

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 896

She had grown up and become prettier, looking healthy and beautiful. It was obvious that her father doted on her and had raised her well.

After he untied the rope, Carmen placed her shoeless foot on the ground, but the rough surface of the brick tiles on the ground hurt her foot, so she had to lift it up. She then wobbled and fell into Quinton's arm, while the latter carried her up and uttered, "Carmen, I'll bring you to your daddy and mommy."

"Okay," she replied in a childish voice as she buried her face into his fragrant embrace.

He gave her the bouquet. "Carmen, you have finished your last shot for the movie. This is a little present for you as a celebration."

She happily accepted the flowers with two rows of tear stains on her dirty face. Although she was exhausted, she carried the flowers in her arms in delight and innocently asked him, "Mister, what was your role?"

Quinton carefully went down the stairs while carrying her in his arms and answered, "I used to be the bad guy, but today, I acted as the good guy!"

Seeing that the two of them had gone down, Justin verified that Carmen was now safe and communicated the message to the people below before eagerly rushing to Celine.

Celine had fallen into a deep sleep; her breathing was stable, and her face seemed rather rosy.

Carrying his wife in his arms, he cried so badly that words could not be formed. Just now, he thought that the whole world had given up on her.

At the ground floor, Sophia heard the sound of footsteps and Carmen's sweet voice coming from the incomplete building.

"Mister, do you think that I'd acted well?"

Quinton replied, "Yes, you were amazing. Carmen, you were born to be an actress. I look forward to working with you for my next movie too!"

Upon hearing that voice, Sophia's body froze; tears uncontrollably streamed down her cheeks, rinsing her numb face. Quinton was seen slowly walking out from the darkness to the spot illuminated by the searchlights, carrying a small figure in his arms.

He looked at the crowd that swarmed at him before slowly squatting down and placing Carmen on the ground. He helped her to put on the shoe that he had found earlier, gently stroked her head, and said, "Good girl, you can go to your parents and grandpa now!"

As soon as she was put down, she dashed at Michael and Sophia. "Daddy, Mommy!"

"Baby!"

Both of them came running at her and embraced her, as if they were embracing their entire world.

As for Quinton, after he put Carmen down, he slowly rose to his full height with his hands raised. The Fletcher Family's men slowly approached him, and after confirming that he had no weapon on him, they surrounded him and caught him.

When Carmen saw Quinton being captured after she left Michael's embrace, she innocently asked, "Why is Uncle Joel capturing him?"

Michael wiped away his tears of excitement and joy for getting back something that he had nearly lost. "They are still shooting for the movie. That mister is acting as the bad guy! Uncle Joel is acting as the police today, so the police have to catch the bad guy."

She pouted and muttered, "But he said that he was acting as the good guy today."

Sophia, who had embraced Carmen, was overwhelmed by a complex feeling when she watched as Quinton was being caught.

*He really came and saved Carmen.*

At the same time, Justin came down with Celine in his arms, and he then put her on a stretcher. Nathan ran over to take a look at his mother, then at Carmen, and finally at Quinton, who was being escorted into the car.

Quinton seemed to have noticed him as well. The former smiled at him, as if he was greeting him.

Nathan watched as Quinton was captured and escorted into the military vehicle, his expression still nonchalant. His expression remained indifferent regardless of if he felt devastated or overjoyed. It might have been because he had experienced too many ups and downs in life despite his young age, causing him to become numb to the joy and sorrow in life.

He was only twelve, but he had thoroughly experienced the great joy and sorrow of life, which made him unfeeling to both emotions.

In the end, Quinton was captured, and Celine was caught and taken back to the research center, while Nathan and Justin followed her there.

After Michael made sure that Celine was fine, he caught up with Sophia, who was seen getting into Cooper's car with Carmen in her arms. He immediately quickened his steps toward her but was suddenly stopped by Cooper, who was standing in front of him with one arm held up.

Cooper turned around and faced him with his back, his voice especially cold and merciless at that moment. "Mr. Fletcher, you don't need to follow us. I'll take care of my granddaughter. Don't you worry."

Cooper was cold and distant to him. However, Michael could feel that in the past, Cooper disliked him but had to reluctantly accept him since Sophia fancied him. But today, he was absolutely cold and harsh.

Stunned, Michael stopped his hasty footsteps for he knew that it would only be natural for Cooper to treat him this way.

