

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1376 - 1380

The fact that Anne had missed Cooper and couldn't meet him made her blue all day. Just like yesterday, she didn't speak much; even the food she consumed was less than usual.

After thinking about it, Louis made up his mind and pulled open the drawer of the bedside table. From inside, he took out a gracefully packed tiny gift box and said, "Cooper... told me to give this to you. I forgot about it yesterday."

Cooper left this for me?

Instantly, Anne's eyes were shining. Taking over the gift box, she opened it and saw a spoiled apricot.

It's an apricot from Cooper!

Although she did not know the meaning behind this little apricot, it was still a gift from Cooper. Therefore, it had remarkable value.

Staring at Anne, who was extremely content, Louis was sad. That apricot was indeed a gift from Cooper. However, it was something Cooper gave on behalf of Carmen. It was a gift from Carmen, who wanted to thank Anne for hiding her inside the dressing room.

Forget it. It's fine as long as she's happy...

In the past two days, Michael had been running around. Jordan's strike on Cooper this time was also an attack on him. Both of them had worked together to fight back. Furthermore, Jordan's two sons had committed a serious crime. Even though the two bastards were dead and had dragged more than twenty people along with them, the incident still shook the people of Cethos.

The Fletcher Family knew who shot the plane down. Cethos and Jordan knew it too. Yet, there was no further investigation. Hence, the incident was considered solved.

Jordan did not have the courage to fight for his sons. The government had concluded that it was a serious terrorist attack. Now that it had crossed the limits of the higher-ups in Cethos, it was hard for Jordan to deny responsibility. However, he was influential and had connections. Therefore, even if his two sons and dozens of lives had been sacrificed, he managed to avoid culpability.

Nonetheless, he would not be able to escape for long because this incident had alerted the higher-ups.

He really did raise two 'good' sons!

Recently, Michael was extremely busy. The film set was located in the valley. Although it was convenient for him to commute to work and go home every day, he had to work with Cooper to deal with Jordan and worry about Carmen's love life.

Carmen brought bags of local specialties from the farm, and Michael knew exactly who the local specialties were given to, including where each cherry had gone. However, the four apricots' whereabouts remained unknown.

Before they went to visit Louis, Carmen wrapped one of the apricots. The packaging was so ugly, yet she insisted on giving it to Anne. Sophia had to repackage it and add some floral motif stickers before they could just about give it out.

But, where were the other three apricots?

He made an inquiry behind Carmen's back, but there was no answer. When Sophia accidentally revealed that Bailey had a very unique bracelet that was strung with three apricot kernels, he finally knew where those apricots went. The reason Sophia initiated the conversation was to ask Michael to endorse a limited-edition bracelet with apricot kernel carvings she had decided to launch. After discovering the answer, Michael's heart sank. Shit!

Sure enough; I knew that the old man had an ulterior motive. They even started exchanging tokens of love?!

Carmen gave him three apricot kernels. What did he give her, then?

Since then, Michael began to keep an eye on Carmen's every action. He knew everything about her like the palm of his hand. If he saw something unfamiliar within the clothes and toys she had, he would inquire about the origin.

As expected, he found an unfamiliar pendant on Carmen's bag one day. Alerted, Michael asked cautiously, "Who gave that to you? Was it Bailey?"

Unlike Michael, Sophia was extremely pleased. "Oh, did Bailey give it to you? Let Mommy take a look. Oh my god! How beautiful! Bailey really has good taste!"

Looking at his wife's reaction, Michael was speechless.

"It's a gift from the kindergarten teacher to the most disciplined kid!" said Carmen as she pouted.

Michael was once again dumbfounded.

Whenever he saw toys, bracelets, and shoes that he had never seen before around Carmen, he would interrogate carefully, fearing that Bailey would snatch his daughter away behind his back.

He even tried to find two spies that would check on Carmen on behalf of him.

"Poppy, come here. Come to Godfather."

He lured Poppy to his side with a toy. Solemnly, he said, "Men are pigs. If Carmen falls in love with any boy in the kindergarten, you have to tell me, okay?"

Poppy nodded seriously. "Don't worry, Godfather. I'll never let any boy get close to Carmen!"

