My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1371 - 1375

Sophia tirelessly took care of Carmen all night long and even slept beside Carmen that night. Michael didn't go home until very late at night. By the time he returned home, he saw Sophia and Carmen sleeping together. After suffering a huge scare, Carmen was clutching her mother's arm tightly as she slept. Moreover, there seemed to be tears in the corner of her eyes.

He initially thought she was asleep. Unexpectedly, her eyes flew open abruptly upon hearing him coming back. "Daddy!"

Taking off his jacket, he whisperingly asked, "Sweetie, why are you still awake?"

She secretly took out a tomato from her pocket and delightedly said, "I wanted to give you this tomato, Daddy! Hurry and eat it while it's still hot!"

When he saw the tomato, he felt a warmth only a father would experience stinging his eyes. "Thanks, sweetie."

Then, he took the tomato from her. She held it for so long that it had gotten warm from her body heat. It looks like she was holding on to it all day long, waiting for me to come home and eat it. He heard that she had handed out souvenirs to everybody when she got home earlier today. As he had been settling matters outside and only came home late at night, he thought he missed the chance to receive some of the souvenirs she handed out. To his surprise, she had saved something for him. Thus, he hurriedly ate it while it was still hot. The tomato still held her body warmth, and he ate the entire tomato, including the calyx.

Carmen watched as he finished eating the tomato. She smiled excitedly at the sight. A new tooth was already growing from where her previous tooth had fallen out not long ago.

After Michael finished eating the tomato, he wiped his mouth and spread open his arms. "Come here; give me a hug. Hurry and go to bed after that, okay?"

Thus, she rushed over and gave him a big hug. After that, she lay back down and pulled her blanket over her. Meanwhile, he looked at his wife and his daughter. He couldn't help d her on her small face before kissing Sophia too.

At first, he had made plans to leave. He had left all his assets to his wife, his daughter, and Celine. He wanted to go to a place where they could never find him and face his predetermined fate. He was going to officially start entering a cryogenic sleep. When the medical treatment services became better in the future, he would resurrect again.

Whether or not I can reunite with Sophia again will be up to fate. However, every time he planned to leave, all sorts of issues would come up. It's truly a test for our little family of three. How can I leave in peace? After he finished taking a look at them, he walked out of the room and went into the living room. To his surprise, everybody else was still awake.

Today, both Cooper and Linus had been so quiet that it was terrifying. It was shocking that they allowed Henry to leave without saying anything at all. Usually, it wouldn't make a difference even if Ryan died in the hands of Lorelei, and Michael shot Henry in the knee. With Cooper's personality, he would never allow things to end so easily. Sure enough...

That night, a piece of international news swept through Bayside City in the middle of the night. A private luxury jet departing from Cethos crashed into an 8,000-meter-high snow-capped mountain not long after it left Cethos' airspace. The plane was completely destroyed, killing over 30 people in it. There were no survivors.

According to the news report, the dead included the two young masters of the Ronney Group. Some speculated that a timed bomb had been installed in the plane, some claimed that the private jet had been shot down by surface-to-air missiles, and some believed that the captain of the plane deliberately drove it into the 8,000-meter-high snow-capped mountain. In any case, the people were dead and the plane was destroyed. It had crashed into the rugged snow-capped mountains. Moreover, it so happened that a heavy snowstorm raged across the mountains that night so it was difficult to even retrieve the corpses.

As the people on board the plane held distinguished statuses and the number of casualties was high, this incident shocked the entire international community. Still, no individuals or organizations stood out to claim responsibility for the incident even after a day had passed. Some claimed that the Fletcher Family was behind it while others claimed that it was the Michel Family. In the end, nobody could confirm the rumors. The news was reported domestically for a bit before it disappeared without further updates.

The news of those deaths made headlines for a few days. However, it was soon overshadowed by the news of Bethany's imprisonment. It was true that the pictures of their deaths were not as attractive as Bethany's handcuffed and bare-faced photos. As for how the bodies would be retrieved, nobody knew. It was located on an 8,000-meter-high snow-capped mountain ravaged by blizzards. Furthermore, it belonged to a small Central

Asian country. There were too many difficulties surrounding the issue. Hence, it was most likely that those 30 or so people would forever remain frozen on top of the mountain.

Back at the hospital, Nathan and Quinton woke up. This time around, everybody within the Fletcher Family got to know Quinton. They only knew him as 'Hope Fletcher', a child of the Fletcher Family. He had always lived abroad and only came back to the country recently. At present, he was a lecturer at Bayside University.