His first love had hurt Sophia, and his sister nearly harmed Carmen. It all happened because of him. If it were not for him, Carmen and Sophia would not have suffered such harm.

Holding back the heart-stabbing pain, he took out 200 from his pocket and let out a wry chuckle. "It's better to follow through the entire act. This is the fees I'd promised to give Carmen—"

"There's no need for this." Cooper coldly interrupted him. He then directly got into the car and closed the door without looking back. The car of the Mitchell Family sped off.

Soon, the car of the Fletcher Family and military unit left, while Harry and Sarah, who had come to help, went home as well. Only then did Michael leave and head off to the research center.

In Cooper's car, Sophia was hugging her baby, who had finally returned to her, while sobbing uncontrollably.

She really did not know how she would live without Carmen! She felt as if her heart was stabbed by a thousand knives when she saw Carmen held imprisoned on her own at such a high place earlier.

Linus gently cleaned Carmen's face, wrapped her in a blanket, and put aside her bouquet of flowers before handing her 400. "Carmen, your performance today was superb. This is your salary given by the filming company. You have earned 400 in total since shooting for night scenes pays better!"

She delightfully took the money and tightly held it in her hands. "Mommy, why are you crying?" she innocently looked at Sophia and asked.

Sophia sniffled and wiped away her tears before forcing a smile on her face as she answered, "It's because today was your first time shooting for a night scene, but you did a great job, so I'm very happy for you."

Cooper hugged her and stroked her messy hair. "The situation earlier is how shooting for a movie is like—you will face all sorts of sudden events, and the actors' acting skills will be so excellent that they may startle small children, just like how you were so afraid that you cried today. Carmen, if you wish to become an actress, you will face more similar situations!"

Carmen leaned sluggishly in Cooper's arms with the four banknotes tightly held in her hands. She wished to continue acting to earn money, but everyone's acting skills were so good that they seemed real when they acted as the villain, which made her cry out of terror.

She was in a dilemma.

Sophia wept soundlessly as she glanced at Linus in gratitude. Linus, who was considerate in nature, acted meticulously in order to protect Carmen's tiny yet fragile mind—a traumatizing experience would affect a child for a lifetime! Now, Carmen thought that she had merely acted in a police action blockbuster movie—the type of movie with a commission of 400 per day. Therefore, she was able to happily count the money now. The treacherous scene today would probably remain in her memories as a mere surprise.

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As the car headed home, Cooper hugged Carmen in his arms while Sophia continued sobbing in the silence. The injuries on her face had not fully recovered. She weakly leaned on Linus' shoulder and buried her face in his arms as he comforted her. As she was highly tense for the entire day, the current opportunity to relax for a split second immediately caused her to loosen up and fall asleep within seconds.

Even if she fell asleep, there was a trace of tears at the corner of her eyes.

His body stiffened as he was afraid that he would wake her up.

Upon looking at Carmen, who was dozing off in his arms, Cooper wrapped her up tightly with the blanket, causing her to fall asleep almost instantly. Even while she was asleep, she still held onto her money and refused to let anyone take it.

While looking at the sleeping mother and daughter, he felt blissful yet pressured—as if he owned the whole world, but had to bear the weight of it.

Nevertheless, his daughter would eventually have to settle down as his granddaughter needed a father. *Theo had own sons. The biological father is definitely not a choice and the other one is worse, so I definitely won't hand Sophia to any of Theo's sons.*

Although he loved Sophia and Carmen, where they were his everything, it was impossible for him to keep them for himself forever since his daughter would have to marry someone someday. Therefore, he was determined to find her the best man in the world!

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After waiting for a day and a night in the research center outside the city, Celine finally woke up. When she regained her consciousness and found out what she had done, she broke down emotionally and hid in the corner before crying.

She was still locked up in the transparent cage. Nobody had the courage to get close to her because they could not tell whether she was Katrina or Celine.

Justin and Michael watched as she curled up in a corner and wept, but they could not get close to her either.

Celine had always been the big sister, the female boss, and leader among their peers since she was young. She had always been stronger and more poised than most males as she never cried. However, over the last few years, she seemed to have shed all the tears that she could possibly have in her whole life.

She nearly harmed Carmen with her own hands, which was something that she could not accept when she was in her right frame of mind. What terrified her the most was she still retained her original personality when Katrina appeared, so she saw how she went on a rampage to do those things that she had never wanted to do.

