

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1246

Tiffany's tone was full of confidence, as if she was implying that Sophia was not letting her meet Cooper because Sophia was afraid he would fall in love the moment he set his eyes on Tiffany.

Sophia stopped in her tracks but she didn't rebuke Tiffany.

Fine! I admit that this woman is so gorgeous she is dangerous. I really am scared that Dad won't be able to stay calm. Even I, a woman, can't help but want to stare at her beauty. Moreover, everyone is gathered in the house to celebrate New Year's Eve today. There are many men and women, and my husband... More importantly, today is supposed to be a happy day filled with celebrations. I don't want someone who will ruin the mood to enter the house.

Anna is probably not someone who will ruin the mood... After all, she is my biological mother. However, Tiffany and Betsy are not allowed to step foot in the house!

"Let's go. It's freezing outside," Callum urged as he thought to himself, I heard that their family cooks a giant salamander every New Year's Eve. It is a luxury and I really want to try it out!

Cade, on the other hand, was carrying a bag in his hand. Even though it was a little impolite to visit on New Year's Eve, Carmen said that there was something really urgent on the phone so Anna actually came and she brought some food over.

The reason she came this time was also for business.

The group of people was about to head in. Sophia was too lazy to bother with Tiffany and her group so she directly put on a cold expression from the beginning, hoping to mess up their relationship.

Don't even think about sleeping with my dad!

Tiffany stood by the roadside and her charming European eyes were filled with disdain and contempt.

"It seems that Fass... is really scared to see me."

She purposely raised her voice as she spoke. It was as if she was reminding Sophia but at the same time, Tiffany sounded like she was boasting. She was confident that as long as she did a little seducing, any man would fall for her beauty.

Hearing this, Sophia stopped in her tracks. Then, she suddenly turned her head around and said tactfully, “Miss Tiffany, you probably don’t know the customs in Cethos. We celebrate New Year’s Eve so it is not convenient for us to receive visitors. Please leave.”

Tiffany didn’t seem to pay attention at all as she countered, “Doesn’t Cethos have a saying that goes, ‘it’s a pleasure to have friends coming from afar’? Besides, I’m not a visitor; I’m Fass’s fiancée. We will be family soon.”

When Tiffany said this, she gave Anna a provocative glance. In her eyes, Anna—who was casually dressed—was no competition at all.

Unexpectedly, Sophia immediately retorted, “Cethos also has another saying, ‘the uninvited are not welcomed’. You seem to not realize that your behavior is really rude. Furthermore, my father has already broken off the engagement with you. He already has a new girlfriend and they are in a stable relationship. There’s another famous ancient quote in Cethos—‘it is better to tear down ten temples than destroy one marriage!’”

Upon hearing that, Tiffany stroked her fur coat with her slightly wrinkled fingers and said, “Cethosians really treasure filial piety and pay attention to promises of marriage arrangements by parents. I am the woman that your great grandfather chose to marry your father. If Fass doesn’t marry me, he will be unfilial.”

Wow! Is this f*cking foreigner deliberately discussing traditional Cethosian culture with me?

Sophia was intrigued and she chuckled. Stepping forward, she said loudly, “Well, my father didn’t break his promise but you, Miss Tiffany... From what I heard, less than a year after your engagement with my father, you broke off the engagement and rushed into a new life. You got married to a politician, which means you broke the promise yourself.”

However, Tiffany didn’t think that she did anything wrong.

“Back then, Fass personally promised me that I’m free to marry whoever I want. I helped him a lot in his early years and he is grateful to me. Now that I’m single, he should marry me.”

Sophia couldn’t help but scoff and she realized that she was worried for nothing.

My dad hasn't been tempted for the past twenty years so Tiffany's appearance won't change a thing. I really can't understand what the old generation of Michel family were thinking! They literally invited a fox into the house!

Do they want her to marry and divorce Dad in a flash so that she can take half of his wealth?

Even Carmen couldn't stand it any more. With her hands on her waist, she said, "Stop trying to hit on Grandpa! He has already given me all of his wealth, so you won't be able to have a share of his assets even if you marry him, not even a dog!"

Looking at Carmen, Tiffany tilted her head and smiled. "Sweetie, you don't understand adult matters. Your grandfather and I love each other. I want to marry him and I'm willing to do the notarization of pre-marital property and promise not to take any of his money." There was a shrewd flicker in her eyes as she slowly spoke with her sensual red lips. "All I want is him and his heart."

