

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1196

Alex, who had just cursed and scolded Michael's wife moments ago, was now reluctant to say much since Michael had arrived. He quickly changed the topic and said, "Michael, the Fletchers and the Mitchells are family friends. I hope you don't ruin the relationship between our families just for the sake of a traitor. You won't be able to bear the consequences if you were to alter the dynamics of our families' relationship!"

"Hah. The friendship between our families was built during Old Master Mitchell and my grandfather's generation. Since you're trying to dig up Old Master Mitchell's grave now... you're the one that's ruining the relationship between our families!" Michael replied in an easygoing tone. Alex fell speechless.

"Alright, the weather's pretty cold. Guards, chase these uninvited people out—we should go pay our respects now!" Michael continued to speak. Upon his orders, a bunch of men in black who worked under the Mitchell Family quickly rushed over to drag Alex and his men away. Everyone else applauded as this happened.

While Alex cursed and thrashed about as he was dragged by his shirt and thrown out, Michael turned to look at Sophia; she was all he saw at that moment. "Come on, let's go pay our respects." Since they were already there, they decided to pay their respects and clean up Woody's gravestone before leaving. Sophia happily slid her hand into Michael's before they walked over to the gravestones.

The rather unusual family meeting of the day came to an end, and Sophia finally fulfilled her long-desired wish from years ago. While she was feeling content, another determined voice sounded from the crowd right then. "No! I refuse to let this happen. Cooper is a traitor of the Mitchell Family. He has no right to be the family head of the Mitchell Family! He has no right to be in the genealogy record book and no right to be buried in the ancestral grave!"

Sophia's footsteps came to a halt as she suddenly realized something. That's right. Cooper has been known as a traitor for so long... Although he did betray the Mitchells, it was because they wronged him first. This isn't over just yet!

"Hold on." Sophia spoke in a stern voice as she asked for Alex and the rest to be brought back to her. Her impression of Alex had always been a strict and domineering elderly, but after revealing his true colors, he looked like nothing but a hideous old man filled with ill-intentions. Sophia glanced at Alex and the other elderlies behind him first; then, she turned to look at the rest of the Mitchells who were present.

This could be considered as the family's first-ever special meeting. Although there were some members who weren't present, all the Mitchells in Bayside City who could make it stood among the crowd. The hill around the grave was tightly packed with people—women, men, girls and boys—who all had their eyes on Cooper's daughter. Coincidentally, she was also the female family head and the first Young Lady of the Mitchell Family.

Right then, Sophia looked over at Michael. His head was lowered, but he gave her a supportive glance before he whispered to her and said, "Let's reveal everything that should be revealed now." She nodded before turning back to the crowd and the bunch of people who were strongly against Cooper.

Alex thought that he had successfully brought up some old wounds between Sophia and Cooper, and he assumed this meant victory for him. "Cooper's a traitor of the Mitchell Family; everyone knows that! We've seen it with our own eyes. He has no right to be the family head of the Mitchells! He's our largest traitor! Traitor!" he shouted toward the crowd.

His words got Sandra all hyped up to speak. "You should tell us about your background, Sophia. Tell everyone who you—the mighty and elegant lady of the Mitchell Family—actually are!" She's an illegitimate daughter; her very identity is a sob story! Sandra felt better about herself just then. After all, regardless of how great Sophia was, she was still an illegitimate daughter and nothing more than that! Cooper had never once changed her name because she was a filthy, illegitimate daughter!

The crowd turned their gaze over to Sophia as they waited for her response. They were all curious. What happened in the past? Why did Cooper come back alive after years of his 'death'? Where did he go all these years? Is he really a traitor of the Mitchell Family?

Sophia never intended on concealing this part of their history; she never felt the need to hide her own past. Before she began to speak, Michael brought her a glass of warm water and a microphone. "Here, here. Use this—don't hurt your throat," he said. There were too many people in the crowd, and it'd be hard for her to get everyone to hear her clearly; her throat was already burning from the few sentences she had said earlier. After sipping on some water, she picked the microphone up and readied herself to explain everything to the Mitchells. Cooper never thought of concealing the truth either, and people were going to find out sooner or later; hence, Sophia thought it'd be better for her to tell the story herself.

Cooper wasn't a petty man, and he wouldn't allow himself to be bothered about such things as he wasn't one to cling onto the past. However, Sophia felt like she had to reveal this entire story for the sake of both of them; it would also provide closure to herself, Linus and Annabel. She wanted everyone to know that the Mitchells were the ones who were indebted to Cooper and his family! Even though Cooper despised the Mitchells, he still gave them an

opportunity to redeem themselves after he left! If he was a traitor, it was only because the Mitchells forced him to be one!

