# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1251

It was past midnight and a new year had arrived.

Anna gazed at the glamorous fireworks, a garish display of intense colors reflected in her eyes.

With the new year comes a new fight.

Sooner or later, I will completely break off from Jordan's control and achieve freedom!

Now that her sons had grown up and did not need her protection anymore, she desired to live for herself as there was still plenty of time to enjoy life.

Two of them stood by the window and marveled at the fireworks outside.

Every firework that exploded in the sky would light up Cooper's facial features, and it seemed like different stories of Cooper were reflected through the glow each time.

Anna was extremely curious about Cooper.

She had come across too many men—the domineering ones, the gentle ones, the wise ones, the foolish ones, even the obscene ones... Nevertheless, she had never met someone as infatuated as Cooper.

She had noticed the photos on his bookshelves the moment she entered the study room. Browsing through them, she realized many were the pictures of him and Annabel.

True enough, this man remained lonely for the past thirty years for the sake of one woman.

"I guess your prompt agreement to my request is very much due to my resemblance to your Anna," she murmured. Anna seemed to be talking to Cooper but at the same time it seemed like she was talking to herself.

Cooper maintained his silence.

You are my Anna...

Meanwhile, Carmen was fast asleep when Michael carried her back to the room. He tucked her in bed and left a night light on for her. Sleeping soundly, Carmen had no idea that she dozed off while petting the dogs just now. What a cutie!

Michael gave her a kiss on her forehead and left the room softly.

It was past twelve and it was time for Anna to leave. As Cooper sent her off, the two chattered buoyantly and their relationship seemed to be much better than before. No one knew what their discussion was about, but they could figure that it must be some serious business.

With that, Callum and his brother left with Anna.

On the other hand, Stanley intended to play mahjong all night while Sean carried the children into the guest room, putting them to bed.

After sorting out the sleeping arrangements for everyone, Sophia too was ready to play mahjong throughout the night. Nevertheless, she was caught by Cooper who came back from sending off Anna. Cooper commanded in a serious manner, "You should go to bed early. Tomorrow we're going to visit the ancestors' graves."

"Alright..." Sophia muttered as she pursed her lips pitifully.

She then added resentfully, "Dad, please stop calling me 'darling' in front of outsiders next time. It's embarrassing!"

Knowing the outsider Sophia was referring to, Cooper said in an even stern tone, "She's not an outsider. She's your mother."

Immediately, Sophia was on the alert as she stared at Cooper in surprise.

He actually said that out loud? Is he going to get back together with Anna?

"Dad, what did the both of you talk about just now?" she quickly asked.

However, Cooper refused to reveal their conversation. "Kids shouldn't meddle with adults' affairs," he asserted.

A little while ago, Anna and him had chewed over plans to deal with Jordan, and Cooper was made known to a lot of things that he had not thought of before that.

The more he knew, the heavier his heart became.

This time, he would not sit by anymore regardless of Anna's real motive.

Never had he imagined that she had gone through so many sufferings in the past twenty years. The hard times had molded her to become a completely different person. Nonetheless, Cooper still felt that his responsibility was the greatest. If he was not blinded by hatred back then and could think from more perspectives, perhaps...

Looking at his daughter who had gone through many tribulations, Cooper softened his voice and his eyes filled with gentleness.

"Stop asking, dear. Have a good night."

With that, he patted Sophia's shoulder and gave her a kiss on the forehead. Thereafter, he went upstairs without turning back and entered his study room on the third floor. His face remained solemn the whole while.

On the other hand, Michael witnessed the scene in which Cooper kissed Sophia. While kissing was a common etiquette in the Western culture, it seemed awkward in the current setting.

"Ew…"

With goosebumps all over his body, Michael felt a sense of disgust. It felt like he would be indirectly kissing Cooper the next time he kissed Sophia's forehead.

It was three o'clock in the morning when Anna arrived at her home in Bayside City from Michael's place.

Tossing and turning, she could not fall asleep. She couldn't help but think of Cooper and the pictures of him and Annabel in the study room.

Both of them looked young in the picture, probably around eighteen years old. Despite their youth, their love was real and everlasting.