Hearing this, Sophia secretly snorted. She probably says that to all of her ex-husbands!

"It doesn't matter what you say," Sophia argued. "My dad's grandfather is dead and the Michel family is under my dad's control. Even if you have an engagement, what can you do? If you are capable, you can try kidnapping my dad—the world's second arms dealer—and force him to marry you. Oh—and one more thing..."

She purposely glanced at Tiffany in contempt and continued, "You should have a little more self-awareness. My father has known you for twenty years yet you have failed to seduce him. You won't succeed even if I give you another twenty years."

Sure enough, Sophia saw the veins on Tiffany's forehead bulge.

I knew Tiffany would care about that a lot! Seems like Dad really is super strong. Twenty years have passed and he still hasn't fallen into this woman's trap!

Even Anna, who was standing at the side, couldn't help but purse her lips and chuckle.

Tiffany scoffed and murmured, "Little girl, you really are clever. Unfortunately, you don't understand. I'm the only person in the world who can match your father in wealth, influence, and beauty. Are you willing to let your father find a woman who isn't compatible with him in every aspect?"

When Tiffany said this, she glanced at Anna. It was obvious that she wasn't bothered about her.

Sophia scoffed deep down. It was New Year's Eve so she didn't want to scoff out loud.

And so, she deliberately held Anna's arm as she announced loudly, "Mom, let's go. It's the New Year's and everyone is waiting for you!"

Upon hearing that, Anna was stunned but she soon played along. In a gentle voice, she replied, "Okay. Your father is probably getting anxious."

I have never thought being called 'mom' by Sophia would make me happy. It seems to be some kind of strange magic.

It was Carmen who invited Anna over. Seeing that Sophia had agreed, Carmen felt more confident and she dragged Anna into the house. "Come on, Grandma; let's go! Just ignore them!"

As Tiffany watched them, there was a dark look in her eyes. Back then, she spent a lot of effort to win Cooper's heart. Not only did she give him wealth, manpower, and power itself, in order to speak the same language as him, she became fluent in the Cethosian language.

At that instant, her superb language proficiency made her find the perfect description to accurately express the situation at the moment.

"You're just a toad who wants to marry a swan!"

There was a sudden silence. It wasn't until Callum—who continued to stay and watch the commotion even though he was shivering from the cold—broke the silence because he couldn't help but burst out laughing.

Her Cethosian language skills are pretty amazing!

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Anna turned her head and looked at Tiffany. Even though Tiffany had an appearance of a noble and glamorous Westerner, the words she said didn't match her identity.

"Why don't you take a look in the mirror and see how hideous you look right now?"

Sophia was stunned. I didn't expect her to be so skilled at talking back!

Tiffany was about to refute but Anna unexpectedly chuckled. With a twinkle in her eye, she took off her mask and revealed her face, which had aged with the passing of time but still looked stunning and intellectual.

"I am Anna Yard from the Ronney Group. Nice to meet you."

Anna Yard? This name was enough to shock Tiffany.

Tiffany thought that the reason Cooper was single was because he couldn't find a woman that was better than her. She was happy about it and confident that she could win Cooper's heart but at that moment, the name 'Anna Yard' completely smashed her hopes into pieces.

The name 'Anna Yard' was enough for Tiffany to admire and look up to.

Anna Yard was the last descendant of the Yard family, the president of the Ronney Group, and the woman who controlled the Ronney luxury empire. She had everything every woman in the world wanted and she was also the nightmare and goddess of every woman!

She was also the woman that Tiffany always wanted to surpass!

That woman is Anna Yard? Anna is dating Cooper? How dare she steal my man?

Meanwhile, Anna had put her mask back on and covered her face that had turned red from the cold. Then, she turned around and walked into the residential area.

Sophia was overjoyed and she couldn't help but praise her, "What you said just now was so powerful!"

'I am Anna Yard from the Ronney Group. Nice to meet you.' These words are so domineering. A truly powerful person can defeat someone with just a name.

At that moment, Sophia even forgot to let go of Anna's arm. As for Anna, she smiled in self-mockery.

My name is indeed useful to deal with people in public. However, who can understand the bitterness I feel under my bright appearance? The real person in control works behind the scenes. I'm nothing more than a puppet and a spokesperson.

However, I, Anna Yard, will not be a puppet that is controlled by others!

Carmen was jumping with joy and she said, "Miss Beautiful, have you agreed to celebrate New Year's with us?"