"Okay, go. From now on, it is your responsibility to protect Carmen!"

Poppy, who was broken by love, kept an eye on Carmen every day in the kindergarten. She was determined to protect her from boys and had been sending photos of different boys to Michael every day.

Unfortunately, none of them looked like Bailey.

Coward, you're pretty good at hiding!

How dare you play games with me?!

Like a searchlight, Michael became even more attentive to Carmen. He was determined not to let her fall in love at such an early age.

In his opinion, to fall in love under the age of forty was considered puppy love.

Nevertheless, Sophia had a different opinion. She thought it would be better if Carmen could give it a try earlier. From her perspective, she thought Michael was too sensitive.

During the day, Carmen won a prize for her crayon drawing. Enthusiastically, she went home and showed her family the drawing.

“This is Daddy, Mommy, Grandpa, Uncle Linus, Aunt Celine, Uncle Justin, Uncle Quinton...”

Holding her drawing up, she showed it to everyone. It was a family portrait, and she was introducing the characters one by one. “There is also Cash, Penny, Chrysanthemum...”

With sharp eyes, Michael immediately noticed a green-eyed character with long eyelashes in the drawing. Solemnly, he asked, “Who is this?”

It was too obvious. The drawing almost summarized all of Bailey’s characteristics: green eyes, long eyelashes, and long legs. Although the drawing was very abstract, Michael could recognize him with just one glance.

Upon hearing her father’s question, Carmen’s face flushed, and she blinked. Instead of answering him, she buried her face into Sophia’s arms.

Letting out a chuckle, Sophia said, “This is Bailey, right? See how smart Mommy is! I could tell who it was at one glance!”

Shyly, Carmen nodded. However, Michael felt like his world was collapsing.

How dare she include that green-eyed man with long eyelashes into the drawing? How dare she draw him in the same picture with her own father?

His sky collapsed.

Michael almost went frantic. Yet, Carmen felt aggrieved and pouted. "Daddy, do you... not like Bailey?"

Of course, I don't like him!

He couldn't wait to let Bailey experience what it was like to be forced to eat eggplant with minced pork!

However, when Carmen stared at him with aggrieved eyes, he couldn't speak the truth even when he felt wronged.

So, I can't even hate Bailey now?

Luckily, Sophia quickly came and mediated the situation. "Our darling has grown up and has her own little secret! You must tell us when this kind of thing happens again! Mommy can give you some advice."

Carmen nodded shyly.

Michael almost exploded out of rage.

Give her advice?

Oh, how I want to turn him into barbecue!

In the end, before the couple went to bed, they had an extensive bedtime chat to summarize the relationship between Carmen and Bailey.

Michael went first to express his opinion. "Carmen is too young. Besides, she's so naïve and cute. Bailey's a deep one. Our darling is not his opponent. She will never beat him. So, I'll never agree to their relationship."

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However, Sophia felt that Michael was overthinking. "Carmen is still young. I just want her to make more friends. What are you thinking? Besides, it's normal for girls to have feelings for boys..."

Still, Michael stood his ground. "That 'old man' Bailey's intention isn't right. Look at his eyes. He always looks sketchy."

Lying in Michael's arms, Sophia adjusted into a comfortable position. Resting her foot on his leg, she rubbed up and down.

"Hubby, if it weren't for Bailey, Carmen might not have been able to come back. I think he's brave and daring. He's not bad."

Instantly, Michael protested, "Huh; he has already seen through the situation. He knew the Yard twins were pushing themselves against the wall and that was why he took action. If it was under normal circumstances, he would never have done that because he would've been afraid of offending the Yard Family and the Edwards Family."

Staring at Michael's anxious expression, Sophia couldn't help but laugh. She reached out and caressed his furrowed brows.

"Look at how worried you are. Your wrinkles are coming out..."

She turned over and lay on top of Michael's body. "Look at you. Why are you in such a hurry? Aren't we here by your side?"

She thought Bailey was a decent boy. And, that it was good if he were to develop an interest in Carmen in the future.

He had a bright future. Although he was indeed sharp-witted, if he was fond of Carmen, his intelligence would become the best weapon he could wield to protect Carmen. She also hoped her son-in-law would be someone clever so that Carmen wouldn't have to suffer too much.