“That’s right. I’m my father’s illegitimate daughter, but I’ve never attempted to hide this fact,” Sophia answered without any hesitation. Sandra was pleased to see this, and she hopped forward like a clown before she pointed at Sophia. “Hahaha, you guys were surprised, right?! The elegant and classy Young Lady of the Mitchell Family had been molested by her own uncle from a young age; her nudes were spread to everyone; she dated men and had abortions during high school... She has really been an elegant, graceful woman ever since she was conceived! Hahaha...”

The crowd’s gazes were all fixed upon Sophia after they found out about her role as Cooper’s daughter and her history. Some of their gazes were filled with shock, while others with pity, confusion and embarrassment... Sophia felt a gust of cold air from her side just then. She turned to see Michael with his head lowered, but his entire body was tense—it was as if sharp icicles were growing out of his skin. She could feel her goosebumps forming as she felt the chilly sensation that he was giving off. Meanwhile, Sandra continued to blabber about Sophia’s terrible past.

Right then, Michael’s feet jerked as he was about to charge forward. He looked like he was ready to kill Sandra, but he then felt a warm little hand on his skin the moment he made a move. Sophia looked at him and shook her head. There was no hurt or embarrassment in her eyes; her clear gaze was confident and genuine, as if what Sandra was blabbering about wasn’t what Sophia had been through. Sophia had forgotten all about it, after all...

In the past, Quinton’s main reason for erasing Sophia’s memories was because he wanted her for himself. The second reason was because she was extremely depressed back then. It was like she had fallen into a deep, dark hole and couldn’t get herself out of it; she was barely clinging on to her own life. Although she had a child, a new life that gave her hope, she was still unable to escape the traumatic past that was already deeply rooted within her... Forgetting about it was the best cure for her. Right then, Michael’s eyes shined with tears as he glanced at Sophia. He hated himself for failing to protect her and only meeting her so much later.

Meanwhile, Sandra was still talking about Sophia’s past. She made sure to exaggerate and dramatize all the stories before announcing them. “She was born in Riverdale’s Johnson Family Village. There, her whole family were just a bunch of filthy, low-level villagers who sold groceries in the market! Her mother was a restaurant waitress who clung onto every rich man she met, and her uncle was a perverted teacher who looked at all his female students. In fact, she committed incest by hooking up with her uncle at a young age! In high school, she was expelled after she got an abortion, and the baby was a child of incestuous

matings! She's disgusting! She's filthy! It's an utter disrespect to our ancestors to have a person like her in the Mitchell Family!"

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Everyone in the crowd fell silent as they shifted their focus onto Sophia after Sandra finally finished rambling. Although Sophia's old scars and wounds had just been dug out, she didn't feel any sadness or anger in her. She simply lamented the fact that she used to have such a tough and bitter life, having been criticized so badly in the past. After Sandra finished speaking, Sophia gently lifted her microphone up and glanced at the crowd before her. "Well? Does it sound like I had a really tough and hard life as a child?" she asked in a light-hearted tone.

The crowd fell silent. The story of her being molested was a huge issue in the past, but the Harpers later admitted that the story of her getting an abortion in high school was a rumor they had created. They compensated her for it, but still, there was no denying that the girl who stood in front of the crowd right then had gone through a lot of struggles. Sophia glanced at the silent crowd before she continued her speech slowly. "The Mitchell Family gave me all of this..." Her voice was filled with grief and a hint of distaste. "That's right. My mother was a waitress. She was born into a poor family and didn't have any academic qualifications.

She was a nobody in comparison to my father, but the love they had for each other was abstract and inexplicable; she was the one that my father chose to fall for in the end. Although they got together at a young age, their love had always burned with passion. My father has loved my mother for his entire life, and it hasn't changed in the past 30 years. He's still deeply in love with her now! For the sake of my mother, my father has chosen to remain a widower throughout all these years.

How many of you here can do that?" Sophia sighed gently before she said, "Because of the differences in their status, the Mitchell Family was against my father and mother's relationship. Some of you here might have witnessed this with your own eyes. I'm not here to blame anyone for anything, but I would just like to ask for those witnesses to step

forward. I'd like you guys to tell the rest of the family what the Mitchells did to my parents in the past!"

The crowd fell silent. Some of the people seemed at an utter loss; some began to turn left and right to whisper to others, while some lowered their heads in shame. The Mitchell Family agreed to keep the past events a secret, but those who had witnessed it would certainly know of it. Sophia knew that there were a few of them in the crowd who had even experienced it first-handedly. Meanwhile, Alex and his men were confused. They didn't know anything that happened in the past; if they did, they would've used these stories to drag Cooper down.