Finally, drowsiness hit her. However, right after Anna fell asleep, all kinds of turbulent dreams arose and the feeling of agony surfaced again.

She had always dreamed of a miserable pain followed by something coming out from her stomach.

Besides, there were many scenes that flashed through, which felt a lot like déjà vu. Waking up to a chaotic mind the next morning, Anna had a terrible headache. She knew she had dreamt of something last night and she seemed to have grasped some crucial information. Though she could barely remember bits and pieces of it when she first woke up, everything faded moments later.

What a gloomy feeling...

After breakfast, Anna went to visit Louis, who was delighted to see his daughter, as she was often caught up with work and rarely showed up.

After returning to Cethos, Louis had not left since then. He had obtained a Cethosian citizenship and was living permanently in Cethos. Having brought Xena and Anne with him, they were currently staying at the Yard Residence.

Anna had purchased a mansion in Bayside City and settled the Yards descendents down. Though Louis had not changed his last name, he still lived with them.

All the members of the Yards gathered for a meal except for Henry and Ryan, who were in the hospital.

After lunch, Anna followed Louis into the study room and there were only two of them left. All of a sudden, Anna asked, "Dad, do you still remember the location in which I went missing in Bayside City at that time? Who adopted me and how did I come back?"

Louis was baffled at her sudden question. Nonetheless, he tried his best to recall the facts.

"At that time, I took you and Xena with me to Bayside City to seek help. Back then, it was still the era of green-skinned trains and the train station was extremely disordered and crowded. I was buying something and when I turned around, I saw you being carried away by a countrywoman."

"I caught up with her to confront her. She told me her daughter gave birth to a child in the hospital but the child went missing, and her daughter could not clear things up with the husband. And so, she had no choice but to steal a child as a substitute for her daughter's. I followed her to the hospital and saw her daughter. It was only then that I believed her.

"At that point, you and your sister were crying and I had no milk for you. The kind woman offered to breastfeed you girls. We were in a critical situation back then and I thought they were being kind, so I gave you to them."

Louis teared up as he took a trip down the memory lane. "They promised to keep your last name so we might still have a chance to reunite in the future... Oh—by the way, the train station is Bayside South Station, which is located at Bayside South."

## My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1252

Bayside City, Riverdale, Bayside South Train Station...

Pondering over these locations, Anna remained silent.

Meanwhile, Louis added, "After that, I thought you would be better off staying with that family rather than following me since Xena and I moved around all the time and we did not know when we could settle down. And so, I did not return to look for you anymore. Never did I expect that after twenty years, you came back all of a sudden at the age of twenty."

"Besides, we were very astonished upon realizing that Jordan was the one who helped you return to the Yard Family. We had no idea what you had been through in that twenty years, nor did you remember them."

At that instant, Louis paused and asked, "Why did you suddenly bring this up today? Before this, you refused to talk about anything regarding the twenty years."

Anna smiled ruefully.

She also didn't know what she had experienced in the past as there were only some blurry memories in her mind. One thing was for sure, she knew she had existed during the twenty years, and that she did not come from nowhere. During those years, she must have had parents too, and she had certainly been through ups and downs in life.

However, the twenty years were like a dream to her and she only had some vague memories of it. It felt as if she was gazing into a well at midnight. She could see the water glinting in the well from afar but it was not vivid, and all she knew was there was a light in it. Once, she had attempted to force herself into the water to reach the light. Yet, everytime when she probed it by force, the light would shatter and its shape would be distorted.

Moments after she withdrew in panic, the light would be restored as the water became still once again, and the gleam remained bright and mysterious.

Whenever she tried to probe the light, it would shatter, and this repeated again and again.

Anna knew she must have been through a horrible catastrophe in the past. Though she could not remember anything, there was a weird feeling that lingered in her heart.

She was clueless about the reason she lost the memories for that period. Jordan once revealed bits and pieces of her past, and he claimed that her subconscious had chosen to forget those things as a means to protect herself after experiencing too much trauma.

As a result of her profound and painful past, Anna had suffered severe mental illnesses.