Michael glanced at Sophia. He looked like he wanted to say something, but he swallowed his words and said nothing.

He was afraid that he would leave them one day. What would happen if the mother-daughter pair were secretly fooled by others?

He couldn't consider Bailey as a fifteen-year-old boy. He was a deep and unpredictable one. When he passed away, Sophia and Carmen would definitely be no match for Bailey.

True love?

True love is bullsh*t!

The reason Bailey is trying to get close to Carmen is definitely because of money!

Quickly, Michael said, "Anyway, I really don't like Bailey. He's too calculative at such a young age and that makes my scalp prickly. You have to be careful. He's not that simple. You can't consider him a kid anymore."

Yet, as he turned over, Sophia had already fallen asleep. She remained lying on him with her hands still on his neck.

Michael gently turned her body to position her face upward so that she could sleep more comfortably. Immediately, Sophia clung to him like a cat. She wrapped her arms around his waist and buried her face in his chest; she proceeded to sleep like a baby.

Unlike her, Michael couldn't sleep for a long time as he stared at her. It was as if the thought of losing her would materialize as soon as he closed his eyes.

In her dream, Sophia dreamed of a beautiful and juicy cherry growing on her meat blanket...

The incident of the Yard twins had been forgotten by the public. Jordan was afraid to make a big deal on behalf of them even though he knew the plane was shot down by a surface-to-air missile. If it wasn't the Michel Family who had done it, it was definitely the Fletcher Family. However, he was afraid to argue and had to keep his grievances to himself.

Besides that, the dispute between Jordan and the Fletcher Family had also come to an end. Christine was rehabilitating in the military hospital. Since she was now rich, she got herself the best doctor and paid for the best facilities she could get. Her condition was getting better. The Bishop Family and the Evans Family had been sent away. After being intimidated by power, they finally knew how big the world was. In the end, they went back to their rural hometown and behaved themselves.

The Fletcher Family was disappointed by Stanley's flash marriage. The fact that Stanley continued to live with Sean upset the Fletchers even more.

Nevertheless, they could not do anything even if they were upset. They had already beaten and scolded him. Still, he was their precious child. There was no way they would beat him into a fool. Stanley's parents were ready to have a male daughter-in-law. Yet, there was no news of that from Stanley's side for a long time.

They were so worried for him.

Soon, the news about Nicole's marriage spread out to the public like wildfire. It quickly replaced the news of the Yard twins as the new headline.

Everyone knew about Nicole's dark history. After she went public with Sam, everyone started to count down to the date they would break up.

However, they didn't break up. Instead, they kept a low profile and got married. By the time the public found out about it, their wedding ceremony had long ended.

The public even thought that the wedding was fake and that they had divorced a long time ago.

Every celebrity in their right mind would want to hold their wedding ceremony in a grandiose fashion. It would be even better if they could invite everyone from the entertainment industry. On top of that, to be able to marry someone like Sam, their guests would have included the big shots from the political and business worlds. This was the perfect opportunity for her to show off. If it were someone else, they would have broadcasted every aspect of the event including when they changed their undergarments.

Yet, Nicole had been lying low. No media was present at the scene, and no one was showing off their invitation letters.

Later, Nicole's marriage became a legend. Many people heard about it, but none actually saw it. 'Insiders' even revealed that the pair had already broken up a long time ago. A celebrity like Nicole, who had won Oscars on numerous occasions, was still just a mere actress. She was just a plaything amongst the elite.

They believed that Sam was just messing around with her. There was no way they would get married because their families were not of equal social rank. They would not get together since Sam wasn't stupid.

The wedding ceremony was just a rumor Nicole's team spread out in order to save face.

However, Sophia knew that the pair had indeed tied the knot with each other.

Nicole and Sam's wedding ceremony was held on a private island in international waters; only thirty invitation letters were sent out.

The Edwards Family sent out Lucy; Harry represented the Winston Family; Michael represented the Fletcher Family; and Cooper went on behalf of the Mitchell Family. They were some of the closest friends of the couple. Sam's parents died when he was young while Nicole was an orphan. Thus, only her younger sister attended the wedding. Apart from those people, there were no more extra seats.