"Don't change the topic, Sophia!" Sandra reminded her. However, Sophia simply turned back to the crowd, her voice now chilly as she spoke. "Would you like me to say it myself, or would someone like to step forward and do it instead? My father clearly remembers everything you guys did to him in the past—he recalls each and every one of your faces and names. Just because he refuses to take revenge doesn't mean that he's forgotten about it! Well? You guys had the guts to do it in the past, but no guts to step forward and admit your faults now?"

Sophia's powerful voice sent the question out to all of the Mitchells in the crowd, and it rang loud even in the ancestors' graves. Everyone looked left and right, hoping for someone to step forward and explain what the Mitchells did to Cooper. After a while of silence, a frail, trembling hand went up as an elderly man spoke from within the crowd. "Let me talk about it..." The crowd stepped aside to reveal an old man who was supported by both his cane and his grandchildren. He slowly walked toward Sophia.

"Andrew!" Someone recognized the old man. He was one of the elders of the Mitchell Family, and he was probably more than a hundred years old then; naturally, it was shocking to see him present. Andrew lowered his face guiltily as he took the microphone over and glanced at the crowd. Several other members of the Mitchell Family were even watching this livestream from other countries. With that, he began to talk about the forbidden past of the Mitchell Family that had been concealed for 30 years.

"In the past... Cooper fell in love with a waitress. We advised them to break up, but he refused to listen to us. The council of elders took a vote and decided that we had to get rid of the woman in order to make him give up on his dreams of being with her." The old man was honest and open about the past. After all, the woman survived and returned, so they'd only be fooling themselves if they continued to hide this secret. "Therefore... we burned Cooper's lover into ashes right in front of his eyes," he uttered.

The crowd exclaimed in shock. I can't believe something like that happened in the past! How torturous it must've been for Cooper to witness the death of his own lover; how hateful he must have felt after not being able to see her dead body! The Mitchells are too much!

Even Alex and his men were shocked to hear this. "Hey, that's great! Cooper, the son of a family head, was fooling around with a cheap and lowly woman. What an embarrassment to the family! It's embarrassing to call him a member of the Mitchell Family!" Alex was furious that they had concealed this story for so long! Sophia only managed to grow up peacefully because of how well they hid this story.

Andrew lowered his head to Sophia guiltily. "It's true that the Mitchells owe an apology to Cooper after what happened in the past. Here, I sincerely apologize to Cooper on behalf of the Mitchells... The Mitchells need him, and I hope he doesn't leave after he returns."

"Don't worry, Andrew. Dad won't leave this time," Sophia answered the old man politely. This comforted Andrew a little, and he hobbled away with his cane. The crowd began to chatter and discuss what they just heard.

Sophia continued to speak then. "That waitress was my mother, but she didn't die that year. Instead, Old Master Mitchell had switched someone to take my mother's spot in the fire. He let my mother go, and that is the only reason why my brother and I exist today. During that time, my mother was already pregnant with Linus and me; she went through a lot just to give birth to us, but my brother was carried away during birth, and my mother passed away after giving birth to us. My father, Cooper, didn't even know about our existence. Our family had been separated for more than 20 years before we finally reunited. It wasn't an easy journey," she said with a sigh. "The Mitchell Family owes my father too much! The Mitchells owe my brother and I an apology, but they should feel especially apologetic toward my father and mother! Yet, my father has repeatedly extended his grace to the Mitchells!"

The crowd went quiet once again as they all stared at Sophia. She was supposed to be the most precious princess of the Mitchell Family, but she ended up suffering on the streets all because of the Mitchell Family's immoral scheme. Ultimately, she was Cooper's daughter; she still shined as bright as a pearl even though a layer of dirt had masked her spark for a while. Her hard work paid off eventually, and she gained the opportunity to impact the world with her overflowing charms—just like what she was doing right now! Who could've imagined that the Mitchell Family was the one who tore Cooper's family apart and caused so much suffering to his wife and children? Yet, he had always been thoughtful and caring toward the Mitchells. He came back to them even after leaving for 20 years.

"20 years ago, my father staged a car accident as an excuse to leave the Mitchell Family after he had everything all planned out for the family. He chose to abandon his identity as Cooper, but he eventually returned 20 years later. He wanted to bring Linus and I back to meet our ancestors, for he was still proud to be a child of the Mitchell Family. My brother and I are proud that we share that same blood as Cooper. Our whole family has a clear conscience!" As Sophia declared, the audience broke into applause.

Of course she was Cooper's child! They were all glad to recognize Sophia as the Young Lady of the Mitchell Family only because of the amazing woman she was! No one ever brought up the story of Cooper leaving home for the past 20 years, but they hadn't expected to hear such a heart-wrenching story behind his departure. It turned out that the powerful, godlike man had once struggled with a great deal of despair and pain. The audience's claps drowned out all of Sandra's curses.