Nevertheless, she had come to a sudden realization that there was a need for her to look into it now even though she was unsure about what a twenty-year-old youngster could have been through back then. In the present setting, a twenty-year-old chick would probably be a university student at this age.

As they were talking, Louis looked around but did not see anyone else. He asked out of curiosity, "Where's Jordan? Why didn't he come with you? What about the two brothers?"

The two brothers that Louis was referring to were obviously the twins.

Anna had never intended to implicate Louis and the family in the dispute of the Yards. Staying outside the circle, Louis and his family were considered extremely blessed. As such, Louis was unaware of Anna's actual situation. All he knew was that Anna had dominated the Yard Family and was leading a happy life after her return.

"Henry and Ryan are hospitalized because they are not feeling well. Jordan is caught up with his work," Anna replied in a perfunctory manner.

Even after Anna and her sons had returned to the Yard Family, Jordan did not let his guard down and had been keeping an eye on them as he was worried that they would play tricks behind his back. However, Anna did exactly the opposite. She left behind her work and brought along her two sons to celebrate the new year in Cethos.

Since Jordan was so suspicious of them, she would let him be.

Staring at his daughter, Louis was grieved deep down. At that time, he had no choice but to abandon her. Though they had reunited now, he could tell that Anna was not happy.

After hesitating for a few moments, Louis asked, "Are you and Jordan not on good terms?"

All this while, Louis had not been too happy with Jordan, his 'son-in-law'. Putting aside his old age, Jordan's solemn personality often got the people around him on pins and needles. Besides, he did not show up often and Louis had only met him a few times in the past twenty years.

Back then, Anna was only twenty years old, but Jordan was already in his thirties. Nonetheless, Louis dared not to doubt him due to his powerful background.

Currently, Anna was still young and possessed a great deal of power. Seeing that neither Jordan nor any outsiders were around, Louis secretly egged Anna on and said, "I can tell that there's no feelings between you and Jordan. If that's the case, don't force it. You are still young and you can just do whatever you wish to do."

Hearing that, Anna broke into laughter.

Even Louis could tell.

He is right. I'm still young and I should do whatever I wish to do!

After having lunch with the Osbornes, Anna stood up and took her leave.

Seeing that, Callum and Cade quickly caught up with their mother. Initially, they were planning to stay at Louis' place for a couple days and in the afternoon, hypocritically pay a visit to the twins who were hospitalized after being beaten up.

Nevertheless, Anna had already put her coat on and was about to leave.

"Mom, where are you going?"

"Riverdale," Anna replied without even turning back.

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It was the first day of the new year. Sophia and her family had a packed schedule to pay respects to their ancestors at the graveyards and visit the other relatives.

The ancestral graveyards of the Fletchers, the Mitchells, the Winstons and the Edwards were located close to one another, and so the crowd departed together in a few cars.

Cooper and Michael headed toward the Mitchells' graveyard and the Fletchers' graveyard respectively. On the other hand, Sophia was as busy as a bee as she had to visit the graveyards of the Mitchells, the Fletchers, and lastly the Edwards.

Coming out from the Fletchers' ancestral graveyard, Michael saw Elizabeth Murray's stone statue which was standing tall from a distance, and so he asked the chauffeur to drive around it.

Elizabeth's grave had been secretly relocated long ago. However, her fans were not aware of it and were still visiting her old graveyard after so many years.

That place was no longer meaningful to Michael, and so he merely watched from inside his car and did not get out to sweep the tomb.

Sticking her head out of the car window, Celine stared at the tall statue in a daze.

All of a sudden, she noticed something and exclaimed excitedly, "Mikey, look! Quinton is over there!"

Quinton?

Glancing toward Elizabeth's grave, Michael saw a man in black standing amidst a group of fans who came to visit the grave.

Standing still, the man was gazing at Elizabeth's grave. He was as solemn as a black statue. As the car drove by, Michael indeed saw a side face which resembled Quiton's.

Quinton would certainly not be here. Perhaps it's just someone who looks like him...

Just as Michael was about to look closer, the car was already driving them further and further away and he could only see a blurry, black silhouette of the man.

Due to their packed schedule, Michael had no time to stay longer and so had left thereafter.