During the incident the other day, he blocked the fanatics, killed many people, and saved many children. While Quinton recuperated in the hospital, many people visited him every day and brought fruits, gifts, and flowers with them. As a result, a bunch of gifts were piled up next to his bed.

In contrast, Nathan's bedside, which was located in the same hospital ward, was much more barren. There were only several packs of strawberries and apples. He didn't even get any flowers. After all, he had lost consciousness after losing too much blood due to his injuries. On the other hand, Quinton suffered several gunshot wounds that fortunately did not hit any of his vital spots. Their injuries could not be compared.

Carmen dropped by after school every day to visit both Quinton and Nathan. When she arrived today, she unwrapped all the presents sitting beside Quinton's bed. She also ate all his fruits and supplements, enjoying them to their fullest. Then, she proudly said, "Uncle Quinton, they called you a great hero!"

Quinton had never imagined that he, who had killed throughout his life, could ever earn the title of a great hero. The world truly is unpredictable. Still, he had never caused any trouble at school nor killed any minors despite being a killer. Even if he was a killer, he had his own principles. At the moment, he was still hooked up to the intravenous drip. He proudly said, "I'm a great hero now! Are you proud of me?"

She happily replied, "I'm very proud of you!"

Looking at how many presents Quinton received, Stanley snorted in dissatisfaction. Sophia was sitting in front of his hospital bed while slicing some fruits for him. Celine also came over with her daughter. Meanwhile, Stanley brought over a large portion of pork knuckles during his visit. He made it look extremely delicious as he ate it by the bed. Unfortunately, Nathan was not allowed to eat them due to his injuries. Thus, he gritted his teeth in resentment.

For that reason, Stanley deliberately teased him. "Here; Nate-Tan! Do you want some? If you come back to work for me, I'll let you have some."

Nathan snorted and turned his face away.

He once worked at Stanley's company during his summer vacation when he was much younger. Afterward, Justin established a new security company. Refusing to continue working under Stanley, he quickly joined Justin's company instead.

Back when he was younger, he had been fair and chubby. Later, he often returned to the Fletcher Residence for military training. As time went on, he slowly tanned until he took on the Fletcher family's traditional bronze-toned skin. Furthermore, Carmen liked to braid his hair into pigtails at home. So, he changed his hairstyle to a buzzcut. Following the changes to his appearance, his nickname went from 'Nate' to 'Nate-Tan'.

Similarly, Quinton was also gradually developing the Fletcher Family's traditional look of a buzzcut and bronze-toned skin. It seemed that Michael was the fairest in the Fletcher Family. He probably took after his mother, or it could also be due to his constant skincare regime.

Cooper also stopped by for a visit. After his visit, he said to Sophia, "I'm heading to the Adams Group."

"The Adams Group?" Sophia immediately understood his intentions. "Dad, are you going to meet Bailey?"

At the mention of Bailey's name, Carmen and Michael pricked up their ears in attention.

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Cooper nodded. "Bailey rescued Carmen during the last incident. I must go and give my thanks to him in person."

Sophia hurriedly said, "Why don't you invite him to our house? I'll ask the chefs to prepare something delicious for him."

Invite him home? No way! Definitely not! Even so, Michael did not openly express his opinions. On the other hand, Stanley hurriedly encouraged them by saying, "That's right! Make something delicious, and make sure you make tons of it. You should make lots of that

salamander dish for our guest... All the delicacies that you can imagine! We have to make it a huge affair! After all, it's Carmen's savior we're talking about!"

If Bailey had not helped them that day, it would have taken a much longer time to rescue Lorelei and Carmen from the Yard Residence. Besides, guns did not discriminate. It was questionable whether Carmen and Lorelei could have walked out of there alive without his help.

Originally, Cooper wanted to visit with some gifts to show his sincerity. However, he decided he might as well invite Bailey over for dinner after giving it some thought. It was Cethosian tradition to interact with each other over a meal. Therefore, treating Bailey to a meal would seem more formal.

All of a sudden, Michael was reminded of the old-fashioned words that that fifteen-year-old 'old man' had uttered the other day: 'I don't interact with youngsters.' That probably meant that Cooper had to go and thank him himself. Pfft. Old man.