Sandra was dumbstruck right then; she couldn't believe what she saw. Why are all of them treating Sophia like a precious treasure? What gives her the right to become the Young Lady of the Mitchell Family?!

At that moment, Sophia pivoted the direction of her speech as she gave Alex a cold glare. "Well, Alex. Let's talk about how you staged that car accident for my father now..."

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Alex was the one who caused Cooper's accident all those years ago? The crowd's reaction was huge when they heard this shocking news, and they all turned toward Alex immediately. Cooper was known to have passed away due to a car accident back then, but they never found his dead body. After his death, Woody was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and the role of the family head fell upon Alex. Alex had allegedly confiscated all of Cooper and Woody's personal funds and properties back then, but no one could truly tell if he had actually taken it for his own personal use. In hindsight, it made total sense for Alex to be the culprit in Cooper's accident! After all, he got the most benefit out of it! Although Cooper hadn't actually died back then, Alex had to be punished for attempting to harm him.

However, Alex appeared to be calm and composed in the face of Sophia's accusations. "Slander! You're just giving me a bad name here! Do you have any proof of it? Any witnesses or physical evidence? Even your father wouldn't dare to accuse me of harming him. This is considered defamation if you don't have any proof. I want to sue you for this!"

Sophia let out a long sigh through her nostrils before she smiled faintly. She hadn't planned on looking any further into this issue; she simply wanted to inform the Mitchells of what had happened in the past. It had been 20 years since the accident, and it was a little too late to do anything about it. The court probably wouldn't hear the case, and Cooper was still alive. However, Alex was practically asking for it right then.

"Since you've brought this topic up, I'd like to ask Cooper a question now that I'm standing right in front of Old Master Mitchell's grave..." Alex pointed a finger toward Woody's grave before he questioned Sophia in a formal tone. "Where was your father, Cooper, when Old Master Mitchell was drowning in his sorrows after his son's death? Where was his only son, Cooper, when Old Master Mitchell suffered from Alzheimer's disease throughout those 10 years? Where was Cooper?"

Sophia didn't respond to this. It was true that Cooper was heartless in the past; he certainly knew about Woody's Alzheimer's disease, but he still managed to stay away from home for a whopping 20 years. 20 long years... The amount of love Cooper had for Annabel was equivalent to the amount of hatred he had for the Mitchell family.

Once Alex saw that Sophia had no response to his words, he was certain that she felt guilty; he had once again reclaimed his higher moral ground. "That year, Cooper intentionally staged an accident to escape from the Mitchell Family. He betrayed his biological parents and the family that nurtured him. Instead, he chose to start anew in a different place—that's an extremely irresponsible act to perform as the family head. He just left as he wished! He's the largest traitor in the Mitchell Family! I'd like to ask Cooper if he has the guts to visit our ancestral grave and tell our ancestors about how he developed his plan to leave the Mitchells in the past! He'd never dare to do that! Never! That's because he knows that he's a traitor himself! He's probably hiding in a corner somewhere now; the most he'd dare to do is to send his illegitimate daughter over to confuse us with her words! You should step forward if you think you're that great, Cooper! If you really think you're guilty, you should stand in front of our ancestors and explain yourself clearly!"

Sophia couldn't stop herself from rolling her eyes in response to Alex's words. The man was brave enough to cause a ruckus that day only because he knew both Cooper and Linus were in a meeting overseas. Would he have dared to come over and dig Woody's grave if Cooper was in Bayside City today? Sophia no longer wished to waste her time talking to Alex. She

was certain that the other members of the Mitchell Family could see what Alex had really done for them in the past 20 years. "Drag him out. I'll be taking over my father's role as the family head for today, and I will remove all of your names from the Mitchell Family. You will not live to see your name in our genealogy record book, and you will not find your dead body in our ancestral grave!" Sophia sent her orders out immediately.

However, Alex wasn't about to give up just yet. He thrashed around as he shouted at the top of his lungs and bellowed, "Get out here, Cooper! You should fight me directly if you have the guts! You should step forward and admit your sins in front of our ancestors if you're really that great! You don't have the b*lls to do that because you're a coward! You traitor! You coward! It's a shame that you're the family head of the Mitchell Family!"

Although most of the people agreed that Cooper was much more capable than Alex and felt sorry for his entire family, it was still a fact that he had faked his death for 20 years without showing up even when his father had Alzheimer's disease. He should've visited or sent a message at the very least. However, Cooper didn't appear at all. That guy is really a heartless man... Alex still shouted and flailed his arms around with all his might. "Get out here, Cooper! Come out! Are you too afraid to explain yourself to your ancestors?! Cooper! You traitor! You coward!"