Anna touched the bridge of Carmen's nose and said affectionately, "Yes. I just happen to have something to discuss with your grandpa!"

With that, the few of them walked toward the villa.

Tiffany, who was left at the gates, was still in shock.

How did Cooper and Anna get together?

"This is truly unexpected! Anna Yard..."

Tiffany clenched her fists tightly and muttered, "I will make sure you lose everything!"

Betsy admired her mother a lot but she didn't understand what they were talking about just now.

What is she going on about? She really is skilled in the Cethosian language!

"Let's go!" Tiffany was extremely confident in her charm and she couldn't wait any longer.

I have waited for twenty years. This time, I must marry Cooper!

Looking at the rooftop of the towering Villa No.8, Tiffany murmured, "We still have a long road ahead. Just you wait and see; let's see who will have the last laugh!"

Betsy finally couldn't hold back her curiosity so she asked, "Mom, what does 'the last laugh' mean? Why will you laugh?"

Tiffany glared at Betsy fiercely.

This daughter of mine really worries me. Even though she has inherited my bosom, she inherited the brains of her shabby noble father! She's the classic example of beauty with no brains.

When Tiffany was about to get in the car, she suddenly realized that the streets that were lively a moment ago were quiet; even the Imperial's security guards had hurriedly closed the doors and hid.

There's an ambush!

Tiffany subconsciously wanted to pull out her gun but she suddenly remembered that guns were prohibited in Cethos and hers were confiscated at the customs. Hence, they hurriedly got into the car and wanted to drive away as soon as possible, but it was too late.

Over a hundred people rushed out from both sides of the road and they were dressed in uniforms. They wore white shirts with black blazers, coupled with black leather shoes. There were men and women, and all of them looked murderous. They were holding steel bars in their hands and some even placed roadblocks on the streets beforehand to trap Tiffany and her men on the road.

A sea of black and white figures instantly filled the streets and there weren't any other cars around. The group of people slowly closed in on those from the Adams Family from both directions and in a blink of an eye, they formed a circle around them.

It was only then did Tiffany realize that the matter was serious.

The Imperial is next to the ancient Imperial Palace.

These people dared to openly gather together at the gates of the Imperial Palace and set roadblocks on the streets. They definitely come from a powerful background.

Furthermore, they look aggressive and they are dressed in uniforms, which means they came prepared. I didn't even plan to come here initially and made the decision at the last minute. Who is powerful enough to have the means to predict my whereabouts?

"Mom, what should we do?" Betsy was the first to panic because she saw the crest on their suits.

It's the Winston Family crest! The Winston Family is the head of Bayside City's underworld!

Betsy naturally knew them. After all, she almost slept with the young master of the Winston Family, Harry Winston, yesterday.

Hasn't the Winston Family fallen? Dana even said that they had fallen so badly that they sent their family head, Harry Winston, to act in bad films to earn money so that they can maintain the appearance of being successful!

Betsy was Harry's fan so she was naturally very concerned about his acting career.

The films that he has been acting in lately are terrible. With his fame, why would he accept such roles if he weren't out of money? If I didn't find out that the Winston Family is poor and if Dana had not been so confident, I wouldn't have dared to lay my hands on Harry.

Tiffany also knew what happened with Betsy and Harry yesterday...

Useless girl. She can't even handle a man. She didn't manage to sleep with him even though he was tied to the bed for most of the night!

"They won't dare to hurt us," Tiffany said calmly.

After the men from the Winston Family surrounded them, they formed an impenetrable circle.

With a clang, a chair that symbolized status in the underworld was placed before the cars from the Adams Family. Then, a small woman sat in the seat. Everyone was standing while she was seated, so it was obvious that she was the leader.

A sturdy man with a loud voice stood next to her. With a solemn expression, he pointed at the people from the Adams Family and shouted, "Those who kill their parents, adulterate their wives and daughters, chop off people's hands and legs and sleep with other people's husbands are all transgressors. According to the rules of the world, what should we do?"

The crowd behind him yelled in unison, "Kill them!"

Countless steel bars were raised and everyone was furious.

This scene frightened Betsy, who was sitting in the car.

Tiffany hurriedly said, "Don't be afraid. All they have is steel pipes. They don't have any weapons. Our car is produced by the Michel Group so there's no need to feel scared at all."

After all, it was a car that could block bullets so they didn't have to fear steel pipes.