They held a Western-style wedding ceremony, and Nicole's wedding dress came from a brand under the JNS Group. She collaborated with a designer to come up with the dress.

Carmen and Hope attended the ceremony as a flower girl and a page boy respectively. On the first day of the ceremony, Michael had brought the whole family to the island so that Carmen could join the rehearsal.

Carmen was dressed in her finest clothes. With a garland on her crown, she looked like an elf. She had to carry a flower basket, sprinkle flower petals, and hand the rings out to the couple.

Michael and Sophia stayed and watched the rehearsal. Although it was only a small ceremony, Nicole and Sam took it very seriously. They rehearsed several times for every step of the way, striving for perfection.

Sam was so nervous that he got his line wrong a few times. This old man in his forties was a little nervous since he was getting married for the first time.

However, Michael's attention was only on Carmen. She was dressed in a flower embroidered bubble dress, and she had a garland on her crown. Her dark hair draped around her like a waterfall, and she wore a pair of white boots. She looked just like a flower fairy in her gorgeous outfit.

She was indeed a pretty little baby who grew up adorably.

Nonetheless, after the rehearsal started, a helicopter landed on the island. Bailey, who was dressed in a black trench coat, walked out from the airport with a cold and charming face.

On his way to the guest room, he happened to pass by the wedding scene and saw the crowd who were rehearsing.

At just one glance, his eyes found Carmen, who was glowing dazzlingly in the garden.

His gaze seemed to be attracted by the faint light...

“Shit!”

Taking two steps forward, Michael quickly pulled little Carmen into his arms and hid her with his body from Bailey’s ‘leering’ eyes.

Why is this old man here?

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On the other hand, Sam had already begun talking to Bailey.

Sam and Bailey’s parents had known each other for a very long time, and Crimson House and Adams Group were long-term partners. When Sam knew Bailey was in Bayside City, he also sent him an invitation letter.

“You’re here, Bailey. Welcome.”

From what he remembered, Bailey was still the little kid hiding in his parents’ embrace. His parents had always been strict with him and raised him as their heir. He was excellent, yet carefree at the same time; there was always a smile hanging on his face.

However, only a few years had passed, and he was no longer that same little kid. At the age of fifteen, he was considered very mature and sophisticated. He was comparable to a fifty-year-old elite. He dressed in an adult’s suit, spotted an adult’s hairstyle, and acted like an adult. Yet, he was only fifteen years old.

He was a victim of his circumstances.

If he didn't live as a fifty-year-old man, an immature kid like him would be tormented by society.

Except for a sigh, Sam had nothing else to say to Bailey.

He then sent someone to bring Bailey to his guest room and continued with the rehearsal. The moment he turned around, he saw that Michael was already removing the garland from Carmen's head.

"From how I see it, Carmen doesn't seem to be suitable to act as your flower girl," said Michael in a serious tone.

Sam then quickly asked, "Then, what about the performance?"

Nowadays, flower girls did not only have to sprinkle flower petals, but they also had to be talented. Carmen had volunteered to sing at the wedding and, of course, Sam had agreed.

Pretending he was making another prediction, Michael went on, "She cannot sing too."

Carmen, who had been deprived of the garland, cried out loud when she heard her father and knew that she had lost her chance to perform.

"You lied to me, Daddy! You broke your promise!"

As soon as Carmen cried, Sophia instantly put the garland back onto her crown and comforted her, "Daddy is only joking with you!"

Even Cooper was frowning at his old son-in-law for going back on his words.

Didn't he agree for Carmen to become the flower girl at the wedding ceremony? She has been preparing for the performance excitedly for days at home. Why did he change his mind so suddenly during the rehearsal?

Immediately, Cooper joined in and said, "Hey, if anyone dares to stop you from becoming a flower girl, I'll chop them and mince them with eggplant."

When he said that, he didn't forget to glare at Michael.

In response, Michael was dumbfounded.

During the wedding ceremony on the following day, Nicole had her wedding dress on her. The kid she adopted along with Sam would be carrying her wedding dress train. As for Carmen and Hope, they were dressed like a match made in heaven and were sprinkling flower petals from the front.

