady with a cat?

Linus glanced at the surveillance video and said solemnly, "It's Anna and the Yard twins."

Anna!

Sophia went to take a look and saw that it was indeed Anna and her sons. They were dressed in glamorous outfits and seemed to be here for a party. Their neighbor that was hosting the party had rather impressive connections, so it was not surprising that they had invited Anna.

However, Anne was not there, and neither was Jordan.

What are they doing here?

The last time they met, she had destroyed Callum's dignity and had even threatened to make them a test question in the college entrance examination, so they must have come here today with ill intentions.

Linus said, "We'll let them in first. Maria, bring them tea. Celie, catch that chicken. I'll greet them; you go call Dad."

Linus was also aware of Anna's motives.

After all, she was his mother!

However...

Linus opened the door and greeted the Yards. "Well, if it isn't the distinguished Yard Family! Mrs. Yard, Mr. Yard, please come in."

Prior to this, Linus had never socialized much with the Yard Family. After all, the arts and science sectors rarely interacted with each other.

The Yard Family produced luxury goods, while the Michel family was involved in technology and the military, so they had very few chances to interact.

Anna glanced at Linus, and a smile appeared on her face. Linus Michel. She had been looking forward to meeting him for a long time now. She had long known that there was a gifted genius in the Michel family, but she did not expect that they would end up meeting in Cethos. They were in a hurry the last time they met, so they did not manage to exchange more than a few words.

Anna shook Linus' hand, then asked, "Should I call you Mr. Michel or Mr. Mitchell?"

Linus gave her a warm smile. "Both are fine."

He then invited them in. This was Anna's first time in The Imperial, and she was satisfied with every house that she had seen thus far. She was pleased with them as she found that they were all fairly decent.

Having received the invitation to the party, she took this as an opportunity to explore the place. Usually, she would not be able to enter the neighborhood, so she could only glimpse at Villa No. 1 from afar, but even then, she found its appearance to be rather satisfactory.

Daniel's traditional Garden Villa was exquisite, and Linus' refreshing little cottage was lovely as well. Villa No. 8, on the other hand, gave off a different kind of imperiousness.

Anna and her sons seemed to really like their house, so Linus introduced it to them. "This is my sister's house. I'm staying in Villa No. 2."

They walked through the garden where two magnificent alpacas were being kept. Anna took one glance at the alpacas and said, "I heard that your African mine has recently produced a batch of good quality diamonds. It would be great if you could sell them to the Yard Family. You have mines, and we need diamonds, so how about we talk about it in detail?"

Sophia had always wanted to forge an alliance between Linus and the Yard Family for the diamond business, but because of the incident with Anne, that plan was shelved. After all, the quality of the diamonds that Linus' mines produced was good, and they were suitable for jewelry-making, so they did not have to worry about sales.

However, Linus knew that Anna was just trying to gauge his position in the Michel Family.

Ever since the Michel Family got rid of the mole that the Yard Family planted, they had lost access to a lot of important information.

Linus was troubled. He did not want to go against Anna, but he did not want to get close to her either.

Hence, he answered, "Orders were placed for this batch as soon as they were produced. Mrs. Yard; I'm afraid you're too late."

Linus brought the three of them in and seated them in the living room; the chicken had already been caught. Meanwhile, Sophia was bringing Cooper downstairs.

Cooper saw Anna sitting in the living room when he was coming down, and Anna happened to look up at him at the same time.

vMy Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1128

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Michael remained silent. All this while, he did not tell her because he was afraid that she would be hurt.

But ultimately, the truth could not be hidden from her.

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Sophia gently leaned her head on Michael's arms and continued, "In fact, I knew about it a long time ago. I knew that she was a pawn that Jordan had placed beside my dad. I knew... But I still wanted to get close to her; I thought that I could still salvage something."

Hearing her words made Michael's heart turn heavy.

Annabel Johnson no longer remembered Cooper, nor did she know about Sophia and her siblings, but Sophia and Cooper still knew her.