She had almost killed Carmen and her son!

A bulletproof glass had separated Justin from Celine. Tears silently escaped from his eyes as he leaned on the glass in the silence. Upon looking at his wife curling up in a corner while crying in despair, he wished that he could embrace her, but he was not even able to give her any warmth. *What exactly have we done wrong? God, why are we being treated like this?*

They had joined the military when they were 18 and underwent training for many years before pledging a lifetime of loyalty and service to their country. They led honorable and honest lives while living up to the expectations of the country, their ancestors, future generations, as well as their own consciences, but why were their good deeds not being rewarded?

Through the glass, Michael gazed at the person who had the same face as him. He wanted to blame her, but he could not bear to do so. Ever since she helped Phantom Wolf to kidnap Sophia three years ago, Michael sent her to the research center and did not dare to visit her ever since.

He was well aware that it was not her fault as she was also the victim, but how could he willingly accept that fact?

Michael turned as large droplets of tears fell on the floor.

He found Quinton, who was also being confined in a cage made of bulletproof glass. The entire research center was now as impenetrable as an iron barrel with ten times more military forces than usual. It was because the institute now harbored the most dangerous man in the whole world.

Phantom Wolf was responsible for countless murders and deaths and he was wanted by dozens of countries around the world. His bounty in the black market had reached up to several billions, which also meant that numerous people from all over the world wanted him dead. He entered the lion's den by himself and was detained instead.

Quinton had regained his original looks—it was a face that was extremely similar to Theo's. He had fully inherited Theo's looks, character, boldness, intelligence and talent as a commander. In fact, he was more similar to Theo than Michael and Celine.

On the other hand, Michael and Celine were blessed with their mother's kindness and gentleness, but Quinton had inherited his father's cunning and vicious personality. Therefore, the siblings resembled angels and he resembled a devil.

Both Quinton and Michael looked at each other through the glass. It was the first time that they glanced at each other in that manner since they used to fight to the death without much reasoning.

Michael moved a chair over and sat while looking at Quinton. As Quinton was a few years younger, he looked boyish and more handsome. Theo had passed away when he was at Quinton's age, which made the latter look exactly the same as their father in Michael's memory.

Quinton was still wearing his black suit, which was so immaculate that it did not have any creases. He seemed like the perfect gentleman who had returned from a ball when he

raised his hand to adjust his gold-rimmed glasses, causing the ring on his pinky finger to shine. He was a gallant gentleman on the surface, but a scum on the inside.

“My dearest brother, how much longer are you going to keep watching me?” He slowly uttered a few words, which sounded like a casual chat between close friends.

Michael went straight to the point. “I want Celine to return to normal—with only her in her body and no one else.”

Quinton smiled as he adjusted his gold-rimmed spectacles. His manner was elegant while his voice was clear and sounded handsome. “She’s the one keeping me alive now. Do you think that I will do it easily?”

Michael expressed his conditions with a cold expression. “I guarantee to let you go if you cure my sister.”

Quinton lowered his head and burst into a guffaw, as if he had heard the joke of the year. “Haha! haha! Guarantee? How are you going to give that guarantee? Do you think that I’ll believe you? Let me tell you the truth—Katrina had already merged with your sister and the boundaries between their personalities will gradually vanish. There is no one in this world who can really save her except me,” he uttered.

A person as astute as him was well aware that Celine was the key to keep him alive. Otherwise, he would not have the courage to enter the place.

Since the Fletcher Family had saved Celine, they definitely would not give up on her. They tried everything that they could think of, including domestic and foreign psychiatrists and hypnotists, but to no avail. There were no other ways to save her unless he was willing to do so.

However, Michael knew that he had no power to make such a decision.

As the Phantom Wolf had committed many crimes, Michael would not be able to save him—if he could not do so, let alone the Fletcher Family.

The two of them fell silent for a while before he threw another question. “Can Sophia’s memory be recovered as well?”

Upon the mention of that topic, the disdain on Quinton's face was replaced by a shred of seriousness. In the end, he sighed before rising to his full height and walking to the bulletproof glass. Tilting his head to one side, he gave a contemptuous smile. "Sure, I can help her to recover her memories without anything in return—her entire memory... With that, she will remember that she was once together with you." Disdain was obvious in his tone as he spoke.