After the first round of tomb sweeping, Stanley, Sean, Harry and the others went back home. On the other hand, Cooper, Linus, Sophia, and Michael brought along Carmen to visit the Johnsons' graveyard. It was getting dark by the time they were done, and so they decided to stay overnight at the place.

Meanwhile in Riverdale, Anna had arrived at the location of the old Bayside South Train Station, but the train station was nowhere to be found. The old station had been demolished ten years ago when the government built subway stations. Even the rusty tracks around the bends had popped out of its place. There was nothing else left in the area besides some photographers who would visit the place once in a while to take photos.

Standing on the railway tracks, Anna stared ahead and thereafter walked involuntarily forward.

It seemed as if there was something in the direction which was summoning her. Or rather, it felt like her legs had matched a mysterious frequency and had started moving on their own.

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1253

"Mom, where are you going?" Cade asked as Anna strode toward a specific direction in a daze before he chased after her. Following closely behind him was Callum, who realized something was wrong.

"Mom, did you remember something?" Callum asked.

The truth was, she used to live here, but then forgot all about it for some reason.

Anna didn't say a word. She didn't know what had gotten into her.

She just had a strong feeling that this street was awfully familiar. She must have been here before. Now that she was standing there, she felt like she recognized the surroundings.

At that moment, she was terrified of making a sound. She thought it would drive away the familiar feeling in her mind, so she kept her mouth shut and kept walking.

There was a small area that was covered by a thin layer of snow. Before she came here, Anna already checked and discovered that this was a train station that was demolished about a decade ago. The neighborhood wasn't popular, and many people had moved away. The property value was incredibly low, so this area was never developed. As such, the houses were old and still maintained the same appearance it had about twenty to thirty years ago.

Then, Anna and her two sons, along with a few of her trusted subordinates, left the train station together. Not knowing where she was going, Anna could only follow her senses.

"This way is leading us toward the town." Callum checked the navigations.

Shuddering, Anna realized he was right. There was a town just further down!

She remembered!

There was a voice speaking to her in her head, but Anna just couldn't put her finger on who that person was.

Without using the GPS, Anna followed her senses and led everyone through a few paths. The surrounding houses were all abandoned and crumbling. Some of the houses had even collapsed a long time ago. There were several roads that looked like it had not been used for years, but she could still accurately navigate through it.

At that point, her heart was beating out of her chest, as if she was about to discover some big secret.

From the train station, it would have only taken ten minutes to reach the town if they had taken the new road using the GPS. However, Anna took the route that no one had taken in many years and reached the town after thirty minutes of walking.

When they arrived, they noticed the town was bustling. There were even factories nearby. It was New Year's Day, so there were many people and open shops on the streets. Although it wasn't as busy as the city center, there were a couple of towering office buildings while the rest were storied houses.

In the distance, there was an upscale villa area. Nearby, there was a train station and a newly built subway station.

Stepping on the thin layer of snow, Anna walked aimlessly while not knowing where she was going.

"Mom—" Cade called out again before Callum immediately stopped him.

Perhaps, she could really remember something if she just walked around.

Then, they followed her without making a sound or interrupting her.

Not long after, Anna arrived outside a school-Frostford Town Central School.

On New Year's, there was nobody in school, and only a few sparrows were hopping on the snow-covered field. The iron gate was locked, so Anna just stood outside the gate as she stared blankly at the school.

Clearly, the school had been renovated recently. Despite that, Anna stared as she thought it didn't look the way she remembered. It should have looked a little more run down...

"Callum, look. Isn't that Taylor Murray?" Cade suddenly pointed at a large photo on the school gate.

Everyone looked toward it in unison and saw the photo. In the picture, Michael was seen wearing a red scarf and standing together with a bunch of children for the group photo. The background of the photo was this particular school gate. Then, Callum pulled out his phone and searched the internet before he found out that Michael indeed had a connection to this town.

"This school was originally the only school in town. A few years ago, Taylor Murray came to fund the renovations. He also built many factories nearby and drove up the economy here. The villas over there were developed by him under the name of 'Asco International Real Estate'. It was also stated that Taylor Murray's wife was born in Johnson Family Village which was right next to this town, and she used to go to school here."

