

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1326 - 1330

“No way; no way. There’s a huge social gap between them... It’s just not right.” Maddie vigorously waved her hand in dismissal. “You don’t understand. Marriage needs to be between people of the same social standing too. The difference between their social standing is too vast; it’s not acceptable.”

Sophia hurriedly said, “Come on! What era are you living in? Why are you bothered by social standing in this day and age? Look at you and the commanding general! Didn’t you two break through the social gap too? I believe Stan and Christine will make a great pair. They look so good together! Besides, they seem to be getting along very well recently!”

Sophia believed that Stanley was finally going to graduate from singlehood. After all, he came to Sophia with all the hopes of the Fletcher Family riding on his shoulders, asking her to matchmake him with Christine. Contrary to her expectations, Maddie vigorously dismissed the notion. “No way; no way. Our family is very conservative. We don’t dream of marrying above our station. Even now, my marriage with Joel can be considered marrying above my station.”

No matter how Sophia tried to persuade her, she refused to change her stance. She wished from the bottom of her heart for Stanley to find himself a good wife. She also wished that Christine could find a husband that would share her burdens with her. At the very least, it wouldn’t be as tiring as struggling alone. More importantly, she felt that the two of them were a great match too. But... there’s a reason why the saying ‘a good match is between families of equal standing’ has existed for thousands of years. It’s not just about financial standings; it’s also about one’s values and beliefs—those aspects have to match too.

Look at Sophia; her father is Cooper Mitchell while her brother is Linus Michel. They’re both highly influential figures, which match Michael Fletcher’s status perfectly as they all stand on the same social class.

There is a world of difference between people of different social classes. Unfortunately, Christine’s family is... Christine and Maddie’s families came from a small country town located deep in the countryside. It was a remote and conservative place. When Maddie was studying in high school, she was an elite student with excellent grades. She was originally supposed to enter the elite class. However, she had a cousin that was studying in the same school and the same grade as her. He failed to make it into the elite class due to his low

scores. As a result, her family succeeded in negotiating with the school and transferred her placement over to her cousin.

From the school to the Evans Family, everybody believed that the spot should have been given to her cousin; even Maddie herself believed that. They believed that boys were the hope of the family while girls were not. She was considered extremely blessed in their society that her family could even afford to send her to high school as most girls only studied until junior high school. That was the common mindset among her society and her entire family. People who came from that little society held values and beliefs that were surprisingly consistent.

Later, Maddie was admitted into a first-tier university at Provincial City with excellent scores despite being in the ordinary class. Meanwhile, her cousin that had taken her place in the elite class could only be admitted into an inferior second-tier university with his scores. Unfortunately, the tuition fees for a first-tier university were too high, and her family could not afford it. Therefore, she had no choice but to reject the offer and seek another option. Alas, she entered a third-tier university with much lower tuition fees despite her high scores. When I think back on it now, that must have been the stupidest choice in my life. But, growing up in that environment... I didn't think that there was anything wrong with my decision at the time.

Even though Maddie chose to study in a third-tier university, her family felt that she shouldn't have furthered her studies in university and refused to pay for her tuition fees. She had to pay for them herself by taking up a part-time job writing manuscripts. During her internship in her junior year, she went back to the country town and worked at a small newspaper office. Moreover, she had to hand over a portion of her salary to her cousin who was studying in the second-tier university for his living expenses. Afterward, her cousin took her money and went on a lavish graduation trip while she worked at the newspaper office until she had low blood sugar levels. Even so, she felt that it was only right for her to do so.

The feudalistic social norms of the past remained strong in a closed-off society like theirs, and the entire society was enveloped in a strange culture. They believed that girls were born only to contribute to their families. As such, women did not deserve to study. They should only study until junior high school before dropping out to work and earn money for their brothers to go to school.

More importantly, they had to earn money so that they could buy houses for their brothers' marriages. Once the houses were bought, their families would then introduce a local unmarried man to them. Discussions on the dowry generally began after several meetings, and the dowry usually started from a minimum of 100,000. Not surprisingly, the dowries they received would be used to supplement their brothers' marriages.

Even after getting married, they were still expected to continue supporting their natal family while giving birth to children. Specifically, they had to give birth to sons. If they couldn't produce sons, both their in-laws and their natal family would blame them for being useless. Aside from that, women were not allowed to be seated at the table during banquets nor enter the ancestral graves. Even when the family received compensation according to headcount for forced relocation, only men were considered. Every family practiced these customs throughout the generations. Naturally, Maddie and Christine were not an exception.