Still, Bailey's existence made his skin crawl. Bailey took over the family's business at a young age and had been working hard ever since. Moreover, he already had various achievements under his belt. Geniuses like him were absolutely terrifying! Despite his youth, his level of sophistry was so deep that even an adult could no longer understand him. How could my cute and naïve Carmen be a match for the wily and conniving Bailey Adams?

Although Cooper wanted to invite Bailey over for dinner, he still felt that he shouldn't skimp on the gift of gratitude. Hence, he brought some gifts with him to the Adams Group during his visit to thank Bailey in person.

"I'll go too!" Carmen had been acting cute in Michael's arms. When she saw that Cooper was leaving, she immediately chased after him.

"Carmen Fletcher! Come back here right now!" Michael hurriedly chased after her.
Unfortunately, she ran as swiftly as the wind and disappeared in the blink of an eye. Sigh.
My daughter is growing up! She's just like her mother! She's going to be caught in that old man's hands eventually! She's only five years old. It feels like it wasn't all that long since she was born yet it already feels like somebody is going to take her away from me.

In the meantime, Sophia called Carmen to specially remind her, "Sweetie, don't forget to invite Mr. Bailey over to our house for dinner, okay?"

Michael couldn't see eye-to-eye with Bailey, but Sophia felt that Bailey was perfect. Bailey was handsome with his long eyelashes and unique green eyes. His legs were long and slender, his skin was smooth, and his facial features were good. Moreover, his family background matched theirs too. He is the perfect match for Carmen. He is smart and courageous. Even though he is only 15 years old, he is already so outstanding! I'm sure he'll be even more amazing in the future! It would be great if Carmen and Bailey got to know each other better. That way, they will be childhood friends when they grow up, and it will be easier to make a move on him. Still, everything depends on whether they are fated to be together.

On the other hand, Michael believed that girls needed to have their own careers nowadays. Carmen came from an extraordinary family. Her grandfather was a president of a company as were her father and her mother. Even her uncles and brothers were presidents of their own companies. In the future, Carmen would no doubt become a domineering female president too. In that case, 30 or 40 or 50 would still be considered too early for marriage. Besides, she is only five years old right now! What is there to be anxious about? When she gets married when she's around 40 or 50 years old, she should find a younger husband that is around 20 or 30 years old. Wouldn't that be great? Why would she want an old man?!

Inside the president's office at the Adams Group.

The Adams Insurance Group had been operating in Cethos for some time now, and the branch company was almost ready to begin operations. Bailey was here for an inspection. Thus, he decided to visit his friends and family while he was at it. He had not expected to run into any incidents when he visited Louis.

He constantly paid close attention to what that pair of Yard twins did. Not only did the Yard twins publicly attack the police with guns, but they also openly kidnapped and harmed others with guns. Fortunately for them, their father, Jordan Edwards, had enough power and influence to clean up the troubles they caused. Jordan ultimately managed to gloss over the issues, but it undoubtedly made the higher-ups in Cethos wary of him. As a result, he didn't even dare to make a sound in protest when the Yard Family's private jet crashed and killed around 30 people, including his two sons. That was how serious the problem was. This time around, he had been dragged down by his two sons to the point where he nearly lost everything.

When Bailey made his move, he had already considered the pros and cons of his actions. He was simply taking advantage of the situation to his own benefit. After all, Cooper would never forgive the Yard twins after what they did. Even if Bailey took action and injured somebody in the process, Jordan would still put all the blame on Cooper.

"Bailey, thank you very much for your help this time. If it wasn't for you, I don't know what might have happened to the two girls," Cooper solemnly said.

Bailey was extremely humble. "It was nothing."

There was a tea table installed in the office. Bailey liked to brew his own tea whenever he had the time and was in the middle of preparing some tea for Cooper.

Cethosian southerners liked to drink tea—so much so that they had tea sets everywhere. It was said that the aroma of tea increased one's clarity and awareness. Therefore, southerners liked to drink tea while discussing business. They believed that the more they drank, the more alert they became; the more they drank, the smarter they became.

Bailey poured a cup of tea for Cooper. Then, Cooper stretched out his hand to hold the empty teacup. It was part of their tea etiquette. Bailey also poured a cup of tea for Carmen. To his surprise, her small hand immediately stretched out to hold her cup too. She was smart and quickly copied what her grandfather did.

How polite. Bailey felt his heart melting slightly and expressly warned her in a soft voice, "Careful; it's hot. You should take your hand away."