Michael kept quiet for a moment before finally replying in a low voice, "It's fine then... If she has forgotten about the past, just let it be then." He sounded extremely helpless when he said those words. His voice was so low that it sounded like a melancholic sigh.

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After saying those words, he remained silent for a while before getting up to leave. As Quinton watched him leave, the sarcastic smile on his face had completely vanished.

When Michael entered the garage and sat in his car, he took out his phone and found Sophia's contact. He looked at the profile picture that he set for her in a daze, but did not give her a ring in the end. How I wish I could trigger her past memories to return! She will immediately return to me if that happens. However, once she recovers her memories, the trauma and pain will accompany her forever! She has already forgotten all of her bitter and painful past and is already living a great and blissful life now. Why do I want her to experience pain again?

He clearly saw Quinton's mockery.

If she experiences pain again just because I want to have her by my side, I am not worthy to receive her love!

After remaining silent for the longest time, Michael still did not dial the number and went to the Fletcher Residence instead.

Once Sophia and Carmen had arrived home, they headed to bed after taking a quick shower. Carmen obediently slept next to her mother and kept her hard-earned money away before saying in between yawns, "Mommy... Goodnight."

Sophia lowered her head to kiss Carmen's plump cheeks. "Baby, you are tired after a day of filming today, so you should sleep earlier."

Carmen took out her wristwatch and punched a button to directly call Michael.

He was still on his way to the Fletcher Residence and after receiving a call from her, he quickly answered it.

Then, Sophia heard his voice from Carmen's watch. "Baby, aren't you going to sleep?"

Carmen replied sweetly, "Daddy, I'm sleeping soon. Goodnight, Daddy."

He replied, "Sleep earlier and say goodnight to Mommy for me too."

"Okay."

After hanging up, she turned and told Sophia, who was sleeping next to her, "Goodnight, missus."

Sophia smiled. "Where did you learn this from?"

Carmen replied, "Mel's father calls her mother 'missus', so I presume that Daddy calls Mommy the same too. I'm saying goodnight on Daddy's behalf."

A lump formed in Sophia's throat, but she did not say anything in the end and switched off the light, leaving only a small night lamp for Carmen.

Carmen added, "Sleep well, missus."

"Alright."

...

After Sophia woke up and got ready the next morning, she saw that people were packing things at her place. She knew that Cooper was about to move houses. Even though he was not planning to leave Bayside City for the time being, he would still move out from the Imperial.

Since everything had arrived to that stage, she felt that she did not have a choice anymore. For Carmen's sake, we have no choice but to move.

Carmen did not go to kindergarten today—instead, she woke up early in the morning to prepare for the move. She emptied her little husky bag and placed her hard-earned money in it before entering the car.

As it was a hasty decision to move, they still had not chosen the right place—Cooper did not purchase any property in Bayside City and Sophia wanted to live in a comfortable place. In order to make her life easier, she suggested to move to Riverdale

The house was rather spacious, so Carmen had a place to play and it was within a driving distance to the kindergarten and the company.

Sophia owned a house in Riverdale—the former Harper's Mansion now belonged to her. She had taken quite a liking to the garden there, so it was the right time to move.

While holding her pair of alpacas and entering the car, she suddenly felt that someone was looking at her. After turning, she saw that it was Nathan holding Snowball at the entrance of Villa No. 8, looking at her wordlessly, as if he had something to tell her.

“Nate!”

After placing the alpacas on the car seat, she opened the car door and walked over to Villa No. 8. However, he seemed to have left for some time. The front door of the villa was also tightly shut and she could not open it.

After knocking, only Nicholas replied to her from inside.

“Mom, are you moving away?”

His tone sounded resentful and sad. He was so smart that he was no different from a child.

Sophia bent her body and looked at Nicholas through the door. "I'm moving to a huge house in Riverdale. You can also come and stay with us, Nicholas."

However, Nicholas seemed to be angered and immediately left.

I'm afraid Nathan feels this way too.

Since Cooper was in a rush to leave, she returned to the car thoughtfully. After closing the door, the car engine was started as the driver prepared to leave. However, she saw Nathan once more after a glance at the rearview mirror.

As usual, he looked indifferent in the silence—he looked numb, no matter whether he was happy or sad. Sophia had no idea how much pain he had experienced to wear a stoic expression on his face. However, she saw desire in his eyes.