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Nodding, Cade looked toward Anna in concern as he wondered why she came here.

While she stared vacantly at the photo of Michael, she heard the sound of a car coming from behind and was startled. When she turned around, there was an old green bus parked at the bus stop right across the street.

"Wait!" Before Anna knew it, she unconsciously ran toward the bus in a panic. When she realized what she was doing, she had already gotten onto the bus.

Then, the rest of them rushed onto the bus as well. After paying for the tickets, the bus departed.

At that point, Anna did not know where she was headed to, but when she saw the bus, she subconsciously wanted to take it. It was as if there was an imperceptible voice telling her that this was the bus that would take her home.

On the bus, she sat by the window. Looking at the scenery, she watched as the bus left town and drove into the farmlands area. But now, the land was covered in snow. Occasionally, she would see a few hills surrounded by villages and houses. Although it was a distant suburb of Bayside City, it was still densely populated. The younger generations who worked in the city had returned to spend the New Year's back home.

In Bayside City, it was a tradition to visit the ancestral graves on New Year's. As such, they could hear firecrackers near the graveyards.

Then, Anna got off at the next station even though she didn't know why.

She glanced at the name of the station, which read 'Johnson Family Village'.

Naturally, this was where Sophia grew up.

When she got off the bus, she walked toward a particular direction with clear intent. In fact, she didn't even have to think, as long as her legs knew where they were going.

At once, her breathing became rapid and heavy. As her heart started to beat faster, her steps sped up as well. Soon, they hiked up a little hill. In the valley, there was a family staying there, but the doors were shut. As such, they could only peek in from outside the yard.

At that moment, Anna stood firmly outside the house. In her eyes, the image of the house gradually became clearer before it blurred again like a reflection on water. With the ripples, the image broke into pieces before attaching themselves back again. Finally, it became completely clear.

When she saw the house, Anna became calm instead as she stared in a daze. To her, everything in the yard had a breathtaking familiarity.

It was as if she had stood here before, and even lived here many years ago.

It seemed like she had touched that tree, that house, that fence, and even that wall with her own hands before.

She must have lived here in the past, but, why couldn't she remember it at all?

It was because Jordan had wiped out all of her memories!

What exactly was hidden in that memory?

As her mind raced, Anna suddenly had a headache. Her body swayed before she unconsciously supported herself by placing her hand on Callum.

"Mom, are you okay?" Callum was shocked and hurriedly helped her down the hill. The bus had stopped at the bottom of the hill along with many other cars. It was probably because many people had driven here to spend the New Year's and there wasn't enough parking space for them.

To their surprise, as soon as they came down and before they could get on the bus, an unbelievably enthusiastic husky burst out of the snow and pounced on Anna to give her a kiss when it saw her.

"Cash Edwards, come back here right now!"

Suddenly, Sophia appeared out of nowhere and chased after the dog.

Sophia's family was there too. They were getting out of the car with incense, candles, paper money and other things that they needed for their visit to their ancestor's graves.

Just then, the two groups of people unexpectedly met...

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1254

As a matter of fact, Cooper came to visit the graves of Annabel and the Johnson Family ancestors. Although Annabel's grave had been moved, as a son-in-law of the family, Cooper still insisted on coming to visit every year.

He didn't expect to see Anna and her sons right after getting out of the car.

"Anna... What are you guys doing here?"

At that moment, Michael was also shocked to see them.

What was Anna doing here?

Seeing the strange turn of events, Callum laughed awkwardly. "What a coincidence. We were just surveying the area to see if we can invest in building a factory here or something."

Cooper stared at them and realized that something was wrong. When he saw how pale Anna's face was, he asked with concern, "Anna, are you alright? You don't look well."

Shaking her head slightly, Anna said, "I'm fine, it's just a little motion sickness."

Upon hearing that, he didn't ask anymore and said, "We're here to visit the graves of my parents-in-law. They used to live in the valley, and they were the only residents there." As he spoke, he also gestured with his head in the direction of the very place she had just visited.

Without showing any change of expression, she responded, "What a coincidence."