Upon hearing that, Carmen quickly took her hand away. While the adults were talking, she obediently sat by the side without saying anything while watching Bailey with her large, black eyes.

She is probably trying to see if I will smile. Bailey glanced at her cool and intelligent appearance. Then, an unprecedented smile graced his lips. It was a gentle smile that was barely perceptible.

In Cethos, there was an inevitable custom when two or more adults were talking with a child present. "Come, sweetie. Why don't you perform something for Mr. Bailey?" At Cooper's behest, Carmen hurriedly stood up. She danced and sang for the two of them with a voice as sweet as a nightingale's. It felt like a pair of slender and gentle hands were gently caressing their ears and their hearts.

Meanwhile, Bailey felt as if a gurgling stream was flowing in his heart. At the same time, it felt as if a warm breeze was blowing in his ears. He felt his entire being becoming calm. This long-lost sense of peace... It felt like Carmen had only just started singing. To his

surprise, Carmen had already finished her song and returned to her seat beside her grandfather. However, he had not gotten enough yet.

Cooper couldn't help but praise Carmen. When he was done praising her, they continued drinking tea. Carmen listened to their conversation, but she drowsily nodded off as time went on. Thus, Bailey brought her into his lounge to rest.

Afterward, only Bailey and Cooper remained by the tea-table. They felt more energized after drinking several cups of tea. Then, Bailey finally spoke up. "Mr. Mitchell, I'm sure you know what I want. I hope you will marry Tiffany."

Cooper said nothing in response. He owed Bailey a huge favor. That debt of gratitude was something he needed to return eventually. Unfortunately, this debt was not something that could be settled via money or gifts—Bailey wanted him to pay it back with his body.

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Cooper knew something about the relationship between the Adams Family: Tiffany didn't like Bailey, so Bailey wanted to get rid of Tiffany and her daughter too.

However, both parties had reached an agreement when it came to the marriage between Tiffany and Cooper.

Tiffany wanted to marry Cooper; Bailey, too, wanted them to get married.

If she got together with Cooper, her power would be greatly increased, which would be detrimental to Bailey.

Yet, this might not be the case too.

Tiffany's love for Cooper was genuine. If she got married to him, she would definitely change her surname to Michel. Once she changed it, Bailey would immediately hold a meeting between the board of directors to remove Tiffany from the board.

Therefore, Bailey wanted to help to tie the knot.

A daughter who was married was like spilled water. The easiest way to weaken Tiffany's influence within the Adams Family was to find her a man she adored. After she got married, she would be blinded by love and happiness.

Nonetheless, there was no way Cooper would marry Tiffany. But, what he owed should be paid. As to how he should pay it back, it depended on the situation. Still, it was impossible for him to repay her with his body...

"Be sure to come to my house for dinner tomorrow night. Joel will be there too. You guys can talk about Lola's matter during dinner." Before Cooper left, he didn't forget to remind Bailey about the dinner at his place.

Bailey nodded as he watched them leave.

Carmen had been carried out before she even woke up. She was dozing off in Cooper's arms; drowsiness was evident on her baby-soft face.

When they finally left, Bailey went back to the lounge. Inside the room, he found a plain-looking little box lying beside a pillow.

The box was decorated with floral motif stickers. As soon as he opened it, he found three unattractive apricots inside the box. The apricots were of high quality, and they were completely ripe. However, these apricots appeared to have been left for a few days, so they had gone bad. Thus, they were no longer edible. Bailey squeezed one of the apricots with his fingers, and the apricot broke apart easily; the juices splashed out and stained his fingers.

After he cleaned his hand, he simply threw the box and the apricots into the trash can.

Yet, when he turned around and took a few steps forward, his mind was still preoccupied with the horrible packaging. Although the wrapping was ugly, it was delicately ugly in some way.

Perhaps, the one who wrapped it poured their heart into the packaging. Unfortunately, their skills are limited...

On the following night, Bailey dressed himself up and went to Cooper's house for dinner. When Sophia came to the door, she praised him the moment she saw him.

"Hello, Bailey! Come on; there was no need to bring a gift! Wow, your outfit is unique! Even your bracelet looks extraordinary!"

There seemed to be three apricot kernels stranded on Bailey's bracelet.

Sophia wondered why he wore three apricot kernels on the bracelet. Those were just three ordinary apricot seeds, and there was nothing special about them. Why did he wear them on his wrist?

Is this the new trend amongst old men in Bayside City? To string apricot kernels on bracelets?