Unexpectedly, an earthquake completely changed Maddie's life. Back then, the building of the newspaper office she was working in collapsed after the earthquake. She was buried under the building; she was stuck in a small crack under the rubble. Despite desperately screaming for help, she only heard more screams and crying sounds coming from everywhere. Nobody came to save her, and her phone was not working. When she lifted her head among the rubble, she could only see a despairingly small sky.

At that moment, a man descended from the sky in a military green parachute and landed next to the rubble. He removed the panels pressing down on her and rescued her from among the rubble. At the same time, he rescued her from a gray and gloomy period of her life. When she followed Joel back to the Fletcher Residence, she discovered a completely different world. In their world, not only could the women study, but they were also allowed to eat at the table and enter the ancestral graves. They also fought in wars!

A new chapter opened up in Maddie's life from that moment on. Therefore, she encouraged her cousin, Christine, to never give up on her dreams during high school. She also supported Christine in pursuing e-sports and taking her university entrance exams by paying for whatever Christine could not afford. Afterward, she even encouraged Christine to move to Bayside City for her personal growth.

Looking back on her life, she realized that her original family was extremely different from the Fletchers—they were living in completely different worlds. It's because I know just how great the gaps are between them that I absolutely refuse to agree to the marriage between Stanley and Christine! Marriage isn't only about two people—it's an issue between two families. If both families are unable to get along with each other, that marriage will never be a happy one!

While Sophia was trying to convince Maddie, Linus was resting in another lounge, reading the newspaper and drinking some tea. Since it was still early, it didn't hurt to let them have a chat among themselves. Besides, everybody knew who he was and did not dare to harass him. However, not long after he sat down, a middle-aged man suddenly entered the lounge while nodding and bowing.

“Hi, mister! Are you resting here?” A voice speaking broken Cethosian in a heavy southern accent rang out.

Even so, Linus understood what the man was saying. “Yes, that’s right. Where did you come from?”

That man let himself in. Behind him stood another man and a woman, who were very young. Somehow, Linus could help thinking that the woman seemed strangely familiar. Ah; she’s the lady that passed out in the lobby just now.

Then, the man sat down next to Linus, acting like they were very close. He enthusiastically began to introduce himself. “You must be Maddie’s friend, right? I’m her second uncle on her mother’s side, Byron Evans.”

Maddie’s uncle on her mother’s side? Thus, Linus greeted him politely. “Nice to meet you, Uncle Byron. My name is Linus—”

Byron was being overly friendly toward Linus. At the same time, he surreptitiously asked about Linus’ background while making small talk. “Wow! Young man, you must be a foreigner! You’re more fluent in the Cethosian language than I am! You must have settled down in Bayside City for many years now, right? Have you bought a house here?”

Linus thought to himself, No matter what, this man is Maddie’s uncle and she’s now the matriarch of the Fletcher Family. I can’t be discourteous. Thus, he answered patiently, “I’ve been in Bayside City for many years now. I live with my father and my sister.”

“Have you bought a house? Do you have a car? What do you do for a living? How much is your salary? Are you registered in the household registry of Bayside City? Are you married?”

Upon hearing those questions, Linus was rendered speechless.

Chapter 1327

Despite how hard Sophia tried persuading Maddie, Maddie refused to budge. I wonder what’s making Maddie so resolute? Sophia decided that she still had many chances in the future and ended things for today, planning to try again in another two days.

Afterward, Maddie decided to see Linus and Sophia on their way. Walking into the lounge with Sophia to look for Linus, she saw her second uncle that had just arrived at Bayside City to work. He was surrounding Linus with Tawny and her brother behind him. I can't believe Tawny called him over!

Byron had a grimace on his face as he leaned close to Linus while saying, "Look; this is my niece. She is 19 years old. Isn't she quite the pretty one? Her family conditions are great too. Why don't you exchange contact numbers or add each other on Messenger? You should chat with each other a little..."

Tawny pulled up her Messenger on her phone. Then, she blushing stepped forward to add Linus on Messenger.

Linus looked troubled. "Uncle Byron, I'm sorry but I don't really use Messenger."

Any discerning person would know with a single glance that Linus was rejecting them. However, Byron did not know what it meant to be reserved and even went so far as to enthusiastically reach out to take Linus' phone. "Don't worry; I'll teach you. Come—"

Maddie stared at the scene in front of her with her mouth agape... Feeling confused, Sophia stepped forward and asked, "What are you doing?"

Linus immediately stood up as soon as he saw that she was here and eagerly said, "Sofie, you're here! Let's go back now."

On the other hand, Byron's face brightened up when he saw Sophia. He excitedly said, "Hello! You must be Mr. Linus' younger sister! I'm Byron Evans, Maddie's second uncle on her mother's side!"