At that moment , Carmen hopped over and hugged Anna. "Miss Beautiful!"

Then, the two groups of people exchanged greetings before they went their separate ways.

While Anna and the rest drove back to the city, Sophia and her family went up to the hill to visit and clean the graves of Annabel's parents.

As a matter of fact, the old Johnson couple's graves were rarely cleaned. It was impossible that their two sons would come, so Cooper would come by once a year to visit and clean the gravesite.

When they were coming down from the hill, Cooper had a grim expression on his face as he glanced at Michael beside him, who seemed like there was something he wanted to say as well.

At that moment, the both of them made a wild guess that Anna's memories had come back.

Sophia was also brainwashed and no longer remembered anything at all from her past, but this might not necessarily be the case for Anna.

Clearly, she didn't show up here because she wanted to run a factory. Rather, she must have remembered something from her past and came over to take a look. This was her hometown where she had lived for years after all.

Phantom Wolf's master, Leon Yard, was the one who experimented with the Yard Family's Brainwashing theory and wiped out Annabel's memories thirty years ago. However, at that time, his theories weren't well-developed yet and the equipment he used wasn't advanced enough. To make a bold assumption, it was very likely that the effects had rebounded!

With this assumption, Cooper secretly rejoiced.

His Anna was coming back!

However, Anna, on the other hand, felt rather odd.

Everything that came to her mind didn't just appear out of thin air. If anything, she must have lived in Johnson Family Village thirty years ago.

Callum was the first to connect the dots. He knew that what Anna was experiencing was absolutely no accident.

Without missing a beat, he searched and gathered information about Cooper and his late wife Annabel.

However, Cooper did a good job of keeping Annabel's information confidential. The most Callum could find was a couple of blurry photos from the internet, while Cade only found Annabel's birth year. Despite that, it was enough data to discover important information.

"Cooper and Annabel were born in the same year, and they became parents at eighteen!" Cade exclaimed in disbelief.

Usually, successful figures like Cooper generally married later in life. He was in his forties now, and others like him were still single.

Who would have expected that not only did he find love so early in his life, but he also became a parent at such a young age!

Based on calculations, Sophia was actually older than they thought. All along, Cade had assumed that she was younger than them.

At that moment, Callum stared at the numbers that seemed to have nothing to do with each other, but in fact, there were secrets hidden between the lines.

About twenty or thirty years ago, Cooper and Annabel fell in love. She later gave birth to a pair of twin boys and died of amniotic fluid embolism. Before her death, her uterus was surgically removed.

Not long after her death, Jordan informed Louis that his daughter, Anna, had been found but for various reasons, she had lost twenty years of her memories. He also told him that she was born without a uterus and as such, was unable to conceive.

When Anna was younger, she looked very similar to Annabel.

While Annabel was born in the Johnson Family Village, Anna was given away to the local villagers to raise at the nearby train station.

In other words...

At once, Callum and Cade exchanged looks and saw pure shock in each other's eyes.

If Anna really was Annabel, then this wasn't just between Cooper and her anymore.

Among the Yard descendants, there were another pair of twin boys.

On top of that, Sophia and Linus had the Michel Group, Mitchell Family, and Fletcher Family to back them. If they were to take over...

No, don't even think about it!

They haven't even gotten rid of Jordan yet, and now a pair of twins had entered the picture. The situation just became more chaotic.

They realized that Cooper must have known too. That would explain why he always choked up whenever he saw Anna–it was because she was Annabel herself!

Despite that, Cooper never pointed it out. Meanwhile, Callum and Cade didn't want to expose it themselves either. After all, this concerned the inheritance of the Yard Family properties. According to the rules, mixed-raced children did not have the rights to any of the inheritance. However, Cooper, Linus, or Sophia could intervene and take over just like Jordan did back then.

In fact, they were very curious about what happened back then.

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That night, Cooper gathered his son and son-in-law and had a discussion.

Michael and Linus also agreed that there was a possibility that Anna could have really remembered something. After all, the facilities from twenty to thirty years ago were indeed not advanced enough for that type of procedure. As such, there was a good chance that the effect had rebounded.

Now, they could only play by ear.