Hmm... I have to remember this. Maybe, I can make two limited-edition custom-made apricot kernels bracelets and sell them to old men.

Bailey didn't want to explain himself. Instead, he acted like an elder and said to Sophia coldly, "I'm here to visit your father."

Immediately, Sophia welcomed him into the house. Carmen had already returned from kindergarten. She wore the frog pajamas her brother used to wear in the past and was playing with the cat inside the living room.

Bailey took a seat in the living room. The moment Michael saw him, he carried Carmen and the cat back upstairs, refusing to let this 'old man' look at his daughter.

Unexpectedly, the moment he headed downstairs, Sophia brought Carmen back down excitedly again.

"Come on, Carmen. Say hello to Bailey."

Obediently, Carmen greeted, "Hello, Bailey!"

However, Bailey remained unperturbed. His expression was calm, and he nodded to her greeting.

To him, Sophia and Carmen were from the younger generation, and he was an elder. Thus, he had to keep his composure.

After the greeting, Michael was eager to bring Carmen away again. Despite his intention, Sophia, once again, put Carmen next to Bailey and said, "Go on. Talk to Bailey."

Looking at his wife, Michael was rendered speechless.

Does she really think that she's Bailey's mother-in-law?

There's no way I'll marry my daughter to this old man!

"Come here. Come to Daddy." Michael went over and lifted Carmen into his arms. Naturally, he sat next to Bailey, keeping his eyes on Bailey at all times.

After a while, Stanley and Sean came. As soon as they walked in, Stanley put his kid down and rushed into the kitchen. "Aunt, what are we eating tonight?"

Soon, Joel, who was dressed in casual clothes, arrived with his family too. Lola saw Bailey the moment she came through the door. When Bailey looked up, his eyes met with hers.

Sarah, who was living next door, hurried over when she heard that Sophia's old son-in-law was here.

The house was crowded, and the atmosphere was lively.

Kids were running around as they pleased. They appeared not to be aware of the conflicts between the adults.

Today, apart from Stanley's family, who was here to get a free meal, and Harry's family that dropped by, no one seemed to be in a good mood.

After Michael learned that Bailey robbed them in broad daylight and wanted something in return, he was very upset. Bailey probably wanted Cooper to marry Tiffany. However, it was obvious that Cooper didn't want to do it. According to custom, a child had to pay for their father's debt. Yet, Linus led a carefree life. There was no way he would agree to the arranged marriage and sacrifice himself.

Moreover, Sophia was married to him.

All that was left was Carmen.

This basically meant that Bailey wanted to marry Carmen.

What an evil old man!

Joel was not in a good mood. Cooper invited him today so that he could discuss Lola's future with Bailey in person. He had not expected that Lola's biological father, Blade—the killer that was killed by the Fletcher Family—was related to the Adams Family.

And Bailey wanted to take Lola with him.

Other than Cooper and Joel, Justin was not happy too. Subconsciously, he glanced at Celine. She was still as silly as always. Like a child, she was sharing jellies with Lola excitedly.

"Here is a strawberry jelly for you, Lola."

Lola took the jelly and ate it happily while Celine stared at her with her silly smile.

She didn't know that Lola was her daughter, and no one was willing to tell her. Still, she was very fond of Lola; after all, Lola was her own daughter.

In order to spare Justin's feelings, Michael and the Fletchers decided not to disclose Lola's identity. Although they only told him that Lola was the lost child of the Fletcher Family, Justin knew the truth.

The existence of Lola was a torment for Justin. However, the Fletcher Family couldn't ignore her.

Besides, Lola's own father was killed by the Fletchers. The murderer was right by her side.

What would Lola and the others think when they found out in the future?

What would the Fletchers think?

Would Lola hate the Fletchers for killing her father?

Would the Fletchers be cautious of Lola because her father was a killer?

Those were the reasons Joel was persuaded by Bailey and was sitting right here.

The kids ran around happily, yet the adults were very moody.

Bailey had made himself clear. Even if Lola returned to the Adams Family, he would not treat her shabbily. Back then, her father was showered by love and affection in the family, but he was kidnapped when he was young. The Adams Family flipped the world upside down to search for him, but still, there was no sign of him. Now that they learned about her existence, the relatives from her father's side wanted to get her back.

The moment she returned to the family, there would be immeasurable assets waiting for her to inherit.

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It took a while before Joel finally decided to meet Bailey. Before this, Tiffany had contacted him, but he refused to meet her.