However, Michael had long forgotten about the event. There was only Carmen... and the fifteen-year-old old man, in his eyes.

Throughout the whole ceremony, Bailey had been whispering to Lucy. It seemed like they were talking about the cooperation between their companies. Nonetheless, Michael kept on staring at him like a wolf. He was afraid that Bailey would be targeting Carmen the moment he missed him from his sight.

Bailey couldn't understand why Michael was glaring at him.

"You ask how deeply I love you, and just how great my love is..."

Carmen's clear and crispy voice was heard. Although she was only five, she had been taking vocal lessons. Her vocal skills had improved a lot. By the time the ceremony ended, she went onto the stage and performed 'The Moon Represents My Heart'. Yet, Michael continued to keep his eyes on Carmen and Bailey. He was afraid to lose either of them from his vision.

As Sam's pet dog, Corrado had also dolled itself up for the event. It showed up with a pretty garland.

The ceremony ended successfully amidst Carmen's sweet voice. From now on, Sam and Nicole had officially become a couple recognized by law.

Regardless of the rumors, he would always be her warm haven. He would shelter her from wind and rain, and prop up a warm sky for her. They would have a home of their own and begin a new life together.

Finally, it was time to toss the bouquet.

In a pure white wedding dress, Nicole held onto her bouquet. With her back facing the crowd, she was ready to throw it.

Simultaneously, the host announced, "The bride will be tossing her bouquet in a moment. Every single woman at the scene, please be ready. Whoever catches the bouquet will be the next to marry!"

Sarah, who was already married, rushed up in an instant. Believing that it would be a waste if she didn't take the chance to fight for the bouquet, she prepared herself and was eager to try. There were already so few guests present at the scene today, and there were almost no single women. She had to join in to gather enough people.

Otherwise, this session would go to waste.

Initially, Sophia was trying to keep her composure. Yet, the moment she saw Sarah rushing up there, she joined in too.

Sarah was already married, but she wasn't!

She was still a single young lady on the record of the Civil Affairs Bureau!

She was considered to be living together with Michael illegally.

Therefore, she could still catch the bouquet.

"Move! Let me try!"

Stanley, who was 180cm tall, marched forward and also tried to catch the bouquet.

"Get out, stupid dog. This is against the rules!" Sarah, who was only 150cm tall, would not stand a chance as she stood in the shadow of Stanley.

"Linus!"

Unlike Sarah, Sophia found herself an assistant. "Come and help me!"

Shaking his head helplessly, Linus hurried forward and joined the group that was trying to catch the bouquet. He was slightly taller than Stanley. Therefore, he had more of an advantage.

Stanley refused to give in. "Sean, they're bullying me!"

Immediately, Sean also hurried over.

The five of them squeezed with one another behind Nicole with their hands thrown up in the air. Everyone wanted to catch the bouquet. The scene was filled with joy.

Staring at them, Nicole was laughing so hard that she couldn't stand up straight.

In the end, the bouquet was tossed. While everyone was screaming, they reached out and tried to grab the tiny bouquet. Finally, it was Sophia, who suddenly jumped up two meters into the air, that caught the bouquet.

Linus held her high up in the air and spun her around. Holding the bouquet, Sophia was beaming like a happy kid.

"Foul! You cheated!" As if she was an irritated cat, Sarah turned around and complained to Harry.

Harry's face wrinkled like a chrysanthemum. He felt like he was raising four children, and it was extremely tiring.

Fortunately, there were a lot of flowers on the island. So, he made her a bouquet on the spot to satisfy her.

Sophia, who had caught the bouquet, came back excitedly.

"Hubby, look! I caught the bouquet!"

Michael was speechless as he looked at her.

Why is she still acting like a kid when she is already all grown up?

However, there was nothing he could say. In the end, he could only say, "I hope you will get married next year."

Blinking, Sophia grinned slyly and said, "I'll try to make it happen next year."

Both of them had not registered themselves yet!

After the problems with the Michel Family were settled, they would remarry immediately.

Or else, mold would start growing on her wedding dress soon.

She also wanted to hold a grand wedding ceremony and invite all her friends to the event; even her enemies would be invited too. No matter how much she despised them, she wanted all of them to witness how happy she was.