Sophia did not say anything more. She had destroyed her relationship with the Yard Family because she wanted to get rid of any remaining hope. Afterward, she would not have the chance to get close to Anna anymore. She would just have to treat it as if she never knew this woman.

However, she still reckoned Cooper did not deserve this.

Cooper had been missing her for more than twenty years, and yet this was the result he got.

Sophia had never felt the love of a mother before, and now she had lost it, but it did not feel like that great of a loss. Cooper, on the other hand, had loved her so much...

Michael hugged Sophia and said softly, "Have a good rest. Don't think about it too much."

Obediently, she leaned into his arms, immersing herself in the warmth that she had gotten so used to.

Even though she had lost her memory, she still remembered this warmth—the warmth that had appeared countless times in her dream. In fact, fragments of the past would occasionally appear in her mind, but they could not be captured clearly as they were always muddled and would disappear in an instant. However, she knew that those memories were related to Michael because she would always feel this familiar warmth—his warmth.

On Saturday, a neighbor at The Imperial had sent an invitation to Sophia in advance as they were going to have a birthday party.

Currently, Michael and Carmen were out filming 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' and had yet to return. When Sophia went there the last time, it had caused so much trouble that it was nearly impossible to shoot the reality show. This time around, Michael did not bring Sophia along no matter what.

Previously, Sophia had followed him for two days. Now that she trusted Michael's ability to take care of their daughter and to deal with problems, she decided that she did not need to follow along. After all, their daughter would not starve even if she went with him.

In the afternoon, Linus arrived all dressed-up, ready to bring Sophia over to the neighbor's party.

"Linus, wait for me! I'll be ready in a minute!"

Sophia had rushed back from the office to change her clothes, then hastily applied some makeup. She had been out for the whole day, so her makeup had worn off. She hurriedly retrieved her foundation to touch up her appearance.

"I'm not in a hurry. Take your time fixing your makeup." Linus smiled and went to the living room where he sat and scrolled through his phone. Wagging its tail, Cash came over to him, and Linus patted the dog while he waited for Sophia. Meanwhile, Carmen's chicken, which was wrapped in a golden diaper, strutted over.

The pig that was being raised in Villa No. 1, on the other hand, would only be released when Carmen returned.

Tsk. I wonder what weird creature Carmen will bring back this time.

Celine was chasing the chicken all over the house while Justin stood helplessly at the side.

Suddenly remembering something, Linus looked upstairs and asked, "Isn't Dad going?"

While applying her makeup, Sophia answered, "Dad's not going. He's staying home, but I don't know what for."

Nowadays, Cooper would only show up during meal times.

Ding dong!

The doorbell rang. Maria went to check the surveillance video, then reported, "Madam, Young Master Linus, a beautiful lady is at the door, and she's even carrying a cat."

A lady with a cat?

Linus glanced at the surveillance video and said solemnly, "It's Anna and the Yard twins."

Anna!

Sophia went to take a look and saw that it was indeed Anna and her sons. They were dressed in glamorous outfits and seemed to be here for a party. Their neighbor that was hosting the party had rather impressive connections, so it was not surprising that they had invited Anna.

However, Anne was not there, and neither was Jordan.

What are they doing here?

The last time they met, she had destroyed Callum's dignity and had even threatened to make them a test question in the college entrance examination, so they must have come here today with ill intentions.

Linus said, "We'll let them in first. Maria, bring them tea. Celie, catch that chicken. I'll greet them; you go call Dad."

Linus was also aware of Anna's motives.

After all, she was his mother!

However...

Linus opened the door and greeted the Yards. "Well, if it isn't the distinguished Yard Family! Mrs. Yard, Mr. Yard, please come in."

Prior to this, Linus had never socialized much with the Yard Family. After all, the arts and science sectors rarely interacted with each other.

The Yard Family produced luxury goods, while the Michel family was involved in technology and the military, so they had very few chances to interact.

Anna glanced at Linus, and a smile appeared on her face. Linus Michel. She had been looking forward to meeting him for a long time now. She had long known that there was a gifted genius in the Michel family, but she did not expect that they would end up meeting in Cethos. They were in a hurry the last time they met, so they did not manage to exchange more than a few words.