It had been a while since everyone found out about Alex's plan to move the ancestral grave that day, and many of the Mitchell Family members had rushed over. Most of those in Bayside City were present, and some members from the nearby towns had just arrived as well. Planes and cars continued to enter the area, and all the aircraft ramps and parking lots were fully packed. This was the first time Sophia had seen so many of the Mitchell Family members. They were an extremely diversified group of people; black, white, yellow, brown and mixed individuals were all present. Arriving in planes, luxurious cars, and bikes, these people were celebrities, politicians, businessmen, regular workers, and farmers... There were people of all social classes in the crowd. The entire piece of land across the mountains was filled with people, and more of Alex's supporters came over to protest. They insisted for Cooper to appear and explain himself, claiming that he would have to be present if they were to host a public vote to choose their family head. Many of the audience arrived to watch the scene of Alex and his supporters shouting and screaming; those who missed the first half of the incident were therefore more inclined toward Alex's views.

"Hahaha, Cooper! You're too afraid to come out! You're the largest traitor of the Mitchell Family!" Alex burst into laughter as he was increasingly certain that Cooper was not going to show up. He didn't pay any attention to most of the younger generations of the family, and he thought the illegitimate daughter, Sophia, was the most worthless one among them all; he wanted to crush her like an ant between his fingertips. "Come out and admit your

sins, Cooper! Come out and explain yourself, Cooper!” Alex gestured for his supporters to chant along with him.

Meanwhile, Sophia wasn't the slightest bit bothered by Alex's acts as she knew that he didn't stand a chance with his pathetic acts. He'd need to create more sparks if he wished to publicly punish Cooper. To everyone's surprise, their 'wish' for Cooper's appearance came true right then. A shining, gold helicopter landed on the helipad. Soon enough, the crowd parted aside to form a single passageway for a group of people that were walking toward them. Naturally, at the front of the group was Cooper. Linus followed behind him with a stern look on his face.

Cooper was dressed in a formal suit, and he looked as if he had just gotten out of his business meeting. He had the aura of a high-achieving intellectual, and his cold, mature demeanor shushed the crowd immediately. Everyone felt as if they had to hold their breaths when they saw him. Perhaps this is what it feels like to be visited by the king, they thought to themselves.

“Cooper's here!” someone shouted.

“Is that his son, Linus, beside him?” another one asked.

“I saw him 20 years ago. He still looks so young after 20 years; it's almost as if he hadn't aged at all!” Most of the people in the crowd last saw Cooper 20 years ago, and they finally got to catch a glimpse of the legendary, powerful man himself that day. They all shoved one another to get a better view of the man, and their breaths slowed down as they watched him walk past them.

The aggressive group of people—Alex included—who had been calling for Cooper to show up were now dumbstruck. Wasn't he supposed to be attending the Global Energy Summit in another country? He was supposed to be there with other presidents; how did he just leave and come back here? Alex only got the idea to make a move on the ancestral grave because he knew that Cooper had left the country. He hadn't expected Cooper to return! All of Alex's supporters fell silent under the influence of Cooper's powerful aura.

Although Alex lost his courage for a moment, he then recalled how he had successfully defeated Cooper 20 years ago. He felt his insides inflating with confidence. I can successfully kick Cooper out right now too! The Mitchell Family is no longer the same group of people that was present during Cooper's generation. I've put in so much effort into it for the past 20 years, and I have a firm base now. Cooper has only been back for such a short while! He won't be able to rattle my sturdy foundation!

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Alex felt a boost in his energy once he saw an increasing amount of his supporters swarming in. Now that he had leverage over Cooper, he felt an unlimited amount of confidence within him and called the latter out the moment he saw Cooper walking toward them. "You're finally here, Cooper!"

However, Cooper barely noticed Alex's presence as he walked straight toward Sophia. "Daddy!" Sophia was both surprised and glad to see Cooper. "Why did you come back?"

Cooper's gaze was fixed upon Sophia's clothes as he walked toward her and tugged lightly at her leopard-print jacket. "Are you cold? Do you need another jacket?" he asked. Someone from the Mitchell Family had uploaded a livestream of the incident, and those who weren't able to be physically there could watch it online. Cooper saw his little sweetheart getting out of a helicopter in the cold weather, and he was worried that she would freeze to death in her clothes.

His words gave Sophia a warm, fuzzy feeling. "I'm fine. My clothes are thick," she replied. Once Cooper was certain that his precious baby wasn't too cold, he patted her on the shoulder. "Go and wait in the car. I'll come join you in a bit," he said. With a swift gesture, Cooper then turned and headed toward Woody's grave. Both him and Linus began paying their respects to Woody.