She wanted to wear the most beautiful wedding dress in the world and be the most beautiful bride!

Taking over the bouquet from Sophia, Michael stared at the charming flowers with concern.

He owed her a wedding.

A wedding that had been dragged on for ten years...

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Originally, they had planned to have the wedding after she graduated, but she got pregnant and the wedding was postponed. Then, when she left, the wedding was postponed indefinitely.

She never got to wear her dream wedding dress that they had worked on for two years. It remained locked inside the closet at home all these years.

Their wedding rings were already beginning to discolor, and the wedding dress was slowly being covered in dust.

Between the both of them, the only thing that was missing was a wedding.

After the wedding ceremony, everyone went off happily to take photos. An excited Cooper also held a DSLR in his hand as he dragged Carmen along to go take photos.

The small island they were on was a place that Sam had bought for Nicole. Flowers had bloomed all over the island, covering it with a dreamlike vibrance and colors that made the place feel surreal.

Nicole was standing among the flowers in her wedding dress. When she glanced back slightly, her beauty put all the flowers to shame.

Entering the industry at a young age put her through many ups and downs over the years. She had once gone off on the wrong path and even anticipated a relationship that eventually came to naught. After everything, she did not expect to meet Sam, the man who was willing to grow old with her.

Looking back, she felt as though everything was disappearing like a cloud of smoke. The things that happened in the past were turning into a blur while the only person standing before her now was becoming clearer.

Sophia was strolling in the field of flowers with the hem of her pink dress lifted slightly. This island was essentially a huge garden filled with green grass and fresh flowers. The mountains that surrounded the island blocked off the sea breeze, allowing those delicate flowers to thrive and produce such beautiful fragrance.

She and Sarah were both walking carefully among the flowers as they waited for the photographer to take their photos.

As it turned out, all women enjoyed getting their photos taken. They seemed to forget who they were when they were in front of the camera.

Behind them, Michael and Harry were following along reluctantly.

They watched the five friends who graduated from Bayside University having the time of their lives taking group photos that also included their young children.

Michael also took some photos of Sophia on his phone.

With a dazzling smile on her face, she looked beautiful standing among the flowers in her light pink dress.

While he was taking photos of Sophia, Poppy came over suddenly and tugged at his trousers. In a stern voice, she said, "Carmen is taking photos with a pig!"

“What?”

Following Poppy’s lead, Michael quickly found Carmen, who was getting her photos taken by Cooper. Carmen was extremely photogenic and was skilled at finding the right angles. Each photo seemed good enough to be on the front cover of a magazine. When Bailey came over unexpectedly earlier, Cooper urged, “Come. You two should take a photo together.”

After that, Carmen took two photos with him.

She looked adorable dolled up as a flower girl. The flower crown on her head was made on the spot from the flowers that were there, and the floral fairy dress she was wearing swayed in the wind. Bailey was wearing a classy, all-black suit that gave him a cold and mysterious presence. He seemed to have a depth and knowledge that a young child usually did not possess.

Cooper thought they complemented each other and that it would have been a waste if they did not take a photo together.

“Come, come. Pay attention to the lighting, Sean.”

“Stanley, move aside. You’re in the frame.”

In his younger days, Cooper was a big shot who won many big awards in photography. He used to enjoy taking photos of Annabel the most. These days, he would casually take photos of Sophia and Carmen when he did not have anything else to do.

He was very impressed with the model in front of him now, so he captured dozens of photos in one go. Even though Bailey wanted to leave, he did not think it was polite to decline when Cooper looked so excited.

“Smile, Bailey. Don’t just stick to one expression. Carmen, lean into Bailey a bit and hold his hand. Yes! That’s it! Stay there!”

When Michael arrived, the scene that greeted him was Bailey holding Carmen’s hand with a sly smile on his face.

All hell was about to break loose.

Michael, the grey-haired old father, almost exploded with anger.

Cooper finished taking another round of photos as he enjoyed himself to the fullest. While he was looking through the photos, Michael hurried over and pulled Carmen away from Bailey. "Take a couple of pictures with Daddy, too."

Meanwhile, Bailey stepped out and left on his own.