Oh, it's Maddie's uncle! Thus, she greeted him. "Nice to meet you, Uncle Byron..."

Listening to the way he talked, she realized that he mistakenly thought that 'Linus' was their surname. Thus, she was just about to correct his misconception when he dragged the young man standing next to him into the conversation. "Come; come here. Miss Linus, this is my nephew. He's 21 this year. Besides, he hasn't gotten a partner yet. Why don't you guys get to know each other?"

She couldn't help feeling weird. Looking at the young man, he didn't look like much. Rather, he had a shifty look. I'm sure he's no good. Still, it was Maddie's relative. She did not want to put Maddie in a difficult position, so she politely replied, "Hi, nice to meet you."

The young man had never seen such a young and beautiful woman before. Thus, he was so charmed that he couldn't move anymore. Swallowing nervously, he said, "Hello, my name is—"

All of a sudden, Maddie spoke up with a smile. "Oh, my; look at the time. We talked so much that we lost track of time. Sophia, Linus, your car is waiting downstairs. Why don't you leave first? Otherwise, the elevator will be jam-packed with people soon."

"Let's go," Linus swiftly said. He was certain that Byron was up to something. Since just now, this man has been trying his best to inquire about my financial situation while introducing me to that girl. Her entire face is caked with a thick layer of makeup—it reminds me of a monkey's butt. Thus, he hurriedly dragged Sophia away. Similarly, Maddie looked extremely upset as she hastily led Linus and Sophia away.

Upon seeing that, Byron became anxious and quickly rushed after them. "Mr. Linus! Why don't you leave your contact number with us?!"

In response, Linus sullenly dragged Sophia away with him. Maddie, who was leading the way, shot a glare at her assistant when she saw her family members chasing after them. Following that, her assistant immediately stepped forward and stopped the Evans Family from approaching the siblings. "This is the VIP elevator; you are not allowed to enter." They've been irritating me for a while now. How dare they harass a VIP?!

As a result, Byron, Tawny, and her brother could only watch as Maddie led Linus and Sophia into the elevator. They were so anxious that they nearly hopped about in anxiety. Argh! We nearly became the relatives of somebody in Bayside City!

Inside the elevator, Maddie stood in a corner. She felt cold all over; there was an indescribable emotion in her heart—a mix of both disgust and fury at the same time. This is what I've been worried about! I was scared that one day, my relatives would approach the Fletcher Family. They will surely try to weasel their way into an influential family without any inhibitions just to raise their status... Just look at the two siblings from the Bishop Family! Don't they ever look in the mirror?! She felt the utter humiliation brought to her by her natal family. It made her all the more aware that she, Sophia, and the Fletcher Family were in completely different social classes. That realization left her feeling inferior and furious.

Meanwhile, Sophia seemed to realize something belatedly. That old man was probably trying to matchmake me with that guy. Tsk; just looking at his shifty-eyed expression tells me that he's not a good person. If it were any other person, I would have slapped them without hesitation... This is probably why Maddie refuses to let Christine and Stanley get together, as well as why I've never heard her mention her natal family before.

They soon arrived on the first floor. Maddie could tell that Linus was in a bad mood and realized that Byron must have greatly offended him. Hence, she did not dare to say a word. She simply forced a smile on her face while seeing them off. To her surprise, she saw Christine rushing over as soon as she opened the door. "Maddie, I heard from my mother that Tawny fainted suddenly. She asked me to come and check on her." When Christine noticed Sophia and Linus, she immediately respectfully said, "Sophia, Mr. Michel! Why are you here too?"

However, Linus was in a terrible mood. He simply nodded before getting into the car with Sophia. Before Sophia got into the car, she turned to Maddie and said, "I'm sorry. Linus is not in a good mood today. Please don't take it to heart."

Maddie smiled bitterly in response. After Linus and Sophia left, she felt tears swimming in her eyes.

"Maddie, what's wrong?! Please don't scare me!" Christine lightly tugged at Maddie's arm.

Wiping away tears, Maddie said, "It's nothing."

Then, they both went upstairs and returned to the lounge just now. Sure enough; the atmosphere inside was completely different now. Byron was solemnly sitting on a chair with a majestic and imposing expression—he was like a guardian. Similarly, the Bishop siblings were standing next to Byron. They were practically spitting fire from their eyes. As soon as Byron saw Maddie approaching, he pointed to the ground in front of him. "Kneel, now!"