However, Sophia didn't leave just yet. She wanted to watch Cooper reclaim his role as the family head of the Mitchell Family. On the other hand, Michael led Sophia aside. Cooper was supposed to be the one handling this issue today, and Michael was freezing—all he wanted to do was go home.

Meanwhile, Alex wore a pleased expression on his face as he watched Cooper and Linus paying their respects. "You're finally here, Cooper! You've been hiding in your shell for 20 years now! Now that you're here, I believe you owe the rest of the Mitchell Family members an explanation for what you've done! You should explain where you've been for the past 20 years in front of our ancestors! Where were you when your father developed Alzheimer's disease because of your disappearance? Where were you when your father was bedridden with his illness?" Alex sent a stream of questions directly into Cooper's face, but the latter maintained his solemn expression; Cooper and Linus continued to bow and showed their respects to Woody and Beyoncé's gravestones.

Woody's wife, Beyoncé, had her gravestone placed right next to Woody's. She was the youngest daughter of the Michel Group's family head, but she had changed her surname after getting married to Woody. There was no picture of her on the tombstone; only her married name was carved on it.

"Cooper, you must be keeping quiet because you have something to hide, huh? Haha! How can a cowardly scoundrel like you ever become the family head of the Mitchell Family?" Alex's men continued to chant, stirring up a ruckus. Their voices were louder amidst the silence of the mountains, and everyone could hear their cries. "Cooper is a traitor!"

However, Cooper continued to keep his mouth shut. He kneeled down in front of Woody's grave quietly, only standing up after the last piece of joss paper was completely burned. He then gave Woody's tombstone a long, deep stare before he turned around and walked down the hill from the ancestral grave. Shortly after, he came to a halt in front of all the members of the Mitchell Family. There was a huge crowd that day; about 8,000 to 10,000 pairs of eyes stared at Cooper and Linus as they waited for him to provide an explanation. Alex, on the other hand, was beaming with joy as he felt like he had already achieved victory. After today, Cooper will definitely be known as the most unfaithful and ungrateful child after today! I'll force him to kneel in front of the ancestral grave later—that way, he can ask for forgiveness from our ancestors! I'll make him utterly embarrassed by forcing him to confess all of his sins!

"Hahaha! I bet you're speechless now, Cooper! You're just a coward and a traitor," Alex shouted. To his surprise, Cooper took the microphone from Michael before he began to address the crowd. "Dear members of the Mitchell Family, I, Cooper Mitchell, have a few things to say today."

Alex quickly interrupted him. "Stop trying to find excuses for yourself, Cooper. Just admit it..."

"I am indeed at fault," Cooper uttered. The crowd exclaimed in shock as they hadn't expected him to be so straightforward. He was very forthcoming about it, which was a rare sight in well-known individuals like him—even Alex found himself dumbstruck by Cooper's words. This is an insufferably arrogant man who has always placed himself above everyone throughout his entire life. Why is he admitting his faults so easily?

"I once felt a great deal of resentment toward the family that nurtured and brought me up. I hate that this family snatched my lover away from me; I hate that it forced me apart from my own beloved children; I hate that it tortured my lover and caused my children to suffer from a young age," Cooper said as he glanced at his own children, his gaze filled with

nothing but warmth. However, his voice was stern and firm as he continued speaking. "I never attempted to deny my faults. I made a mistake because I was too young and immature back then. I feel extremely apologetic toward my father and my family. I, Cooper Mitchell, would like to ask my ancestors for forgiveness. I hope that my wise ancestors can give me—their disgraceful grandchild—an opportunity to right my wrongs."

The crowd fell silent after his speech. Both supporters of Alex and Cooper were equally dumbfounded. This influential man was just chit-chatting with the foreign presidents and politicians yesterday; how can he just openly admit his faults in public now? Doesn't he feel burdened by his role as a famous man? Everyone didn't know what to say at that point. Cooper had admitted his mistakes in such a quick and simple way; Alex didn't even have the time to construct a sentence to attack Cooper in return.

"Now, I've returned to compensate for all the mistakes that I made when I was younger. I'd also like to make it up..." Cooper turned and took a long glance at Woody's grave. "I'd like to make it up to my father and my children." The weather was brutally cold; although Cooper didn't mind catching a cold himself, he surely couldn't have his little sweetheart falling ill in this weather. Sophia's face is turning red because of the cold! My heart hurts just seeing it. Therefore, he made his speech short. "I hereby announce my official acceptance of the role as the Mitchell Family's family head. Those who are willing to walk by my side as we lead the Mitchell Group toward glory and success once again can now leave with me!"