When Sophia spotted Carmen and Michael taking photos, she quickly rushed over. "Wait for me! I want to join too!"

She hopped onto Michael's back with a leap. Michael supported her with one hand and held Carmen's hand in the other. Right then, Cooper pressed down on the shutter and captured that perfect moment—a happy family of three with a vast sea of flowers behind them.

Later that night, Sophia went over to Cooper's place to look at the photos. He had taken heaps that day; most of which were of Carmen and the main stars, Sam and Nicole.

Taking plenty of copies with her, she brought them back to look over them with Michael.

There were also a number of photos of Carmen and Bailey together. Michael simply could not bear to look at them anymore. They look like wedding photos!

The more he looked at them, the angrier he felt.

In the end, he decided to stop looking.

Lying down in bed with a huff, he turned to his side and hugged Carmen—she was sleeping with them tonight. It looked like she had too much fun today for she fell asleep as soon as she lay down.

Meanwhile, Sophia was still looking at the photos and smiling to herself as she went through them.

Michael could not fall asleep for a long time. Regardless of how much he tossed and turned, he could not keep his eyes shut. He looked out the window at the bright moon above the surface of the water. It was tranquil and beautiful; so beautiful that it seemed surreal. Is this a dream or am I awake?

Sophia had already removed her make-up and went to bed. After a whole day of activity, they even went to the beach to have a seafood barbecue for dinner. Her energy was completely depleted.

He turned around and watched her sleep soundly.

Ten years had flown by. Over this time, she had changed a lot, but he still saw her the same way—as the naïve and kind young girl.

The only thing that changed was this world.

After all the suffering she went through, she could finally welcome spring. There were many days left ahead for her, but Michael felt like he was reaching his end.

The world was just that cruel. They were still in love with each other, but they could not be together. Those who were able to stay together in marriage until they were old were the lucky ones.

Michael gently removed her fingers around her phone. When he got her phone out, he saw that her screensaver was Nicole's wedding dress.

The focus was not on Nicole but on the dress.

The snowy white wedding dress was made from selected materials and had a customized fit. It fit Nicole perfectly as if they were one and the same.

The photo of that dress was now Sophia's screensaver.

While Michael was looking at the photo, he also imagined what Sophia looked like in a wedding dress. Sadly, no matter how much he thought about it, he could not reproduce the image in his mind.

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Michael thought of the day they went to try on wedding dresses. It seemed like something that happened many, many years ago. But in his mind, the days he spent with Sophia were all real.

He still remembered that she had tried on several dresses that day, but his mind was occupied elsewhere. That same day, the Murray Family had come over to make a fuss and were unwilling to leave. He was worried about Nathan who was at home at the time.

All of his focus was on Nathan that he forgot about Sophia who was trying on wedding dresses in front of him.

Therefore, regardless of how he tried, he could not remember how she looked in a wedding dress that day. He only remembered that she had picked a dress and submitted her order. A year later, the manufacturer sent the dress to them.

Unfortunately, she never got to put it on before Quinton abducted her.

He tried to picture her in that dress, but he realized he could not put the two together no matter how hard he tried.

If I can see her in a wedding dress again before I die, how nice would that be?

The next day, everyone went by the original plan to spend a few more days on the island. There were plenty of activities to do, but Sophia still found having seafood barbecue more meaningful.

Early in the morning, however, people were looking at her in an unusual way.

The wedding was already over, but a bunch of new faces appeared on the island.

By noon, Theo and Quinton came, and so did Celine and Justin. Nathan also showed up in a new suit and tie.

Joel had brought the whole family over.

Something about the situation did not feel right.

Moreover, Carmen was in her flower girl attire again and was rehearsing with Hope. They claimed that they were preparing for the wedding tomorrow.

Wedding? Tomorrow? Whose wedding?

It looked like another wedding was about to take place on the island and everyone was busy preparing for it. When Sophia asked, though, no one gave her an answer.

She was dumbfounded. Nevertheless, she was already there. They could not hide it from her forever.

While it was bright out, she went to the beach for a sunbath. I don't know why so many people overseas enjoy sleeping exposed under the scorching sun all day without applying even a bit of sunscreen, she wondered. They're practically frying themselves.