Anna shook Linus' hand, then asked, "Should I call you Mr. Michel or Mr. Mitchell?"

Linus gave her a warm smile. "Both are fine."

He then invited them in. This was Anna's first time in The Imperial, and she was satisfied with every house that she had seen thus far. She was pleased with them as she found that they were all fairly decent.

Having received the invitation to the party, she took this as an opportunity to explore the place. Usually, she would not be able to enter the neighborhood, so she could only glimpse at Villa No. 1 from afar, but even then, she found its appearance to be rather satisfactory.

Daniel's traditional Garden Villa was exquisite, and Linus' refreshing little cottage was lovely as well. Villa No. 8, on the other hand, gave off a different kind of imperiousness.

Anna and her sons seemed to really like their house, so Linus introduced it to them. "This is my sister's house. I'm staying in Villa No. 2."

They walked through the garden where two magnificent alpacas were being kept. Anna took one glance at the alpacas and said, "I heard that your African mine has recently produced a batch of good quality diamonds. It would be great if you could sell them to the Yard Family. You have mines, and we need diamonds, so how about we talk about it in detail?"

Sophia had always wanted to forge an alliance between Linus and the Yard Family for the diamond business, but because of the incident with Anne, that plan was shelved. After all, the quality of the diamonds that Linus' mines produced was good, and they were suitable for jewelry-making, so they did not have to worry about sales.

However, Linus knew that Anna was just trying to gauge his position in the Michel Family.

Ever since the Michel Family got rid of the mole that the Yard Family planted, they had lost access to a lot of important information.

Linus was troubled. He did not want to go against Anna, but he did not want to get close to her either.

Hence, he answered, "Orders were placed for this batch as soon as they were produced. Mrs. Yard; I'm afraid you're too late."

Linus brought the three of them in and seated them in the living room; the chicken had already been caught. Meanwhile, Sophia was bringing Cooper downstairs.

Cooper saw Anna sitting in the living room when he was coming down, and Anna happened to look up at him at the same time.

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Prior to this, Anna and Cooper had only met briefly, and they had only spoken a few words to each other. But Cooper—a cold and indifferent man—had left a deep impression in Anna's heart.

During their meeting this time, their eyes met when Cooper was coming down the stairs. Anna felt as if her eyes were locked onto his as something magical lingered in the air between them.

Sophia had destroyed Callum's dignity and both parties had already torn up their cooperation agreement, so she was not sure what Anna was doing in her house. But since they were here, they might as well made things clear.

When Sophia talked to her dad or her brother, she spoke in a young, child-like voice. But, as soon as Anna and her sons walked in, her voice turned low and grave and was completely different from her usual tone. "Mrs. Yard, since you're here, let's clarify some matters."

They were guests nonetheless, so Sophia politely greeted them and made sure they were all properly seated before she began clearing things up.

"First of all, I'm sorry for the disagreement between me and Mr. Callum the other day. Even though we can't continue with the business, we can still be friends." Sophia gave Callum a sincere apology, which he accepted with a nod.

After all, there were no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests.

That day, Sophia was indeed offended by Anne's impertinent remarks. Being called a 'b*tch' had certainly touched a nerve.

Sophia continued, "As for the house, we currently don't have any plans of selling it. We're staying in Villa No. 1, so we're not going to sell it off. Those office buildings are being used as well, so we have no plans to sell them for the time being. Also, my dad doesn't plan to remarry."

The last sentence was the most important point.

Cooper had no interest in Anne whatsoever, so there was no point in trying to win him over.

Callum shrugged at this. What a huge misunderstanding.

But, now that everything was over, he reckoned that it was better to just let it go and let it remain a misunderstanding. Anne had already been beaten into submission after all.

Anna was the one to respond. "That misunderstanding was a result of my incompetent teaching. It caused Anne to overstep, so I'd like to express my apologies."

Anna was an arrogant person, but she was not blindly arrogant.

Although they were speaking in a friendly manner, Sophia did not want to say anything to Anna anymore. Before this, they still had a nodding acquaintance, but now, all they had were business exchanges.