After yelling 'kill them' in unison, there was a strange silence. It was so quiet that there wasn't even a cough. The power and restraint really made people shiver in fear.

The woman on the chair raised her hand slightly and pointed at Tiffany's car before she said, "Kill them!"

With that, a large group of people headed to the three cars aggressively but Tiffany wasn't afraid at all.

We're at the gates of the ancient Imperial Palace. Even though they are from the underworld, they won't dare to lay a finger on us.

Tiffany stared straight at the woman in the crowd who gave commands from inside the car. She was also wearing a black suit, black sunglasses, and leather shoes. Although she was short, she had a strong and domineering aura.

The attack lasted for a few minutes. Everyone from the Adams Family was inside the cars so there was nothing they could do. Moreover, the crowd couldn't block the roads for too long and they soon left. Like a tide, they came and left in a short time.

"What a bunch of gangsters." Tiffany commented but unexpectedly...

"Oh sh*t! They punctured the tires and released all the gasoline!"

Without gasoline, the air-conditioning soon stopped working and the temperature in the car dropped below zero...

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Feeling the temperature slowly drop, Tiffany hurriedly wrapped her fur coat tightly around her body. Then, with her great Cethosian language skills, she soon thought of the best word to describe her current situation.

“F*ck!”

Meanwhile, Betsy, whose bosom was revealed, was already shivering from the cold.

Meanwhile in the Imperial, Harry looked at Sarah in disbelief. “I... I asked you to buy some soy sauce. Why did you bring men over to surround the Adams Family?”

With a proud expression, Sarah said, “The Winston Family was having a New Year’s party nearby so I asked them to come over. I scratched their tires and let out their gasoline! They must be freezing in the snow right now but they deserve it!”

Harry glared at her but he was speechless.

Fine. If today wasn’t New Year’s Eve, I would’ve gone out there and kicked her myself! But it is the New Year’s, and New Year’s celebrations are really important.

Next door, Anna and her sons had already entered the house. After chasing Tiffany away, Sophia suddenly felt embarrassed.

Anna came on New Year’s Eve and it was Carmen who invited her. This is a little awkward... Carmen even said that her engagement ring is bigger than a crab, which makes it more embarrassing!

When they walked in, the atmosphere in the house was strange. Everybody turned to look at Anna and her family with complicated looks on their faces. Carmen was the only one who was thrilled.

As soon as Carmen entered the house, she rushed to the kitchen. “Grandpa... Grandpa! Miss Beautiful is here!”

Cooper had already known that she was coming and he was really happy that she was here, but he wanted to back down.

I want to see her but I'm afraid that I will fall for her. I'm also scared that she might secretly leave someday...

However, Anna was already in the house so Cooper had no choice but to meet her but before he could go out, Carmen already happily dragged Anna into the kitchen. It was as if she was really eager to sell her grandpa out.

Anna was dressed really low-key that day with her hair tied up, revealing her fair neck. The skin on her neck was well maintained so there weren't any fine lines. She had already taken off her winter coat, revealing a sweater underneath.

Seeing that Anna was walking over, Cooper was a little excited but he pretended to stay calm. He stepped forward and said, "Hi, Anna."

He reached out to shake Anna's hand but it was only then that he realized his hand was covered in flour, so he hurriedly withdrew his hand in embarrassment.

Anna also noticed Cooper drawing his hand back so she murmured, "Carmen said that there is something you need my help with so I came over. Am I intruding?"

Cooper glanced at the clever Carmen and smiled helplessly. "No, you're not. You're a distinguished guest."

Hence, Anna entered the kitchen and looked around. The kitchen in their house was pretty huge and they had several stoves. The whole family was cooking that day so everybody was extremely busy.

Then, she saw that Cooper's family was kneading dough so she asked curiously, "Are you preparing to bake cinnamon rolls? I'd like to give it a try; can I join you?"

Linus and Sophia glanced at Cooper. Cooper wanted to refuse but in the end, he changed his mind. "Sure."

Anna chuckled. Then, she pulled up her sleeves and washed her hands. Without putting gloves on, she started kneading the dough.

There were many people coming for the party so they had to bake many cinnamon rolls, which was why every member of Cooper's family was in the kitchen kneading dough.

Anna put on the mask that Maria gave her, covered her face and tied up her hair. She stood next to Cooper and her skills seemed rusty but after she glanced at the way Cooper kneaded dough, she soon got to work.