Being under the sun for a while, however, was making her feel like a roasted duck, and she couldn't take it any longer. Instead, she went for a swim with Sarah. When they got tired, they got out of the water and ate some seafood barbecue, then went back in again to swim some more. She enjoyed herself to the fullest, treating their stay there as a vacation.

After spending all day on the beach, she was now several shades tanner.

She returned to her room that night, took a shower, and applied a face mask.

Once that was done, she faced the mirror and proceeded to apply some skincare products. She had spent years paying special attention to her face and prioritizing self-care. Throughout the day, she always looked after her skin like it was a religious ritual.

The scar had faded and her skin was tender again, but after getting tanned from being under the sun all day, all her efforts were in vain.

I can't suntan anymore. I will start to age at this rate. How do foreigners tan under the sun all day without putting on any sunscreen? She grumbled as she continued to apply products on her face.

Meanwhile, Michael and Carmen were nudging each other at the side as though they had something to say but were pushing the burden onto the other person.

"You should go, sweetie. You're a baby. You can afford to be a bit forthcoming. My happiness from now on is in your hands."

“Go on your own, Daddy. This is your business. You were the one who taught me to take responsibility for myself ever since I was little.”

“Just this once, please?”

The father and daughter pair had a long discussion together but did not manage to reach a conclusion. Alas, Sophia finished applying her skincare products and came out of the bathroom. Seeing her daughter sitting on the bed in her pajamas, she went to give her a bear hug right away.

“Sweetie! Let Mommy give you a kiss!”

Carmen let Sophia kiss her cheeks, then gathered her courage and announced, “Mommy, Daddy says he has something big to discuss with you.”

Something big?

Looking over at the balcony, she found Michael’s shadow swaying back and forth under the dim lights.

He looked hesitant and unsettled.

“Hubby?”

She went over to the balcony.

With the lights turned off, only the soft glow from the moonlight illuminated the area.

A bright moon had risen above the sea, and they were sharing this beautiful moment.

It set off a mysterious and romantic atmosphere.

Initially, Michael was pacing back and forth on the balcony. When he looked back and saw Sophia, he finally mustered his courage and walked toward her.

Under the moonlight, his whole body seemed ablaze. Sophia tilted her head up slightly to look at him. The moonlight seemed to accentuate his looks. In her eyes, he was always going to be the unparalleled Academy Award Best Actor winner, Taylor Murray, and the love of her life.

The atmosphere tonight was just right. With the light breeze blowing against her face, she could smell the saltiness in the air. Feeling a slight chill, she tugged at her pajamas around her.

“What is it?” she finally asked when she saw Michael staring at her without saying a word.

He lowered his head a little and studied her face.

It’s been ten years, but she hasn’t changed one bit. She’s still the same as the girl in my memories.

Sighing softly, he put his arms around her, tightening his grip when he realized her body felt cold.

How I wish I could hold her like this and never let go...

Separation was the biggest punishment for those who did not know how to appreciate their significant other. Some people had to experience an unforgettable separation in order to learn how valuable reuniting was.

But, no matter how much he appreciated her, he still felt more than his fair share of pain from having to separate from her.

He also knew how valuable it was to reunite, but he still had to leave her.

If only time could stop at this moment!

He answered, “Nothing really.”

When he blinked, he realized that his eyes were already slightly damp. He let her go and took her icy cold hand in his. “Come with me. I have something to show you.”

He brought her out and into the room next door.

Sophia was extremely uneasy. She kept feeling like he was acting strange today, so she patiently went into the next room with him.

The moment she entered, the lights were turned off and everything was pitch-black.

She grabbed Michael's hand instinctively. With a snap, the lights came back on and brightened the whole room in an instant. The sudden brightness had frightened her and made her jump in shock.

When she gradually got used to her surroundings, she only saw a mannequin in front of her with a beautiful wedding dress on.

The dress was made from selected materials and designed by a famous foreign designer. It took one year for the dress to be made. The hemline of the dress was adorned with dazzling diamonds that looked like the stars in the galaxy. Nevertheless, they complemented each other and did not take away the uniqueness of one another.

Many years ago, this dress cost tens of millions, but she did not know much it was worth now.

"What is my wedding dress doing here?"