He stared at Lola, who was playing with the kids happily. She was different from all of them. The Fletchers were a military family, and they were extremely sensitive when it came to marriage. Traditionally, they would not marry a foreigner, so mixed-race children were rare in the family. At the moment, Lola was one of the most unique children amongst the Fletchers.

Her green eyes were too eye-catching.

Besides, her father was killed by the Fletchers.

They desired for this secret to stay hidden forever. If it couldn't be kept secret...

Joel looked at Michael. Celine had become retarded, so regarding Lola's future, Michael, as her uncle, should have a say.

However, Michael was struggling to handle Lola too. He thought it would be better if Lola stayed with the Fletcher Family. Yet, he was afraid that Bailey would visit them every day using Lola as an excuse, and disturb his daughter...

Joel turned to look at Justin. He... could be considered a stepfather. As a stepfather, he should have an opinion too. But, Justin chose to avoid his gaze. Lola's existence was his greatest pain. He believed he was extremely generous to allow Lola to visit them so often.

In the end, Joel announced solemnly, "Lola is already ten years old. She gets to call the shot sometimes."

In response, Bailey nodded. Standing up, he walked toward Lola.

"Lola, I'm Bailey. I'm your great-uncle. Come here. I have something to tell you."

Lola stared at the young-looking great-uncle in surprise. She turned around, seeking Joel, but she saw Joel smiling at her. "This is your biological father's relative. He has something to tell you."

As if she had noticed something, Lola followed Bailey in a daze.

On the balcony on the second floor, Bailey and Lola sat down face to face under the dim light.

Starting from Lola's identity, Bailey began, "Your biological father, Blade, was one of the Adams. He was a lost child and had you when he was outside. You are the blood of the Adam Family, and I want to bring you back."

Upon hearing that, Lola was puzzled. She had no memory of her biological father. No, there were still some vague memories. She knew when she was very young that there was always an uncle who would come and visit her. He always brought her a lot of delicious food. He told her to study hard, so she wouldn't end up like him.

Apart from that, she remembered nothing about her own father and mother.

Seeing that Lola wasn't speaking, Bailey asked again, "Do you want to come with me, Lola?"

Lola stared at him and shook her head. She said, "I like the Fletchers. Is it okay if I don't go with you?"

At that moment, Bailey's gaze froze. His gaze was fixated on her and he couldn't move his eyes away.

As if she was a little worried, Lola explained, "I don't want to leave my parents and my brother."

She didn't want to leave the Fletcher Family at all. In fact, she liked it here a lot. She loved the atmosphere; she loved Joel, Maddie, Drew, and every friend she had around her.

The air fell silent for a short moment.

In the end, Bailey could only ruffle her hair and nodded. "Of course. It's your own choice. If you want to go with me one day, you can call me anytime."

Turning around, Lola ran away without looking back. Bailey, who was standing on the balcony on the second floor, could see Lola running into the garden.

Joel was waiting for her inside the garden. He had been eavesdropping on their conversation from downstairs, afraid that Bailey would tell Lola something he shouldn't have said. However, Bailey didn't say anything out of the ordinary.

Although he knew about everything, he didn't mention them to Lola. She deserved to have a healthy personality. She deserved to live in a blissful family and grow up happily. For the time being, some things were better left unsaid.

"Daddy!" Lola rushed toward Joel.

Although Joel looked like a hard father, there was something about him that inadvertently showed his love for Lola. He said, "Lola, you're still young. You can go anywhere you want. I will not stop you."

Gleefully, Lola exclaimed, "I want to stay with Daddy and Mommy!"

When she first joined the Fletchers Family, she wanted to go back to her previous home. However, they said she could never go back. Thus, she could only stay. Slowly, she adapted to life at the Fletchers. Every day, she woke up to the noise of the army's morning training. She would quickly get up, make her bed, and brush her teeth. Before leaving for school, she joined the training to keep up with her health.

She loved that kind of life, she loved the Fletcher Family, and she loved her current parents and brother. She would never go anywhere else!

From the second floor, Bailey remained expressionless as he stared at the happy father-daughter pair.

The reason he wanted to adopt Lola was simply that she was the heir to an inheritance. Anyone who adopted her would be her guardian, and they would be able to take control of the money.

However, he felt that Lola would be more content to have a happy family rather than a cold inheritance.