Also wearing a mask, Cooper himself was really rusty too. He seldom baked and only baked a little during the New Year's. However, with Anna at his side, memories from thirty years ago became clearer. He seemed to remember everything that Anna said, even those that he had forgotten long ago.

"Coop, you have to put pressure when you're kneading dough. Just knead until your hands and the bowl become clean."

"You have to add water gradually. Only add a little each time."

...

And so, he returned the knacks for kneading dough back to her.

Anna hadn't done any rough work before and it was her first time making cinnamon rolls and kneading dough, so she was relatively amused. Cooper guided her the whole way, from beating eggs, adding water to kneading dough. Throughout, his instructions were really clear.

Anna also listened seriously. Perhaps she had lost her memories but her body seemed to remember so she soon got the hang of it.

As she concentrated on kneading the dough, sweat soon rolled down her forehead but she was really happy. Later, she said, "It's strange. I have never baked cinnamon rolls before but the moment I touch flour, I feel really familiar with it."

Cooper was wearing a mask so she couldn't see the bitter smile on his face.

In the past, Annabel used to work at Crimson House. At first, she worked as a chef's assistant. Due to her outstanding appearance, she later served as a waiter and worked her way up to foreman step by step. At that time, she was still underage.

Meanwhile, Linus was also kneading dough at the side. Seeing the two of them knead dough together, he moved aside and made space for them.

Sophia was already making the cinnamon roll filling and Cooper carefully guided her. Seeing his serious and professional appearance, Anna couldn't help but smile and murmured, "I didn't expect the famous Fass Michel to be a househusband at home."

She was used to seeing Cooper in suits and a professional attire, looking really formal and elite. However, seeing Cooper today, he looked more like an ordinary father. He was wearing ordinary household clothes and his hands and face were covered in flour—the contrast was really huge.

Cooper didn't dare to look at her, afraid that he couldn't hide the sadness and desolation he was feeling. "It is only during the New Year's that I have time to cook some food for my children to eat," he replied.

Cook some food for my children to eat... It really is a wonderful thing! Unfortunately, I am so busy protecting myself and my children that I don't have the interest and energy to do something like this.

After kneading the dough, they had to wait for the dough to rise. During this time, Cooper started to prepare the cinnamon filling. Whether the cinnamon rolls were delicious or not also depended on the cinnamon filling.

Everybody had been busy for the whole day. Michael was preparing fish, chicken, and eels next door. Meanwhile, the people on this side of the kitchen were in charge of cooking the vegetables, boiling the soup and baking cinnamon rolls. While they were busy, the children ran around happily.

Callum and Cade had nothing to do so they played with the dogs in the living room. And so, Daniel approached them and gave them a palm reading.

"Wow, your fate is amazing! You have the destiny to be king... If we were in ancient times, the two of you would be kings!"

Hearing that, Callum and Cade were rendered speechless.

Celine ran out to take the husky for a walk while Justin walked around with his daughter in his arms. When he heard Daniel's words, he couldn't help but roll his eyes.

He really uses the same trick on everyone.

With everyone's effort and hardwork, the New Year's Eve dinner was finally served. Everyone sat around a long table and turned on the TV to listen to New Year's Eve celebrations in the background.

As an elder, Cooper sat at the head of the table. Linus and Michael were supposed to sit next to him, but Linus wittily gave his seat to Anna.

Cooper looked at the table full of delicacies and then at the people around him.

A few years ago, I wouldn't even dare to dream of such a moment. I never thought that there would be a time that I could see my daughter, sons and my loved ones all alive in my lifetime.

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While they were eating, Cooper helped Sophia to the food and filled her plate as usual. He even resembled the way Sophia coaxed Carmen and cooed, "Have more, darling."

Knowing that all the others at the dining table were looking at them, Sophia blushed.

"Pfft..." Amused, Stanley turned away as he couldn't help laughing and Cooper immediately gave him a fierce stare.

With that, Stanley quickly lowered his head and pretended to be eating in a serious manner, but he was in fact chuckling.

Cooper continued to fill Sophia's plate as he said, "Come on; have this. It's your favorite!"

In contrast, Linus only had an empty plate and was not treated the same way as Sophia. Indeed, a daughter was more precious than a son.

It was a splendid dinner that consisted of harvests from their own farm together with Daniel's delicacies and Harry's seafood. Besides, the Yards brought some food too while Michael opened a few bottles of premium wine that he had been collecting. Anna had never experienced such a festive new year before, and she too ate quite a lot.