However, Maddie did not move. After coming to Bayside City for so many years, these words no longer worked on her. In the remote country town that was their hometown, those words were an absolute command when spoken by a male elder to a female younger than them. Therefore, Byron was livid when he saw that Maddie refused to kneel. He felt that his authority was greatly challenged. Taking out his phone, he furiously threatened, "Just you wait! I'm going to call your father right now! And, your grandfather too! They will know about this!"

Upon hearing those words, the Bishop siblings became happy. Their reactions made it seem like informing Maddie's parents about her digressions was akin to a death sentence. How dare she ruin our marriage prospects?! If it wasn't for her coming to cause trouble, we might have gotten the contact information of the Linus siblings! We could have quickly gotten close to them!

When Christine heard those words, she became anxious. This is such a trivial matter; how can they immediately raise the issue with the family?! "Uncle Byron, what on earth happened—"

Seeing that Maddie refused to kneel and admit her mistake, Byron took out his phone and pretended to dial a number. "I'm really going to make the call! Don't think I won't dare to do it!"

Maddie scoffed. However, her reddened eyes were filled with tears.

Then, he dialed the number while berating her in a loud voice. "You rebellious girl! Your parents have wasted their efforts raising you! Just you wait!"

He was already displeased with her long before she ruined the Bishop siblings' 'marriages'. Seeing that his relatives and friends were heading to Bayside City to work, he hurriedly called Maddie and told her to arrange a job for him. Contrary to his expectations, she made him attend the interview himself, saying that it depended on his own abilities as to whether he could get the job. Moreover, she made him look for his own place to stay too. I don't know anybody in Bayside City. Where am I supposed to find a place to stay?! She is obviously trying to make things difficult for me! She doesn't respect me at all!

In the end, he called the Bishop Family instead. Without another word, they immediately asked Christine to book his flight tickets to Bayside City. It was his first time flying in a plane. When he got off the plane, Christine even sent her assistant to pick him up and send him to a hotel. All he needed to do was stay there. Several days later, Christine told him that she found him a job at a cybercafé. Not only was the job easy, but it also paid well. Maddie is nothing compared to Christine!

Chapter 1328

Byron called Maddie's father on the spot, deliberately making the call right in front of Maddie and turning on the loudspeaker. As soon as the call connected, he said, "Oh, Maxton! This daughter of yours is such a worthless good-for-nothing!"

Following that, he immediately poured his heart out about all the 'wrongs' he suffered to Mr. Evans, detailing everything from his job-hunting incident to the 'marriage' incident between the Bishop siblings.

"I already heard all I needed about them. Their surname is Linus. They have a household registry in Bayside City, a stable career, a car, and a house! Aren't they the perfect match for the Bishop siblings?! Moreover, they're brothers and sisters too, just like the Bishop siblings! We could have become one big family in the future! It would have been a piece of cake to discuss the dowry! But, Maddie, this useless child... Not only did she refuse to introduce her family to such great partners, but she also ruined the marriage discussions! Do you know what she did?! When she saw that the children were getting along so well, she went and chased them away! Maxton, I'm not one to hold grudges, but Maddie truly went overboard this time—"

Christine pieced together a general idea of what was going on from what she heard and finally understood why Maddie felt so humiliated. Meanwhile, Tawny and her brother were standing there looking triumphant. Christine glanced at them and thought to herself, How dare these two... even think about approaching Linus and Sophia?! She blurted out loudly, "Don't even think about trying to get close to them!"

To her surprise, Byron reacted strongly to her outburst. "Shut up! The adults are talking! This is no place for children!" Glaring hard at Maddie, who was crying silently by the side, Byron couldn't help feeling that he had already won half the battle. Maddie's shameful actions will soon be spread throughout the family. Her life will become a living hell! If she's unable to hold her head up high back home... that's no better than death! Hence, he raised his voice on purpose and said, "Tawny and her brother have such great qualities! Their family is not poor. Besides, they have a car and a house too. Why are they not a good match for each other? Even Maddie managed to marry over to Bayside City. Why can't Tawny do the same?!"

Upon hearing those words, Christine stared at Byron in disbelief. For the first time in her life, she wondered, Is everybody back home this stupid? Sophia and Linus are top students of Bayside University! What's more, they each own huge companies despite their youth! They come from the highest class of aristocrats! The siblings are celebrities worth billions—not somebody Maddie's company can invite over just as they please! Seriously; the Bishop siblings are nothing in comparison! Don't they have any self-awareness?! Do they think of

themselves as kings just because they own several settlements back in our hometown?! How dare they even think about approaching Sophia and Linus?!