Meanwhile, Cooper and Linus said nothing. Sophia was always the one dealing with the Yard Family anyway, so they rarely had any contact with the Yards.

Even if they had dealings, it would be back-and-forth fights that were carried out in secret.

Hugging General, Linus stroked the feline. Touching a cat with shares does feel different, he thought. Cooper, on the other hand, kept a stony expression on his face.

He was, however, looking at Anna the whole time.

This was his Anna after all!

But, he knew that she was not the same Anna she once was.

It did not matter whether or not she had lost her memory, or if she still remembered him—they could never return to the way they used to be.

Halfway through the conversation, Cooper suddenly got up and said, "You guys carry on."

Frostily, he turned away. He did not utter a single word since he came down, and now he was leaving after just throwing out one sentence, which just went to prove how indifferent he was.

Is this the man from Bayside City that's rumored to dote fiercely on his daughter? His character and appearance do not match that description at all! Cade spat in his mind.

Watching his retreating figure, Anna felt a bone-chilling sadness in the simple arc of his back.

What's this man grieving about?

The three of them sat there for a brief period. After clarifying matters and talking a little about business, they got up to leave.

"Let's go together." Linus got up as well as they were headed to the neighbor's house anyway.

Sophia had finished touching up her makeup, so she followed them out.

They then walked to the neighbor's house together.

From the way they dressed to their nature, Callum and Cade were exactly the same. Unlike their father's cold temperament, they were fresh and warm. Like two delicate little cherries, their faces were tender enough to pinch.

On the contrary, Sophia and her brother looked nothing alike!

Due to this, Callum was dubious. "Are you two really twins?"

Linus gently took Sophia's hand, steadying her as she wobbled in her high heels. While doing so, he answered, "I look like our father while she looks like our mother."

As he said this, Sophia glanced subconsciously toward Anna.

As mother and daughter, they certainly did look alike.

When they walked past Sophia's Villa No. 1, the Yards could not help but peer inside.

Just by looking at its appearance, one could tell that it was a decent house. Sophia and her family had more than enough space in Villa No. 8, so it was truly a waste to leave this house empty! It was simply a waste of natural resources!

To their surprise, someone suddenly opened the door of the villa, and a pig joyfully scurried out.

They rear... pigs?!

Cade's expression changed as he began to re-evaluate Sophia's worth.

She's actually raising pigs in Villa No. 1, the heart of Bayside City! What a wealthy woman!

By the time the neighbor's party ended, it was already the wee hours of the morning. Yawning, Sophia went home with Linus, while the Yard Family left in their car.

Sitting in the car, Anna sensed a pair of eyes looking in her direction as they passed by Villa No. 8.

She looked up at the villa and saw that the window on the third floor was open, and a figure was just turning away.

Cooper...

Anna looked out the window until she could no longer see the villa.

After they got back to the hotel they were temporarily staying at, Anna quickly fell asleep.

She had not been asleep for long when a man came in from outside. Softly closing the door behind him, he walked into the bathroom to take a shower before changing into his pajamas and getting into Anna's bed.

"Annie..."

Jordan slowly moved closer to her; his hands were outstretched as if he wanted to touch her.

His hand approached her, but eventually stopped and hung mid-air, not reaching out at last.

There was a distance between the two of them as they lay there in their clothes.

He knew that Anna was not asleep, so he said softly to her, "Ryan and Henry are coming to Bayside City to pursue their PhDs."

Upon hearing those two names, Anna's eyes suddenly flew open, and a dark gleam flashed across her eyes.

Meanwhile, Carmen had returned, so Linus and Sophia went to the airport to fetch them.

As soon as the door to the aircraft cabin was opened and the stairs were lowered, Michael brought Carmen down with a scowl on his face.

Looking energetic as she was dressed in a pink dress with her hair up in pigtails, Carmen bounded happily toward Sophia and Linus. "Mommy, Uncle Linus!"

Feeling delighted, Sophia rushed forward to hug her daughter. She had only been gone for three days, but she had already grown cuter and was even more beautiful than before.