Nathan looked like he wanted to tell her something, but he did not know how to say it, so he could only look at her like that.

The car sped away. In the end, she still did not have the chance to speak with him.

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After traveling back and forth between the research center and Fletcher Residence, Michael was unable to catch forty winks for an entire day and rested on his way home. The moment he arrived, he realized that Villa No. 2 was now empty.

Sophia had left with Carmen—with only a few maids cleaning up after them.

While standing at the ground floor of Villa No. 2, he raised his head to look at the windows—the door on the balcony was sealed shut and no one would open it anymore.

After he returned to his place and opened the door, the living room was also quiet since the liveliness was gone. In the past, once he opened the door, a bunch of furry animals would rush over to greet him.

However, only Snowball was left alone. The white ball of fur rushed to him and circled around him, but the rest had followed Sophia on her move.

Nathan had also returned and quietly looked at him from a corner.

Nicholas walked to Michael. "Dad, Mom moved to Riverdale."

Michael hummed in reply before heading to his room in exhaustion. After he closed the door, he did not head out again.

He took a short rest. After all, he was still a human, not a robot, so he could not work the entire day without rest. However, once he closed his eyes, he started to have nightmares. He dreamed that Sophia and Carmen were in an accident and the ambulance picked up both of them, who were covered in blood. In the dream, he howled as he ran behind the ambulance for a long time, but it showed no signs of stopping. On top of that, the ambulance even howled, "Meeeeeeeeooooooooooooowwwwwwwwwww!"

A terrified Michael opened his eyes and realized that he was still on his bed. He had no idea when Chrysanthemum had entered his room and jumped on him, but it was the one meowing at him.

"Meeeeeeeeooooooooooooowwwwwwwwwww!"

After glancing at it, Michael rubbed its head. "Why didn't you leave with your mom?"

It gently snuggled toward Michael's hands. He got up from the bed with the cat in his hands and looked at the time—it was already dawn and he had slept for nine full hours. However, his head felt like it was about to split into two. Nevertheless, he called Justin.

Quinton still refused to reveal the way to cure Celine's dissociative identity disorder and she was in an unstable condition, attempting to commit suicide multiple times.

It would spell a lot of trouble if she tried to kill herself, as they could not tell whether it was a ruse to escape her situation or if she really wanted to do that.

She had once attempted suicide to escape from the research center, which almost culminated in a disaster.

However, if they did not save her in time, she would die!

Celine used to be a confident, strong woman in the military. However, living was a state of pain for her because she could not die as well!

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Justin could not wait to kill the mastermind behind all the mess, who was Quinton. Yet, Quinton was the only one who knew how to cure Celine's illness.

Of course, Quinton would not simply reveal the cure to them as it was the only information keeping him alive.

The military wanted him dead whereas the Fletchers tried their best to keep him alive. Their discussion had arrived at standstill as they could not come to a consensus. On the other hand, Celine had repeatedly tried to kill herself and almost succeeded in the process.

Stanley had followed up on the matter and followed Michael for the entire day. He returned today to the seaside villa to bring Judge back to the Imperial.

Judge clawed at the door of Villa No. 2 for a long time. Upon seeing that no one came to open the door, it finally realized that Sophia had moved and howled angrily at the door.

*Sophia! You are such a jerk! Return my kittens!*

*Return my son as well as my mansion and my lolita!*

*I babysat your child for many years! You can't just leave like this!*

When Judge was tired of howling, it went to Michael's place to have a sip of water before returning to continue its howls. Upon realizing that nothing would bring Sophia back, it was angered to the point where it went to Villa No. 8 to trash the place.

Its plans were to destroy the place and bite her husband!

Judge had bitten the corner of Michael's pyjamas into pieces, but it was still not satisfied. It continued to bite the couch and table in the living room—and even destroyed the pillow that she made out of dog fur. As a result, the entire area was scattered with its fur and no one was able to stop the husky.

Stanley initially wanted to chat with Michael for a bit. However, after Judge threw a tantrum, Stanley could only bring it home almost immediately. Before he left, he added, "Uncle Michael, you can ask for Sophia's help in this. She can summon him with a sentence. If she appears, he will definitely spill the beans."

Michael shook his head with a vacant expression in his eyes and did not even know when Stanley left.

*Ask for Sophia's help?*

He could not bring himself to do it.