Worried that his darling would not have enough food, Cooper was busy filling Sophia's plate with delicacies. Following that, he took another spoonful of food and was about to serve Anna. However, he hesitated for a moment, thinking that they were not that close after all and that she might not like being served, so he ended up putting the food onto his own plate.

Little did Cooper know that Anna had noticed his movements as she sat next to him. She saw Cooper scoop the food and move toward her, and she had even subconsciously held her plate out, ready to receive the food. *Well, it seems like I've got it wrong.* Nevertheless, with the lively surroundings, it did not affect Anna's mood.

Meanwhile, Sophia took out some wine that she brewed. Seeing that, Stanley instantly held up his glass and said, "Quickly, Aunt Sophia—I can't wait to try the ancestral wine of the Edwards!"

At the same time, Anna caught a whiff of the aroma as Sophia poured a glass for Stanley. "What wine is that? Can I try some?" she asked.

And so, Sophia served some for Anna too. Looking downward, she did not lay eyes on Anna and only dared to stare at the wine glass as the clear and aromatic wine flowed out from the bottle. "This is plum wine," Sophia explained.

Anna thanked her and thereafter took a sip of it. Instantly, Anna's mouth was filled with the aroma of the wine. *What a wonderful taste!* As the fruity liquor enveloped her tongue, it felt as if she was standing amidst a forest full of plum trees in blossom, the scent lingering on her palate even after she swallowed the wine.

After tasting the wine, Anna exclaimed in admiration, "Did you brew this? It's amazing!"

Still not daring to look at Anna, Sophia answered, "Yes, I did."

It was an ancestral recipe that her grandmother had passed down to her, which she had jotted down in her notebook. Following her abduction by the Phantom Wolf, Michael had conserved her belongings, including the recipes. Upon her return, Sophia had tried to pick up

the recipes again. Nevertheless, she would probably be able to brew even more refined wine if Annabel was still around.

After finishing the glass, Anna intended to drink more and so she stretched her hand toward the wine bottle. However, just as she reached the wine bottle, another palm landed on her hand.

It was Cooper, who was facing the other side while talking to Linus. He was distracted from the conversation and wanted to reach out for the bottle of wine but to his surprise, he touched a warm, soft hand. Stunned, Cooper was instantly at a loss while his hand remained on Anna's. On the other side, Callum was a bundle of nerves at once when he saw this.

All the while, Anna had a sore point—she abhorred having close contact with any men. Once she came into contact with them, she would involuntarily experience a mental breakdown. For that, she was forced to lead a simple life and forgo her career while she devoted all her energy to grooming her two sons so that they could take over the business.

Both Callum and Cade nearly stood up. However, they were surprised to see Anna behaving absolutely normal and she had remained calm until Cooper took off his hand.

"I'm sorry," Cooper apologized in a low tone.

Smiling, Anna took her hand off the wine bottle too. She could feel the warmth on the back of her hand where Cooper touched. Her heart was racing as she was shocked and surprised. Nevertheless, she didn't feel the slightest tinge of fear. *That feeling was amazing.*

Back then when Anna's anxiety was at its peak, she would panic and feel disgusted, subconsciously getting goosebumps when a man was a few meters away from her. Even after she slowly practiced to control herself and prevent herself from overreacting, she still couldn't accept any man approaching her. By forcing herself, she could at most remain a calm countenance while approaching men, but the horror and aversion had become an automatic reaction; only her two sons were the exceptions. And now, Cooper was the third exception. *What is going on?*

Even the Yards brothers thought it was unbelievable. *Could it be fate that has brought them together?*

Nonetheless, the little episode between Cooper and Anna passed just like this, and no one seemed to notice it. Meanwhile, Michael took the wine bottle and poured some for Sophia and thereafter poured for everyone else. The reunion dinner ended on a harmonious note.

According to the traditions, they had to stay up all night on New Year's Eve. Everyone was caught up in their respective activities—some were playing mahjong and poker, while the others accompanied the children.

Meanwhile, Anna followed Cooper to his study room on the third floor as she had some matters to discuss with him.

Over the mahjong table, Callum shuffled the tiles and asked Sophia, "Your father is Fass Michel? How does it feel like being Fass' daughter?"

Frowning, Sophia could not focus as she was thinking of Cooper and Anna.