With that said, Cooper hastily left the crowd with Sophia and Linus following behind him. Once he left, Sean, Justin, Derek, Vincent, Dimon, Drake and the rest of the men quickly tagged along behind him. A large crowd followed them unhesitatingly. Right then, everyone could clearly tell who the winner was between Alex and Cooper. There were a few members who hesitated for a while, but they finally went along with Cooper.

A large group of people strode off behind Cooper, and some of the supporters who were initially on Alex's side even sneaked off quietly once they saw that the bigger party had left; they quickly tore off the emblem identifying themselves as Alex's supporters. Once again, Alex was left dumbfounded as he watched his supporters leaving his side. He couldn't help but cry out loud when he saw that his number of men were decreasing. "You guys need to come back now! All of you are traitors! Traitors!"

Similarly, Sandra was losing her mind. If Cooper is now the official family head of the Mitchell Family and Alex is no longer in power, what does that make me now? She had just been officially removed from the Mitchell Family! How is this even possible? I was the one who saved this entire family when Natasha ruined the Mitchell Family's reputation. I was the one who worked so hard to rebuild a healthy image for the Mitchells just so that they could

uphold their reputation. My very existence is the reason why the Mitchell Group's shares went up in price. I am the actual hero of the Mitchell Family. I should be the Young Lady of the Mitchell Family! She simply couldn't allow Cooper to leave just like that.

Right then, Sandra was struck by a sudden flash of inspiration as she recalled something. She immediately charged forward to snatch the microphone into her own hands and broadcasted her voice to all of the Mitchell Family members present that day. "Cooper, your only son is a disgusting, gay man. How can you be the head of the family when you're going to die without any descendants?!"

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Her words had successfully caught everyone's attention, and heads immediately spun around to stare at Sandra. She was overjoyed to have all the attention on her, and she delightedly began to expose the 'true colors' of Cooper's son. "Cooper's only son, Linus, is a gay man. He has been dating men for a while now—how disgusting, perverted and dirty of him! He is an embarrassment to our ancestors, and we'd have to consider if our ancestors would ever allow such behavior!"

In response to her words, the crowd began to buzz with excitement once again as they all turned to look at Linus, who stood beside Cooper. They couldn't believe that the clean, well-groomed man they saw was gay! Some of the people wore expressions of shock on their faces; some glanced at him understandingly; some looked at him pitifully while others simply seemed confused... Cooper hadn't remarried, and he was unlikely to have any other children. Now, he only had a son and a daughter; his daughter was married and had already given birth to a little girl named Carmen, but Carmen probably shared her surname with the Fletchers. In that case, Linus was Cooper's only son, yet he was gay! In accordance with Cethos' traditional beliefs, Cooper's bloodline had practically come to an end in such a situation.

"Dad." Linus stood behind Cooper, and his head lowered with guilt. Linus never once thought that this was his fault, but he couldn't help blaming himself now that his sexual preferences had caused trouble for Cooper. Linus believed that the power of love was sufficient to break through all barriers—he didn't care if the other person was male or female as long as he

liked the person. He would consider getting married and having children if he ever found a woman he liked, but he didn't wish to get married or have children just yet. In fact, he felt content with everything he had in life right now; Linus had a younger sister and little Carmen to take care of, so he had no desire to start his own family yet. He didn't want to force himself into anything, but he also didn't want to make Cooper sad. Dad probably thinks that there is no one to continue his bloodline anymore...

To his surprise, Cooper simply patted him on the shoulder. "I'll always be proud of you, my son." Linus broke into a grin right then as he felt his insides bursting with joy. Indeed, Cooper was always supportive of him.

Right then, Cooper's footsteps came to a halt as he glanced at Sophia, Linus, Michael and all of his other supporters before he spoke. "As long as I have you guys with me, I'm sure my name will be passed down. Regardless of whether you guys are my inheritors, I will try my best to nurture and support all of you. You guys have to work hard—the Mitchell Family's future is going to depend on all of you!"

All of his men nodded firmly. Cooper had told them the same thing from the very beginning—any capable man stood a chance to be the next family head of the Mitchells, and it didn't have to be passed down to another family member. In the future, it could either be Linus, Sophia, Sean, Derek or Justin; anyone who could bring the Mitchells to a whole new level and obtain support from the members would become the next family head!