*She's so kind; she will definitely agree to it.*

*What if Quinton takes this opportunity to ask for something outrageous in exchange for the information?*

*She probably will agree to that as well.*

*Because of me, she owes Quinton a favor. As a result, she has suffered the consequences and the pain. How can I be so selfish and cruel?*

Michael sat in the dark living room and smoked one cigarette after another before standing up. After quickly changing into his clothes, he rushed out of the door.

Meanwhile, in the research center, a guest had surprisingly arrived—it was Mark Fletcher.

Mark seldom went out—he had only gone out once to meet Carmen, recognize Celine's presence in the Fletcher Family, to attend Cooper's funeral and the other time was today.

In the research center, Mark met his grandson, who looked different each time he visited.

At that moment, Quinton looked like a younger version of him and resembled Theo as well!

Mark had carefully perused the documents about Quinton. When compared to Michael and Celine, Quinton was the one who resembled Mark the most and even inherited the old man's attributes. Unfortunately, Quinton took the wrong path.

*Thud!*

Quinton slammed a chess piece on the chess board, blocking his opponent's moves. "Sorry, old man—I've won."

A chessboard was placed between both of them.

Mark was also quite relaxed as well. He came over to the research center and played chess with Quinton for the entire afternoon. On top of that, they were in the same room. Apart from the handcuffs on Quinton, he had a normal range of movements while Mark sat opposite him to play chess.

To quote the words that Mark once said, "I have already lived for more than a century with children and grandchildren based all over the world. That in itself was enough for me, so if Quinton captures me, you don't have to save me. Just open fire immediately. If I die, I will definitely drag this unfilial grandson called Quinton down with me. He's only in his thirties while I've already lived over a century. If we are both killed by the machine gun, he will suffer a greater loss than me."

However, Mark was no match for Quinton in chess.

*Another kill in seven moves!*

After a few rounds of chess, Mark had been completely defeated by Quinton.

Unlike others who would try to go easy on Mark, Quinton immediately launched his attack on the chess board. If he could defeat Mark in seven moves, he would never waste another move.

Unwilling to concede defeat, Mark barked, "One more round!"

Quinton frowned, but he continued to return the pieces to their original positions while saying, "Old man, my time is precious. I can't play chess with you for the whole day."

Mark replied indignantly, "I've already lived for more than a century—I don't have much time left. Your time is valuable, but that's my life ticking away with every second. So, do you think your time—or mine—is more valuable?"

Quinton knew that he could never win the argument against Mark, so he continued to play chess with the old man in exasperation.

After Quinton entered the research center, he was completely stripped down. They confiscated his exquisite suit and gold-plated glasses. In exchange, they gave him an attire that only a patient in hospital would wear. The flimsy outfit made him feel insecure, but his slender fingers looked clean and fair in contrast. After he took a sip of plain water, he continued to play chess with Mark.

Halfway through their game, Mark suddenly sighed and said meaningfully, "You really look like your father."

Without using any ruse, it was the conclusion that Mark arrived at when he saw Quinton.

However, Quinton pretended that he did not hear Mark's words and continued with the game.

Mark continued, "Your father is like you—he has patience, endurance, and foresight. With every step that he took, he could predict a hundred steps ahead. When I played chess with him, I never lasted more than seven moves."

Quinton remained silent with his head hanging low as he continued the game.

Mark sighed again. "How nice it would have been if you were born in the Fletcher Family instead. I bet your success will be even greater than your father by now."

*Thud!*

Quinton placed the chess piece down again, performing another kill in seven moves and left Mark with no opportunity to retreat. After doing so, Quinton slowly got up. "Sorry, old man. I'm taking a rest now. Please help yourself."

With that, he returned to his cell and lay on the bed with his back facing Mark.

Although Mark was furious, he left in the end.

Right after he exited, the cell that detained Quinton was locked multiple times, as if he was a violent beast as they kept him locked inside.

After Mark walked out, he looked at the sky and sighed. "Theo, why did you have to leave so early?"

In Riverdale, the former Harper's Residence was now the Edwards Residence.

After Sophia moved over, she had selected a room that she liked and opened the windows. Immediately, she could see the beautiful view of the garden.

The place used to belong to the Harper Family and they had spent at least two centuries building the mansion. The garden was the combined effort of the Harper Family's few generations, but in one way or another, it was now Sophia's.