Whether Anna's memories came back or not, Michael remained alert.

Even if she did remember everything, it had been close to thirty years after all. In such a long period of time, it was enough to change a person. Certainly, it would be foolish to deny the fact that a kind person could become ruthless and cruel in thirty years.

That night, they stayed in town before returning to the city center the next day.

After arriving home and having lunch, they left again shortly to the Fletcher Residence.

As soon as they stepped in, Michael sensed the odd atmosphere, as if everyone was looking at him and Celine in a peculiar way.

Stanley had also come back yesterday and brought Maisie along with him.

When he bumped into the Fletcher Family while visiting their ancestors' graves yesterday, he came back with them. He also brought Maisie with him to introduce her to them. After a huge commotion, the Fletcher family finally accepted him again.

When Stanley saw Michael and the rest, he had an indescribably strange look too.

"What's wrong with your eyes, Stanley? What are you smoking?" Sophia went up and patted his shoulder. With an awkward expression, Stanley didn't know how to tell her but Maisie babbled, "Uncle Michael, they're saying your Daddy came back."

Michael's Daddy?

Theo Fletcher?

Hasn't he been dead for years?

Sophia was puzzled.

After letting out a strange laugh, Stanley quickly ran away with Maisie.

Michael fell silent, looking stern. Then, he saw Mark, who was sighing deeply with his eyebrows tightly knitted. Although he was already over a hundred years old, he looked like he had gotten much older.

Upon seeing Michael and Celine, he sighed again. "Go and talk to him, both of you. I'm running out of ideas, and only you would know how to cheer him up."

Just then, Michael had an ominous premonition. "Who?"

To which, Mark looked out the window.

At a garden pavilion that wasn't too far from them, there was a man wearing a military coat. Everyone had seen him when he came, and he had been sitting there motionlessly for a long time.

Michael went out to take a look. When his gaze landed on that man, he couldn't look away.

As Michael slowly approached him, his heart raced and he was afraid to even breathe. With widened eyes, he looked closely at the man in the military coat. He looked rather young, about thirty years old or less, but he had a handsome face that looked exactly like Theo Fletcher!

#### My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1255

When he saw that face, Michael felt his heart jump into his throat. As he stared blankly at that face that until now only existed in his deepest memories, it was as if he had forgotten to breathe or speak.

"Who are you—" He took a few steps back in fear. When he spoke, his voice sounded shaky and he could feel his teeth chatter. In addition to that, his entire body was trembling from the overwhelming emotions.

'Theo' didn't speak, nor did he even bat an eyelid. Instead, he was just staring blankly ahead. If not for the heaving in his chest and the occasional blinks, he would have been mistaken for a statue.

This is my father, Theo Fletcher?

A person whom he believed to have been dead for almost forty years, was sitting right before him without even the slightest sign of old age?

"No, you're not my father!" Michael couldn't accept it at all and slowly backed away.

His mother had taken her own life because she loved him, and yet he was still alive?

Michael didn't remember much about his father. He was a soldier, while Elizabeth Murray was a celebrity. At that time, their relationship had to be kept private. Not only did the Fletcher Family disapprove of them, but Elizabeth was also at the peak of her career which did not allow her to marry and have children either.

What was more, they did not even have a marriage certificate.

Since Theo was always away, they hardly met each other. In fact, they spent more time away from each other than together. Naturally, Michael was never close to his father.

Those days, there were countless famous and powerful people pursuing Elizabeth—people who were much more powerful than Theo. Despite that, she only had eyes for him. Even though there were many obstacles she had to overcome when she was with him, she persisted for years, hoping for a miracle.

That year, he took an important assignment out of town. He made a promise to her that they would get married once he returned.

She had waited for an entire year, only to receive news of his death.

When Tanya came to her pregnant, it was the last straw for Elizabeth who was already overwhelmed with despair, and she took her own life.

Yet, here he was!

Although everything seemed like a dream, Michael realized that this was reality, and a rather absurd one at that.

Finally accepting this fact, he held the fence as he took a seat.

"Ha—" He looked at Theo and suddenly let out a menacing and mocking laugh, which gradually became louder until he started to laugh hysterically.