“Fine, fine... I’ll shut up; I’ll shut up...” While saying that, she comforted Maddie. At this point, Maddie was so furious that she couldn’t utter a single word anymore. Her entire body was trembling slightly, and tears fell from her eyes continuously as she glared savagely at Byron.

Byron was sitting with his leg crossed over his knee while calling home with his phone on loudspeaker. He made several phone calls right in front of Maddie, talking for more than an hour straight. The more he talked, the angrier he got. He wanted both the Evans Family and the Bishop Family to know all about Maddie’s ‘scandalous acts’.

A short while later, everybody in their hometown knew about Maddie’s ‘scandalous acts’. From the way Byron told the story, the truth was completely twisted to become a tale where Tawny and her brother were in marriage discussions with a pair of siblings that were quite desirable. However, Maddie appeared and arbitrarily ruined the marriage discussions out of spite and malice. Not wanting the Bishop siblings to settle down in the city, she deliberately ruined their marriages!

Meanwhile, Maddie couldn’t stop her tears from falling. She said nothing, simply listening to how they distorted the facts and blew their own trumpets. She cried not because Byron was bad-mouthing her to her face but because she hated herself for being born into such a family. It made her feel like she was covered in filth; it made her feel like she was not worthy of Joel.

Mr. Evans’ furious roar came from the phone that was on loudspeaker. “Maddie Evans! Kneel right now! Kneel! Kneel and beg for forgiveness! Otherwise, I will disown you! You better think of a way to make things right after destroying their marriages! Immediately arrange a blind date for the siblings! Do it immediately! Immediately!”

At that moment, Maddie finally wiped away her tears and swallowed her anger. She cryingly said in a heartfelt yet trembling voice, “Those siblings hold degrees from Bayside University. Besides, they are worth billions. They live in a completely different world from us. It’s not a suitable match—”

“What do you mean by ‘not a suitable match’?!” Mr. Evans furiously yelled. “How dare you look down on us country folks just because you worked in Bayside City for some time?!”

Meanwhile, Byron sat with his leg over his knee. "So what? Didn't the daughter of the county magistrate marry a laborer from a construction site back in our hometown? That man could make his woman eat out of the palm of his hand. When she got pregnant, even the county magistrate had to recognize their marriage!"

Mr. Evans fervently agreed with Byron as he said, "That's right; that's right! Maddie, can't you act a little smarter? Even if your cousin is not as financially sound as the other party, you should create more opportunities for him to shine! Why don't you invite Miss Linus out alone so that your cousin will have more opportunities to woo her? Your cousin is such a smart boy. I'm sure it's easy for him to get her pregnant! We'll see how the Linus Family reacts once she is pregnant. Their unmarried daughter got herself pregnant; who else would want damaged goods like her? If they are still stubborn... Aren't you a reporter? Why don't you just write an article, make it a huge scandal, and ruin their reputation! We'll see if they continue to remain stubborn! Seriously, why are you so dumb? How did I raise such a useless daughter?!"

Byron hurriedly added on. "Tawny should grab the opportunity to get herself pregnant with that man's seed as soon as possible too! When the time comes, we'll cause a huge ruckus. This family is wealthy; they will surely need to maintain their reputation! Therefore, they won't dare to not marry you! With that, both of you will be registered in Bayside City's household registry! Not only that, but you'll also marry into a wealthy family! I'm afraid this old man won't be able to enter through your doors the next time I come to visit you!"

Tawny immediately flattered him by saying, "That will never happen! We will always remember your kindness! We won't be like Maddie!" When she said that, she threw a scornful look at Maddie.

At this point, Christine was absolutely livid. Dream on! They will send you all to hell!

Maddie did not know how she managed to finish listening to everything they said. Their words felt like sharp blades stabbing into the most vulnerable part of her heart. Every word stabbed into her painfully. Then, she quietly closed her eyes and forcefully squeezed out every last drop of tears in her eyes. Taking a deep breath, she focused on her anger. All the grievances she experienced throughout her life and buried deep in her heart now bubbled up to the surface as she shouted at the top of her voice, "Security! Drag these three out of here! Throw them out as far as possible!"

Everybody had been waiting for those words for a long time now. Several security guards immediately rushed forward and subdued those three before dragging them away. The three of them were driven away by car and thrown out on the street somewhere far away.

"Maddie Evans, you scum!" Byron screamed in front of her while Mr. Evans screamed through the phone.

Maddie savagely snatched the phone over and yelled at the person on the other end of the phone. "I'll be honest with all of you! You're not worthy of those siblings! Don't even dream about it! I will never help you with this marriage discussion! Don't crave for what you are not worthy of! How dare you try to trick a young lady?! Go to hell! Let me tell you this: your despicable, contemptible, and inferior genes should never be passed down!"