The Mitchell Family was a large family with international members based outside of Cethos. They were a good mix of many cultures; Cethosian values and beliefs were no longer the main drive of the whole family. Cooper's bloodline wasn't about to end, and the Mitchell Family didn't have a lack of inheritors! Some individuals believed in an outdated, feudal system and hoped to stick to it, but others quickly brushed it aside as they didn't believe in it. Cooper was one of the ones who got rid of such outdated beliefs. He never forced Linus and Sophia to give birth to males; he never insisted that their children would have to take his surname. They could give birth to kids as they wished, and they could get married if they wanted to—it was all up to them. Although Carmen didn't take Cooper's surname, he still considered her as part of the Mitchell Family's new generation. Therefore, he did have inheritors and a granddaughter. How could they claim that his bloodline was about to end?

Cooper continued to walk out of the area, and a large group of people firmly tagged along behind him. Another group glanced around hesitatingly before they followed the crowd as well, and Alex was furious to see this. "You... How dare you guys choose a traitor whose bloodline is about to end?!" He simply couldn't understand it. Why would these people go along with Cooper even though they know that his bloodline is ending? He has no inheritor;

his son is a disgusting gay man, whereas his daughter got married and changed her surname. What's so great about him?!

Unfortunately, large groups of people continued to leave with Cooper; there were only a few of them who stayed with Alex. All of a sudden, Dimon turned around and strode toward them. Alex thought that he had finally come to his senses, but Dimon simply stepped forward and gave Sandra a cold glare. "The young lady asked me to pass you a message." He then gave Sandra a tight slap across the cheek—Sophia was the one who asked Dimon for this favor. The sudden slap left Sandra dumbfounded, but Dimon continued to speak. "The young lady told me to inform you that she recorded everything you said earlier, and it's all on the Internet now. Good luck, Miss Mitchell."

Sandra was too shocked by the slap to even say anything; she only came to her senses after Dimon left. What did I even say just now? She felt like her soul had left her body when she realized what she said in the video earlier. "No! Please don't post it! I'll never let you go if you share all those videos!" she cried as she quickly grabbed onto Dimon's arm. He heartlessly shook her off before he chuckled and left.

Although Dimon had always thought that gay men were rather disgusting, that was none of his own business. Since Linus wasn't a criminal, it didn't matter if he liked males or females. Sandra, on the other hand, was a lot more disgusting in comparison. She advocated for justice, feminism and the innocence of LGBT individuals in public, but the two-faced woman proceeded to use another person's sexual preferences to create scandals and gossip in private. She's too disgusting!

As he watched Cooper and his large group of supporters leaving the place, Alex fell onto the ground weakly. On the other hand, Sandra's gaze was burning with fury as she watched them leave. The rest of the Mitchell Family members had left by themselves, and only the few of them remained there. Sandra's eyes were tearing up. I've done so much for the Mitchell Family, yet they kicked me away just like that! They cut all ties with me! They're so heartless! She then dried her tears before standing up. No! I haven't lost yet! Although I've been kicked out of the Mitchell Family, I'm still the person-in-charge for Mitchell's Technology; many of the Mitchell Family's production and control rights of their businesses are still being handled by Alex too! I'm Sandra, the world champion. I've broken so many world records that still remain undefeated right now. I'm the pride of Cethos; I'm the national treasure of Cethos in sports; and I'm the only athlete that Cethos can place out there in my field. I've worked so hard for the sake of Cethos, and I've defeated so many unbreakable records. Even if Sophia wants to ruin me, we'd have to see if the Cethos' Sports Federation will allow her to do that! I haven't lost yet!

Sandra immediately rushed back to Bayside City on the same day, but she found out that a few of her videos were already spreading like wildfire on the Internet. "Cooper's only son is a gay man. He has been dating men for a while now; how disgusting, perverted and dirty of him!" she said in one clip. "Women should stay home and care for the kids; they shouldn't meddle with a man's business!" she said in another. "Your elegant and classy Young Lady of the Mitchell Family had been molested by her own uncle from a young age; her nudes were spread to everyone; she dated men and had abortions during high school... She's certainly been an elegant, graceful woman ever since she was conceived!" Sandra's words sounded more and more ridiculous in each clip, and it gained a huge wave of responses from netizens.

After the comments she made were exposed to the public, Sandra was publicly denounced by feminist and LGBT associations; accusations were also made toward Mitchell's Technology for being biased against female workers. Furthermore, all of the fake charity donations that Sandra had made in the past were dug out and posted online. Soon enough, letters of complaints flooded the Sports Federation and other related associations like a snowstorm, most of them requesting to strip Sandra off her title. An ambassador of Cethos' Women and Children Association? An ambassador of the Feminist Organization? Cancel all of it!

Previously, Sandra had made public appearances at parades; she did charity work with the children under Cethos' Women and Children Association; she gave speeches about feminism... All of that turned into a huge joke now. The public would rather have a dog on stage than have someone as two-faced as Sandra!