When he could no longer continue, he realized that his face was already covered in tears.

He had wanted to cry, but for some reason, his cries turned into laughter as soon as it left his mouth.

Why would something so preposterous happen to him?

After letting go of his emotions, Michael became numb. Then, he went to sit next to Theo without a word. After a long pause, he said softly, "Dad."

"Hmm," Theo responded.

Then, the both of them sat there like two sculptures with the exact same posture and demeanor, staring blankly at the snow.

Meanwhile, everyone else stood at a distance and did not bother them.

Mark lamented and sighed. He was over the moon when he learned that his son was still alive, but he couldn't help but want to cry as well.

"It was cryonics." Joel came over, holding his son in his arms as he explained to everyone about what had happened.

"Thirty years ago, Uncle Theo was seriously wounded on the frontlines of the southwest drug war. My father, who was the commander of the backup reinforcements, found Uncle Theo, but he didn't look like he was going to make it. Certainly, the best place for a soldier to die is on the battlefield, and Uncle Theo fulfilled his life duty as a soldier when he died there. Back then, my father wanted to cryogenically preserve Uncle Theo and bring him back to Bayside City so that Old Master Fletcher could see him one last time. But unexpectedly, when he learnt about Uncle Theo's sacrifice, his sickness got worse and he was admitted to the hospital. When my father came back, he never brought it up in fear of shocking him again. He thought of thawing him and letting him go in peace. But at that time, Uncle Theo's heart was still beating. If he were to be thawed, he would certainly die. As such, my father hesitated. He couldn't do it, so he swept it under the rug and secretly kept Uncle Theo under cryogenic sleep. Old Master Fletcher and I never knew about it until last year. It was only when my father was on his dying bed did he reveal it to me."

Joel's father was Mark's eldest son and had achievements that surpassed Theo's. After the passing of the Fletcher's family head, Joel's father had stepped up, lived up to the expectations of everyone and outperformed his contemporaries to become the new family head of Fletcher Family.

Before his father revealed this secret to him, only a handful of people knew about it. Although many people had heard that Theo was put under cryogenic sleep but couldn't be saved in the end, not many knew that the Fletcher Family had been secretly keeping him.

That year, Joel's father reluctantly announced the news of Theo's death, organized a funeral and sent him to the ancestral grave. At the same time, he couldn't bear thawing him. He was in a dilemma and couldn't make a decision, so he ended up keeping this secret for thirty years!

"As soon as I learned about this, I found Uncle Theo's preserved body. After making a few calls, I found a hospital abroad that had a 30% chance of saving him. Then, I spoke to Grandpa and got his permission to send Uncle Theo over. Seventy-two hours of surgery later..."

He trailed off and looked out the window at Michael and Theo who were still sitting together like a couple of statues—speechless and motionless.

Then, he continued speaking to everyone, who all had their hair standing on end. "Although Uncle Theo survived, he couldn't accept the fact that he was cryogenically preserved for more than thirty years, and that Elizabeth had taken her own life for him. He hadn't spoken a word since and even psychologists couldn't get him to speak."

When he finished, everyone fell silent.

At that moment, Sophia looked at Theo's silhouette and saw the sadness and desolation in him.

It must have been such a huge blow to him that he woke up after thirty years and realized the world had changed, and that his lover had died!

She thought that if she was in the same situation, she would choose not to be preserved either and spend her last days with her family and everyone she loved.

No one would know what they would wake up to after being cryogenically preserved.

It was one thing to be preserved for a day or two just to buy some time to be saved like how Albert was saved. However, it was another to wake up and realize that thirty years had passed like Theo did. If she was in his shoes, she would definitely have had a breakdown. Aliens might have come to earth and humans might have been extinct when one woke up!

Perhaps, everyone she once loved would all be gone, and no one in the world would know her. To the world, she would have been like someone who had died for many years, and there would be no place for her in society.

What would be the point of living, then?

Indeed, Theo was alive, but it didn't make a difference to him.

Everyone had thought he was dead, including himself. His household registry was gone, and his lover had committed suicide for him. The world no longer had a place for him and his... lover. To him, every second of living was nothing but torture!