Chapter 1329

Mr. Evans was so furious that he could barely hold his phone securely. He did not expect that his daughter would say something as ridiculous as that. "Maddie Evans, I no longer have a daughter like you!"

It was just what Maddie wanted. "Fine; just think of me as dead! In any case, I am incompetent! I disgraced the family! Goodbye!"

After saying that, Maddie fiercely threw Byron's phone to the ground. The phone smashed into the ground and broke into pieces. Following that, Byron and the Bishop siblings were dragged away. Peace returned to the world with their departure. Then, Maddie slumped to the ground weakly all of a sudden, burying her face in her hands as she wept...

It was late at night. Everybody else had left the company, except Maddie. She remained at the office, working overtime without saying anything. She had not eaten anything all day long, and her personal phone had been turned off.

Christine had accompanied her the entire day out of worry. At that moment, she walked in carrying a box meal in her hands. "Maddie, I brought you dinner. Here, have some."

Maddie lowered her head and wrote her manuscript. Sniffing slightly, she replied, "I don't feel like eating."

Christine said, "It's late. Why don't you go home? I'm sure Joel is getting worried since it's so late."

Maddie said, "I'm not done with work."

Christine was extremely worried. After what happened today, Byron had given Maddie a severe tongue-lashing. Moreover, the news had quickly spread across their hometown, and Maddie was now the target of the hatred and loathing back in their hometown.

Christine also constantly received phone calls from the Evans Family; they called simply to insult and scream at Maddie. Walking out of the office, she paced about anxiously. She wanted to call Joel and ask him to come and pick Maddie up from work. However, she did not know his contact number. None of Maddie's colleagues, who were working overtime, knew his contact number either. Thus, she did not know who had his contact number. She did not know anything about Maddie's in-laws or her personal social circles. Mulling over it, she decided to try and call Sophia. She saw that Maddie and Sophia were friends on Messenger, so she thought Sophia might know, or at the very least, have some clue.

Inside The Imperial, Linus was still fuming over what happened during the day. Every time he closed his eyes, that face that reminded him of a monkey's butt filled his mind. Thus, he hurriedly looked at his sister's cute face—it was an instant cure for his ailment. Unfortunately, he would soon remember that monkey's butt of a face again—so much so that he lost his appetite for dinner.

On the other hand, Sophia was no longer angry. Rather, she was worried since Maddie seemed unhappy today. She was tempted to call Maddie and talk to her, but she was worried about disturbing Maddie's rest. While she was agonizing over it, a call from Christine came.

Christine was not aware that Sophia and Maddie were sisters-in-law. However, she was certain that Byron had offended Linus and Sophia today. Putting aside the fact that Maddie had broken all ties with her family today, she had also been scolded by the head of the newspaper office for upsetting the young master of the Michel Group. The head of the newspaper office claimed that Linus was somebody their small newspaper office could not afford to offend.

Therefore, Christine cautiously apologized to Sophia, seemingly scared that Sophia was still angry about it. "Sophia, I'm sorry about what happened today. It's the first time Uncle Byron came to the city, so he is not familiar with the rules here. Maddie has berated them for their behavior. Furthermore, she had a big fight with her family because of this. She also got scolded by the head of the newspaper office too. I really hope you don't take it to heart. Maddie will come and personally apologize to you on another day."

Sophia had not expected things to turn out this way. Hence, she quickly said, "Don't worry about it. I'm not bothered by it. Why don't you bring Maddie home? It's so late!"

Upon hearing how polite Sophia was, Christine felt even more uneasy. Sophia had to coax her for quite a while before she finally got over her uneasiness and said, "Maddie refuses to leave. I wanted to ask Joel to come and pick her up but... I don't have his contact number..."

Unfortunately, Sophia did not know either. Thus, she hurriedly asked Michael to call and ask Joel to go and pick Maddie up from her workplace. After ending the call with Christine, she let out a long sigh. Just then, Michael finished his call with Joel, turned around, and asked her about the events that transpired today.

Sophia managed to glean some information from her call with Christine just now. Combining what she heard from Linus today, she more or less had an idea of the overall situation. When I recall the looks those siblings gave me and Linus... Ugh; her makeup reminds me of a monkey's butt. And, she had a pretentious expression too! It's as terrifying as it could get!

When Michael heard the story from Sophia, he was immediately reminded of his pitiful mother. Back when she married Theo, she had concealed her family from him too. She never allowed him to come into contact with the Murray Family. Even now, Michael and his siblings had never met Elizabeth's natal family. Maddie probably comes from a similar kind of family... Back then, many factors had contributed to Elizabeth's suicide, including Theo's death, Tanya's persecution, and her complete disappointment in her natal family.