Once upon a time, he had a happy family too. His parents were his role models and were strict in educating him. From a young age, he was involved in the family business, learning to become a decision-maker. His parents had high hopes for him, but they never forced him to do the things he didn't like.

Unfortunately, that year, his parents died in an accident and everything changed.

His house became an empty shell. Like a tornado, it swept away everything from his world.

Later, there were a bunch of kind-hearted relatives who wanted to take him in. Just like Lola's case, once they adopted him, they would be able to control the inheritance left over by his parents, and they would be able to take away everything that once belonged to his family.

Back then, he didn't want to be adopted. Instead, he took over everything left by his parents. Clenching his jaws, he propped up a piece of his own sky and found himself a bright future in the gloom.

That year, he was probably about ten years old, just like Lola.

When Bailey was diving deep into his thoughts, the young Carmen was already quietly seated on the chair where Lola had sat earlier. Staring at him with her bright eyes, she suddenly asked, "Bailey, are you unhappy?"

Although Bailey knew she was there, he continued to look outside the balcony, staring at the night view of the Imperial in a daze.

"Happy? What does it mean to be happy? What does it mean to be... unhappy?"

As he blinked, his long, curly eyelashes fluttered. With a deep voice, he went on, "Happiness means nothing to me."

Yet, Carmen continued to look at him blankly. She probably didn't get what he was trying to say.

Turning around, Bailey observed her adorable expression. There was a layer of softness rippling in his heart and an unprecedented smile crawled onto his face. "You'll understand that when you grow up."

He was very jealous of Carmen. She was loved by her parents, grandfather, and uncle. She even had the love and support given by the other three families.

Isn't it good to live carefreely and happily?

He lifted his head from hell to look at her, who was in heaven. He saw the shining halo on her head and jealousy flowed through his eyes.

Meanwhile, Michael was looking for his daughter. She had gone missing in a blink of an eye. As if by coincidence, he went upstairs and saw Carmen talking to Bailey.

Damn you, old man! Why are you staring at my daughter with that sketchy look? Why are you acting like there are a lot of regrets in your life?

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Just when Michael was about to greet them, Carmen took out her personal baby bottle and put it in Bailey's arm. She said, "Here you go. This is my happy milk. You'll be happy if you drink it."

When Michael saw her actions, he almost went mad. That was the milk specially formulated by a nutritionist according to Carmen's physical development. How dare she give it to someone else so easily! And her personal baby bottle too!

Staring at the warm bottle of milk in his hand, Bailey was stunned for a moment. In the end, he gave it back. "Drink it on your own. I don't drink milk anymore."

Beside them, Michael quickly called out, "Baby, come here. Dinner's ready."

Carmen ran to her father. Although Michael had carried her away, Bailey could still hear her talking. "Bailey doesn't want to drink my happy milk."

"Then, give it to Daddy," said Michael.

"But, you're already happy without drinking the milk. Bailey needs to drink it because he's not happy," argued Carmen.

Bailey sat on the balcony alone, enjoying the darkness that was enveloping him. His time alone ended when Sophia came looking for him for dinner.

Sophia always had delicious dishes prepared at home. The family's chef was a retired chef from a five-star restaurant. His cooking skills were exceptional. Besides, Michael was willing to pay big bucks for good food, and the ingredients at home came from their own farm. Therefore, everyone was looking forward to the dinner.

Even Harry, who lived next door, often visited with his family to mooch free meals. Since there were guests today, they prepared even more dishes. The largest and longest dining table had been moved out in order to cater to the number of dishes. There were all kinds of nice dishes; it was a mixture of Western and Cethosian cuisine.

Sophia's family, Joel's family, Harry's family, Stanley's family, Justin's family, and Bailey barely fit on the dining table; it was still slightly packed.

Bailey sat between Cooper and Sophia. Sophia, who was very fond of her old son-in-law, had been enthusiastically helping him with his food.

"Try this, Bailey. This replenishes your body, so you can grow taller."

"Here, try some soup."

"Just tell me what you like to eat. I'll get the chef to prepare them next time."

She took care of him as if he was really her son-in-law, yet Bailey treated her like she was his niece. On the other hand, Michael was watching them bitterly. Sophia had never treated him with such passion before...

In the meantime, Stanley was slurping food like a pig; Sarah was taking pictures of the food with her phone; Justin was helping Celine with the dishes and giving Nathan some vegetables at the same time. When the kids were done eating, they sat aside to chat.