She was really a little baby that grew up feeding on cuteness!

After her little reunion, Sophia noticed Michael's sour face, and she had a feeling that things did not go well.

The last time he came back, he had worn the same dark expression because Carmen had brought back a huge water buffalo, two goats, a chicken, and a pig.

This time... Oh, no!

They had gone to a village in the desert!

What animals were there in the desert?

Sophia did not have to guess as they would soon find out.

Dancing around with joy, Carmen beamed, "Mommy, I brought back a special product!"

Sophia's scalp tingled as soon as she mentioned 'special product' because she was almost always referring to something that was alive. Sure enough, in the next moment, a large camel could be seen coming down from the cargo hold.

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Sophia and Linus simultaneously sucked in a breath of cold air.

Carmen, however, was still prancing around with glee. "Camel! Big camel! A big, big camel!"

It certainly was... a huge camel.

No wonder Michael's glowering.

"Let's go home first," Michael said, still scowling.

This time, no matter how they persuaded her, Carmen insisted on keeping the camel at home.

Michael was so worried that he was sure his hair was going to turn white.

Rearing a pig in Villa No. 1 was fine, but rearing a camel... That would be a pain in the *ss.

Raising a child was truly exhausting.

Thankfully, Linus had the idea of quietly donating the camel to the zoo. They could then tell Carmen that her grandpa had bought the zoo, so she could go there to visit the camels every day if she wanted to.

Michael really wanted to donate Sophia's pair of alpacas as well, but the zoo seemed to be uninterested, and Sophia would certainly disagree, so he had no choice but to give up that notion.

Coincidentally, the giant pandas that Michael and Sophia adopted had been sent to Bayside City Zoo to be exhibited.

Michael had been one of the people in charge of making this happen. A year ago, he managed to establish a collaboration between Bayside City Zoo and Panda Foundation. Once the zoo was done with the renovations for the new panda pavilion, only then did Panda Foundation feel comfortable sending the two pandas to Bayside City to 'work'.

Bayside City Zoo only had six pandas, so welcoming another two was not a big deal. Not to mention, Taylor—a man with extraordinary popularity—was one of the adopters of these two pandas, so it had caused quite a commotion throughout Bayside City. A grand opening ceremony was held, in which the president as well as Michael and Sophia, the two adopters, attended.

These two 'working pandas' were so popular that they nearly caught up to Michael's popularity. On the first few days of their arrival, Bayside City's panda pavilion was crowded daily. Everyone came to see the pandas, and the panda pavilion would receive tens of thousands of visitors in just half a day.

Upon the pandas' arrival, Asco Pictures, a subsidiary of Asco International, announced that they would launch a series of film and television projects called 'The Supreme Panda', in which Michael's two pandas would be used as prototypes for the production of an animated film that tells the story of a panda. They joined forces with Hollywood to create an international intellectual property that belonged to Cethos, so that it could be promoted to the world. Moreover, Taylor was responsible for the bilingual dubbing of the main characters in the movie.

Michael was kept busy as soon as he returned.

The panda pavilion was packed with visitors six days a week, closing for only one day a week to take a breather.

On one of their days off, Michael finally managed to go over with Carmen and Sophia to see the pandas.

The family of three entered the panda pavilion and watched them through the glass.

The two pandas were grown-ups, and they were extremely lazy. They would sleep in their luxurious two-hundred-square-feet bedroom where they would stay spread out in two large piles eating fresh bamboo that was shipped from out of state the night before. They paid no attention to the president, and they even dared to pee and poop in front of him.

It was usually hard for anyone to enter the pavilion, as there were tons of tourists every day—sometimes even hundreds of thousands. They would queue for hours, only to catch a glimpse of the pandas for several seconds. Michael's relatives and friends heard that he was visiting today, so they hurried over to catch a free ride, which was why there were many people present at this moment. After all, no one could resist the charm of the national treasure!

Besides Michael and Justin's families, there were also Harry's family, Stanley and Sean's family, Sam's family, Hale's family, Joel's family, Casper and Alice, as well as other Mitchells and Fletchers.