It was late at night by the time Joel drove to Maddie's workplace in a rush. Christine had waited at the entrance for a long time. When she saw Joel, her eyes were slightly red. "Joel, please go and check on Maddie. She has been crying all day long. Moreover, she hasn't taken a single bite since lunch."

Therefore, Joel rushed upstairs after hearing those words.

Inside the office, Maddie was finishing up that day's manuscripts while crying non-stop. Her dinner sat beside her untouched—she couldn't bring herself to take a bite. Since coming to Bayside City, she had been exposed to a completely new way of thinking and a brand-new culture. Only then did she realize just how unbearable and unsightly her family was. They were openly plotting against my friend right in front of me today. I'm sure that they will also be plotting against Joel and the Fletchers in the future. But, what can I do? I didn't choose to be born into such a family!

All of a sudden, the door to the office opened. She lifted her head only to see Joel's tall and large figure standing in the doorway. Surprised, she hurriedly wiped away her tears. "Joel?! Why are you here?"

Joel walked over. His deep eyes were filled only with the sight of her and her teary visage as he said in a low voice, "I came to pick you up."

Maddie regularly worked overtime, especially if she encountered breaking news. She constantly had to drag herself out of bed in the middle of the night to work on her manuscripts. As a result, Joel was used to it and did not realize something was wrong when she did not come home today. It wasn't until he received a call from Michael that he learned about the incident that had taken place today. At this moment, he did not say anything else and simply pulled her into his arms quietly. Lightly patting her on the back, he said, "It's okay; it's okay... I'm right here; don't be scared..."

She buried her face in his chest, rubbing against him piteously and weeping softly.

Then, he kissed her face lightly. "It's alright; it's over. It's no big deal. In the future, we won't contact anybody from your hometown anymore, okay?" From what Michael and Christine told me, that family sounds like trouble. They are not worthy of my wife.

She had long since lost all patience for her family. However, she still felt empty inside when the time came to cut them off. She couldn't tell if she felt empty or relieved. In any case, it was an uncomfortable feeling.

"Joel, I don't think I'm worthy of you..." Maddie did not know how many times this thought had crossed her head. Even so, Joel fiercely kept those thoughts at bay, every single time. "Maddie Evans, how many times have I told you this? Marrying you is the best thing that has ever happened to me!"

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htly. Whenever she hugged him, it felt like she gained infinite strength and courage.

Then, he held her face and said to her in all seriousness, "I am your husband. Promise me; the next time something like this happens, you have to tell me. Okay?"

She nodded vigorously as tears overflowed from her eyes again. Turning on her phone, she saw that there were numerous missed calls and text messages as well as messages on Messenger. They were all scolding her in one way or another. Some of the family group chats were also berating her for being inhumane and unfilial, and ruining the Bishop siblings' 'marriages'.

As soon as Maddie's phone was turned on again, Mr. Evans' call came through. she was just about to hang up on him when Joel suddenly took the phone from her and answered the call. Mr. Evan's voice immediately sounded from the other side of the phone, blowing up at her at the top of his voice. "Maddie Evans, do you still regard me as your father?! Look at how angry you've made Uncle Byron! Did you think I won't be able to do anything to you since you've settled down in Bayside City?! I'm telling you; I have many ways to deal with you! I'm giving you two days to come home and beg for forgiveness!"

Upon hearing that voice, Maddie froze for a moment. It felt as if a bucket of ice water came pouring down on her head, filling her heart with sorrow and disappointment. Squeezing her hand slightly, Joel spoke to the other person on the phone. "Nice to meet you, father-in-law. I am Maddie's lover, Joel Fletcher. I do not believe Maddie did anything wrong during today's incident. If you have any objections, you can find me in Bayside City at any time. I will explain it to you myself."

When Mr. Evans heard his son-in-law's voice, he became even ruder than before. "You b*stard! What sort of black magic did you cast on my daughter that made her so mesmerized?! How dare she no longer obey me?!"

Joel continued in a calm voice, "Maddie is an independent individual. She has no obligation to do anything for your family." After saying that, he hung up.

It was nearly 9 PM. Christine was still waiting outside Maddie's office. Calculating the time, she had to rush home as soon as Maddie left for home, lest she was criticized for going home late again.

As expected, Joel had the means to cheer Maddie up. Not long after he arrived, Maddie came out with a smile on her face. She was all relaxed now. Since the Evans Family no longer considered her as their daughter, there was no need for her to continue keeping in contact with them. They only contact me to ask for money anyway. I might as well cut off all contact with them. I'm not scared of anything as long as Joel is here for me!