While Poppy was drinking her milk, she asked, "Is that your boyfriend?" She had also seen Bailey. Hmm... He looks quite handsome.

Yet, Carmen was still staring at Bailey, who was sitting beside Cooper, with light in her eyes. She didn't answer Poppy's question.

Maisie took a glance at Bailey. Frowning, she said, "He looks kind of old."

This time, Audrey joined in and commented, "Sour Face looks better than him."

"Hmph, all men are pigs. They are the same no matter how they look, especially old men with no baby fat," snorted Poppy.

Discontented, Maisie pouted and said, "But, I think Nate is pretty good. He's not a pig."

As if she was a victim of love, Poppy took a deep breath and said, "Carmen, you cannot take the relationship too seriously. Men are liars. The reason they go out with you is to take your toys away from you!"

Recently, Maisie just got dumped in the kindergarten. For several days, the boy took away her snacks and her toys. When he found another girl with more toys, he broke up with her unilaterally. For that reason, she was in her post-breakup depression period. Every time she saw a boy, she felt disgusted. Now, after learning that Carmen was in a relationship, she wanted to stop her. "There is nothing good about men! You have to keep your eyes open."

Unfortunately, it seemed like Carmen was utterly immersed in the ocean of love; she could not accept Maisie's words of advice.

All of a sudden, she heard Sophia say, "Are you leaving already, Bailey? Why don't you stay a little longer?"

Like lightning, Carmen darted toward the door and saw Bailey, who had finished his meal, walking toward the door. Sophia was there to send him out. Immediately, Carmen said in a hurry, "Goodbye, Bailey."

Bailey nodded at her and marched toward the door. Meanwhile, Sophia got someone to pack a lot of things from the kitchen. Enthusiastically, she said, "Here. Bring some souvenirs with you!"

Helplessly, Bailey accepted the bags of snacks and local specialties from her. Along with Carmen, Sophia went to send him out. When they came back, they saw Michael standing by the door. Nonchalantly, he asked, "Did he leave already?"

Before Sophia could say anything, Carmen answered first, "Yeah! Bailey left already!"

Michael still had a grimace on his face. Daughters and dead fish are no keeping wares!

On the other hand, after thanking Bailey, Cooper thought he should express his gratitude to Louis and Anne too. Although Henry and Ryan were Louis' grandsons in name only, Cooper knew that the twins weren't Anna's children from the beginning. However, something like this had happened, and Louis was pushed and bumped his head. He was old and was admitted into the hospital. Considering the circumstances, Cooper felt like he should visit him.

Cooper and Michael took Carmen to the hospital when they went to visit Louis. Louis had also learned about Ryan's death at the Yard Residence and Henry's death on the plane. Jordan had sent people to search for his body on the mountain, but it was nowhere to be found. He would not have survived, but his body would be difficult to find.

As the grandfather of the twins, Louis wasn't wretched at all. All he wanted to say was that they deserved it. He really didn't understand how Anna brought up such a pair of evil kids.

Jordan would not let the one behind the twins' death off the hook. However, the government had already made its final decision. The Yard twins fled after they confronted the military and police; they deserved to die.

As to the identity of the person who made the move, no one had any idea. Cethos did not want to carry out further investigations because the twins were not Cethosian. The plane had left Cethos' airspace, so Cethos had no say in the matter anymore. Moreover, the Yard Family in Bayside City was not dragged into the matter. As someone who was perfectly

clear who his friends and foes were, Cooper felt that this was the least he could do to thank the old man since he would have done the same for them.

During the afternoon, Anne brought food for Louis at the hospital. She was told that Cooper was there. It was unfortunate that Cooper had left with his family before she rushed into Louis' ward. What was left in the ward was the supplements and flowers that he brought. There seemed to be some of his scent lingering in the air, yet he was no longer there. He came and left in a hurry. In the end, Anne missed him. Secretly, she was hurt.

Louis knew what Anne was thinking. Ever since she first met Cooper, he always found her sitting alone in a daze. Even so, it was clear that Cooper was not interested in her. At first, he thought Anne would stop thinking about Cooper and be cheerful again. Unexpectedly, Anne was attached to Cooper. No man had ever drawn her attention since then.

Earlier today, Cooper had made an appointment via phone call before he came over. Louis had deliberately told Anne to deliver his meal later than usual because he wanted to prevent her from running into Cooper. He was afraid that her love for Cooper would bog her down. Unfortunately, her love was so deep that she could no longer withdraw from it.