Carmen went off with Lorelei & Co., who looked impressive in their matching uniforms. Nathan had brought Lorelei with him, and although she appeared cold, she was extremely clingy, following Nathan wherever he went.

Meanwhile, Sam and Nicole had brought the children from the orphanage to see the pandas.

Everyone brought a panda hat, and all the children had panda backpacks.

As they watched the pandas eating bamboo through the glass for nearly an hour, a silly smile surfaced on all their faces.

Michael looked at the pandas and sighed as he thought back to when he first adopted them. He was still filming 'War Dragon' then, and Sophia had joined the crew. After they were done filming, they went to visit the pandas.

When they adopted the pandas, one of them had just been born, and it had been a premature baby. It weighed only a few dozen grams and barely survived, but here it was, all grown up now.

Oh, how time flies...

He wrapped his arms around Sophia, who was beside him.

Times changed, but everything would be fine as long as the people next to him remained the same.

Although today was the pavilion's off day, many people who had connections to Michael kept entering, and there were even some who still did not manage to get in.

Less than half an hour after they entered, a new wave of his acquaintances arrived.

This group of people, however, were being led in by a curator.

The two households met once again.

"You guys again!" Sophia was the first to exclaim.

The new arrivals were none other than the Yard Family!

Not only that, but Anne, who had just been discharged from the hospital, was among them.

When she came in and saw Sophia, her eyes lit up with delight as she searched the place for Cooper. Sophia hurriedly blocked her father from Anne's view, but Cooper was so tall that anyone could catch a peep of him with just a glance.

Cooper, on the other hand, continued looking at the pandas, and he seemed oblivious to the Yard Family's arrival.

"The Yards are here!" Stanley announced boisterously. Upon hearing this, the Fletchers stirred and eyed the Yard family, looking as if they were about to send out dozens of wolfdogs. The Yard Family felt pressured.

The atmosphere changed as soon as they arrived.

Anna shot a fierce glare toward Anne, who stood beside Xena, not daring to move or speak. Smiling pleasantly, Anna walked toward Sophia's family and said, "What a coincidence. I didn't expect to see you guys here." Seeing as how she had already made peace with the Yards, and Anne was not acting rashly, Sophia returned her kind smile. "It really is a coincidence. Mrs. Yard, you're here to see the pandas too?"

Anna nodded. "I haven't had the chance to see them, so I've come to meet them today. You don't really see any pandas abroad."

Judging from the way they were dressed, as well as the sneakers and baseball caps surrounded by pandas they had on, they looked as though they were indeed here to see the pandas.

Anna's gaze, intentionally or otherwise, shifted toward Cooper, but he did not spare her a glance; his eyes were fixated on the pandas.

"Miss Beautiful, up, up!" As soon as Carmen saw Anna, she stretched her hands out and tiptoed, asking to be carried.

Anna bent down to carry Carmen, then continued to hold her as she talked to Linus.

When the Yard family arrived, there was a slight racket. But after a while, everyone went back to minding their own business.

Although their partnership had failed, it was only right for them to exchange a couple of words upon meeting.

Stanley stared at the Yards for a long time, then felt bored and walked away.

The pandas are more interesting than the Yards anyway!

Meanwhile, Sophia was surveying the Yard family. Quite a few of them had come today, including Anna and her sons, Xena and her daughter, and two young men that she had never seen before.

The two young men looked almost identical, and one could immediately tell that they were twins. They stood slightly taller than Callum and Cade, and both pairs of twins looked fairly similar, but the taller pair had on cold expressions and seemed reluctant to speak.

Are they Yards too? And they're twins?

"Those are my brothers, Ryan and Henry Yard."

Unbeknownst to Sophia, Cade had come to stand beside her. He kept his eyes focused on the pandas, and there was a cup of milk tea in his hand. Pinching the straw, he took a sip of his drink, then continued, "They've just arrived here, and are preparing to pursue their PhDs in Bayside City University. They'll be taking over several of Bayside City's market development projects, so you'd better be careful."

Puzzled, Sophia turned to look at Cade, but he had already slipped away.

Be careful? Be careful of whom?