Joel was carrying Maddie's bag. When he saw that Christine was still waiting at the entrance, he said, "Christine, it's so late. Why don't you come and stay over at our place for

the night? It's not convenient for you to go back alone at this hour. Besides, you've never been to our house before, right?"

Christine hurriedly replied, "It's okay. I need to hurry back home!"

At this moment, Maddie felt liberated. Since I no longer need to interact with the Evans Family again, it doesn't matter anymore. Thus, she said, "Let's go; you've kept me company all day long today. I'm sure you haven't had dinner either. Come on; let's go to my house for supper."

Christine's stomach was rumbling out of hunger. Besides, it wasn't easy to catch a bus at this hour and it was very expensive to take a taxi home. I might as well follow Maddie to her house to have a look.

Joel drove his Land Rover as usual. Therefore, they arrived home in less than 20 minutes. When Christine saw the imposing residential area with military flags flying at the gate, as well as people standing guard at the entrance, she knew that it was probably where Maddie lived. After all, they were living in a house allocated to them by the military.

Joel drove in and handed over his credentials. Then, the sentry saluted to Joel. It was the first time Christine had ever entered this place. It felt like everything was military green everywhere she looked, and everybody inside the community had a stocky build. It was a little intimidating.

After the car came to a stop, they came out of the garage. Christine followed behind Maddie. Everything looked extremely interesting to her. However, she felt a little scared to look around. She was scared that she might accidentally witness some sort of military secret and get killed for it. As a result, she walked with her head down and did not dare to look around. The tinkling sound of a bell came from in front, then she suddenly heard a familiar voice. "Hey, Uncle Joel! Did you go out for supper in the middle of the night?"

Christine lifted her head abruptly. She did not expect to see Stanley here. Stanley was walking his dog in a pair of slippers, and there was a bell hanging from the collar of his husky. Joel looked at Stanley as he said, "Stan, why don't you join us?"

For a moment, Stanley thought he heard wrongly. Did Joel just invite me over to his house to eat?! This is interesting! He quickly turned his dog around and eagerly said, "Sure! What are we having?" To his surprise, he suddenly noticed Christine standing next to Maddie. The sight of her gave him a shock. "Hey, is that Christine? Why are you here?"

Christine was shocked too. She looked at Joel, then looked at Stanley before looking back at Maddie. Maddie did not bother hiding the fact anymore and explained, "Stan is Joel's nephew!"

It was the first time Stanley heard of that too. "Wow! Is Christine your younger sister, Aunt Maddie?"

Maddie embarrassedly replied, "She is my cousin on my mother's side."

Meanwhile, Christine was so shocked that she was at a loss for what to say... It was her first time coming to Bayside City. Therefore, she was completely unaware of the situation between the powerful factions in Bayside City. After the Fashion Week, she heard from some well-informed seniors that both Stanley and Taylor were part of the Fletcher Family. Only then did she vaguely learn about the existence of the Fletcher Family. It was reportedly a military family which produced many generals. Even the God of War, Mark Fletcher, that everybody knew about was part of the Fletcher Family.

She heard that the Fletcher Family was very prominent. Many female celebrities from the entertainment circles desperately wanted to marry into the Fletcher Family. However, the Fletcher Family was an existence that even the bigshots in the entertainment industry could not hope to join. She heard that Taylor was crowned the Academy Award for Best Actor winner twice. Moreover, he was the largest shareholder of The Imperial. Even though he was standing at the pinnacle of the entertainment industry, he was nothing special within the Fletcher Family. I can't believe Maddie is married to Stanley's uncle! Wow! Looks like this paratrooper is quite something! Maybe he's the best among all the other paratroopers!

By the time they arrived at Joel's place, the kitchen was already cooking up something delicious. Christine noticed that Maddie's house was quite spacious after she entered. The houses allocated by the military are quite large. If each household lives in a one-bedroom apartment, this building probably holds several dozen households!

Joel asked Stanley to keep Christine company for a while as he accompanied Maddie upstairs to change her clothes. Then, Christine saw many pictures adorning the walls of the living room. Curious, she went over to take a look at them. There were photos of Maddie and Joel's wedding, family photos, as well as photos of Joel in his military uniform with various people.

"Hmm? Isn't this the legendary Old Master Fletcher? Joel is standing right next to him! Wow! That's the president! Why is Joel standing next to the president?! This person standing next

to Joel... isn't he the one that's always in the news—" The more Christine looked, the more shocked she became. Just who on earth is Joel?!