In the study room, Cooper was seated in front of the tea table. "So, what deal do you want to propose to me?" he asked as he brewed a pot of tea. Some tea would be good for digestion after a heavy meal. After all, both of them had more or less taken some wine and the tea would sober them up, making it easier to discuss business.

Anna did not beat around the bush and cut straight to the point. "I would like to work with you to tackle Jordan."

Upon hearing her proposal, Cooper paused as doubt and surprise arose in him. Despite that, he remained alert and continued brewing tea as he looked downward. Concealing his feelings, he did not even look at Anna as he asked, "Jordan is your husband. Why do you want to fight against him?"

Husband? This word was extremely disgusting to Anna.

"Mr. Mitchell—oh wait, perhaps I should address you as Fass. To prove my sincerity, I've brought with me a list of spies that Jordan has placed in the Michel Group and the family. Please take a look at it." With that, she took out a tiny memory card from her handbag which contained information that she had gathered.

"Jordan is not my husband. Twenty years ago, he helped me return to the Yards Family merely because he was eyeing the Ronney Group for a very long time. He wanted to take advantage of my identity to enter the group. I'm just his puppet and have been carefully

seeking to survive within the tense relationship between Jordan and the Yards. Even up to today, I'm living under the control of Jordan and have not had much actual power in the Ronney Group. I intended to go after Ryan and Henry because they are not my offspring. The two are twins and are one of Jordan's many illegitimate children. Since Jordan has started guarding against me and my two sons, he intends to let the twins join Ronney Group so they can undermine our power."

She then added, "Jordan has many other undercovers in the Ronney Group. Besides, he has numerous mistresses around the world, including politicians, celebrities and businesswomen. The power that this man and his mistresses possess is beyond our imagination."

As she was talking about Jordan, Anna did not notice that Cooper's hands were mildly trembling. He assumed she was leading a happy life, hence did not want to interrupt her. He thought she had a complete family and a successful career, and it was impossible for them to be connected once more.

Never once did he think...

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There was no business opportunity between Cooper and the Ronney Group, so they had never crossed paths. Besides, Cooper rarely showed up in public and there was nowhere he could encounter Anna.

Even after knowing Anna's existence and her identity as Annabel, Cooper had no intention of disturbing her nor prying into her private life.

However, never did he imagine the sufferings that his Anna had been through all these years.

It seemed as if Cooper was pondering but in fact, he was crying deep down.

His dear Anna should not be living a life like this.

Seeing Cooper contemplating without making his stance known, Anna was determined that she would not give up on this potential ally. He was the only help that she could currently think of. If she could successfully persuade Cooper, she and her sons would soon be free.

That was the real reason she came to Cethos this time.

“Mr. Mitchell, if you’re doubtful of Jordan and I ganging up against you, please be assured. There is a death feud between him and I.”

With that, she presented her bargain, “Of course; I would not ask you to help me for nothing. If we manage to bring Jordan down, I promise that the Ronney Group will retreat from the Cethos market forever.”

However, Cooper still remained silent as he concentrated on brewing tea. He looked extremely calm and it seemed like no one would be able to read his mind.

Understanding that he needed time to contemplate, Anna stopped speaking.

And so, the two of them sipped their tea quietly.

The serene atmosphere was filled with the aroma of the tea. There were only two of them in the room, breathing the aromatic tea scent and hearing the lively noises in the neighborhood, while both were having simmering thoughts beneath the surface.

In fact, Cooper had been taking actions to tackle Jordon all this while.

He had noticed an underground force eyeing the Michel Family and the Michel Group even before this. The force had concealed itself very well and it had not just existed recently, but for more than a decade. It had emerged since his grandfather’s generation and had started undermining the Michel Group when his grandfather was gravely ill.

Right at that time, Cooper returned.

Not only did he successfully turn the tide, he even completely changed the history of the Michel Group. As a result, the underground force had retreated. Nevertheless, it was still waiting for an opportunity to pounce on the Michel Group all these years.

The troublemakers never showed up but would create conflicts within the family and the company. Their tactic was to divide the internal departments and destroy the Michel Group from there. The most severe internal dispute happened several years ago, and that episode nearly ruined the foundation of the business which was built by Cooper after years of toil.

It was the same year when Sophia got into the accident. During that time, Michael had attempted to relay the message to Linus, hoping that Linus could help them. Alas, both Linus and Cooper were caught up in sustaining the Michel Family back then. Otherwise, the many troubles which followed would not have happened.

Having briefly investigated Anna, Cooper knew that she returned to the Yard Family by herself at that time. Nonetheless, she still miraculously established her influence in the family. Within the Yard Family, there were the main family, branch family, old followers and several other forces, and each of them had disputes with one another. The method she used was exactly to cause internal division and she had leveraged the forces of different parties to tackle the family. As a result, she gradually knocked down the forces one after another, expanding her influence and eventually conquering the entire Yard Family.

Cooper had noticed something fishy earlier on because he was very familiar with the tactic. It involved grooming and supporting a representative, thereafter taking advantage of the representative to intrude into a particular party, conceal their power and eventually conquer the entire party after knocking down its elements one after another.

Back when Cooper was still in the Mitchell Family, Alex and his gang too were supported by some unknown forces to cause internal dispute within the family. In the end, Cooper was so disappointed that he left the family and it had resulted in the Mitchells' downfall.

It seemed like there was a mastermind behind the internal disputes of the Mitchells, the Yards and the Michels, with the identity of the mastermind becoming extremely obvious.

After enjoying two cups of tea, Cooper and Anna gradually became sober.

Cooper would definitely go after Jordan as he had been executing it all the while. Jordan had harmed Sophia multiple times so Cooper would never let him off the hook. In addition, Jordan's existence was a threat at all times.

Hence, they had to develop a comprehensive plan in order to tackle Jordan.

As Jordan's close confidant, Anna had revealed some top secrets which outsiders would not be aware of.

"Jordan is very good at dealing with women and manipulating them. Besides the Edwards Group, he has expanded numerous 'mistress businesses' overseas over the years. There are countless women who are willing to lay down their lives for him. Though the business of the Edwards and the Yards are his major career, they are not the only ones."

"He has several identities in the upper class society and he is the one supporting many single, outstanding business women in the socialite circles. I have already compiled a list of their names."

"You don't have to doubt my sincerity. I'm just another representative backed by Jordan to be sent into the Yard Family and he merely used me as a tool to invade the Yards. I'm asking to cooperate with you because I can't reconcile myself to continuing being his tool—I want to control my own destiny."

"I know you've certainly started going after Jordan and I've never questioned your ability. But trust me, we can surely defeat him within a shorter time if we work together."

Nevertheless, Cooper still remained silent.

Thinking that he was still pondering and hesitating, Anna raised her end of the bargain once again. "Besides Ronney Group's retreat from Cethos' market, are there any other benefits that you would like? I will agree to any request as long as I can afford them."

Finally, Cooper put down his cup and lifted his head to look at Anna with his eyes tinged with a mysterious black mist.

He did not respond to her invitation to collaborate but abruptly murmured, "You must have been suffering all these years..."

Stunned, Anna had obviously not expected Cooper to be concerned about this point.

There was never someone who could tug at her heartstrings with such a short statement.

Did I suffer? Definitely.

Unfortunately, there was no one whom she could share her agony with and she was the only one who knew the sufferings she had been through.

After all, tribulations and disasters were not meant to be flaunted or displayed.

With a rueful smile, she answered, "All the suffering would be worthwhile if Jordan can be brought down."

She then picked up the tea pot and refilled Cooper's cup. "Mr. Mitchell, please don't feel pressured. Jordan's businesses are vast and he will inevitably run out of successors. Given my current power, overthrowing him is just a matter of time. Even if you decide to not collaborate with us, my sons and I will still be able to achieve it."

With that, she served Cooper a cup of tea. He let out a subtle laugh and took the cup unhesitantly.

"Happy New Year. It's a pleasure to work with you, my ally."

So... does this mean he agrees?

Anna was increasingly confused by Cooper. Nevertheless, it was good news he had agreed to form an alliance with her.

Lifting her cup, Anna made a gesture and murmured, "Happy New Year."

With that, they had officially become allies.

Laying down his cup, Cooper glanced at the clock on the wall. Following that, he stood up all of a sudden and drew the curtains at the French window open.

It was already 12 o'clock.

As the clock ticked toward midnight, Bayside City had entered another new year. When the countdown was over, dazzling fireworks spiraled into the pitch black sky and lit up the entire city. Many stepped out from their houses to admire numerous firework displays while the youngsters played with firecrackers; everyone seemed to be over the moon.

Cooper lifted his head as he watched the fireworks. He was clearly smiling, yet tears rolled down his face.