She loved the way that the garden was designed and its view—each spot was as beautiful as a painting, radiating an artistic aura.

Once she had settled down in the mansion, she peeked out from the window with flowery frames on the second floor as it was the best location to have the best scenery. The view from that particular spot was also the most beautiful.

After a day of moving, she was also tired. Carmen had already climbed onto the huge flowery bed and dozed off.

Before sleeping, she called Shae over while playing with her toes, insisting that she had to call her daddy to say goodnight.

However, Shae replied, "I don't have Daddy's contact."

In the past, Carmen had always asked Nicholas to call Michael. However, Nicholas and Chrysanthemum continued to stay back at The Imperial instead of following her and Sophia.

Carmen took out her wristwatch to call Michael, but after the call went through, she heard Cooper's voice.

"Darling, why aren't you asleep?"

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Carmen was extremely disappointed after she could not hear her father's voice. After she chatted with Cooper for a bit, she hung up on the call, but still could not call Michael after testing with different settings.

Sophia knew that Cooper had changed the settings of the watch when Carmen was asleep. The only number that she could call now was his number.

Sophia quickly calmed her down. "Darling, you should sleep earlier. We can talk about it tomorrow."

Tears flowed out of Carmen's eyes instead. "But, I can't sleep if I don't talk to Daddy."

Sophia hugged her and asked in a low voice, "Not even when Mommy is here?"

Carmen was still saddened. "I want Daddy..."

Sophia's eyes swam with tears as she took her phone. As she looked at the nickname that she set in her list of contacts—'Carmen's dad'—she did not have the courage to call him. However, Carmen was still sobbing next to her, making her feel that she should not be selfish.

She knew that it was cruel for Cooper to have separated Carmen and Michael.

After Michael brought Carmen home from Africa, the little girl was on the brink of death and often fell sick. He would accompany her in the hospital for the entire year as she was irreplaceable to him. How could he possibly accept the fact that they had to be separated?

*Carmen has been close to her father since she was born. How could she not have him?*

Hence, Sophia opened Messenger and found Michael—his profile picture was a photograph of her from three years ago, so it made it easier to spot him.

She sent a word. 'Here?'

He instantly replied, 'Yes.'

She quickly video-called him and passed the phone to Carmen, who wiped her tears away and looked at the phone. As soon as Michael appeared, she immediately smiled and greeted in her baby voice, "Daddy!"

Michael was in a bright room, looking rather busy.

After seeing the face that he was thinking about the entire day, he smiled and asked gently, "Baby, did you behave yourself today?"

Carmen replied, "Yes, I was obedient. I moved into a big house with Mommy. It's very big! You have to come over to visit me soon!"

He said, "Sure. You are a good baby. Sleep soon, alright? I still have some work to do."

She replied, "Goodnight, Daddy! I love you!"

Carmen gladly went to bed after chatting with her father. She tucked herself to sleep and said goodnight to Sophia for Michael. "Good night, missus."

Sophia bent over to kiss her as she replied, "Goodnight to you too, baby."

With that, she switched off the light but left the night lamp on. However, as she was not sleepy, she merely looked at Carmen.

It was already midnight in the research center. After Michael hung up, he looked at his phone and stared at the wallpaper he chose in a daze—it was a picture of the three of them.

They took the picture at the film studio—he was filming and Carmen was one of the extras at another set. In the afternoon, Sophia took her home for lunch. He donned a military outfit during the war period while Carmen wore a traditional outfit and Sophia had a loose T-shirt with a baseball cap. The three of them looked very different from each other.

Carmen tried her hardest to eat as Sophia fed her while Michael lowered his head to look at them with a mellow expression. Danny had perfectly captured the entire scene.

After looking at the picture for ages, Michael finally kept his phone away and brought a bunch of documents to the place where Quinton was locked up. Then, he placed the documents in front of Quinton with a loud thud.

“This is a special pardon by the military and ZF organization. You can use it in all of Cethos as long as you promise not to cause any more trouble. After you sign it, we’ll arrange for you to head abroad.”

After glancing at the special pardon, Quinton looked away coldly. “It’s obvious that it’s fake. I don’t believe you.”

Michael did not want to beat around the bush. “I can guarantee you with the Fletcher Family’s name that if you can cure my sister, you can leave anytime you want.”

Receiving the special pardon was beyond his expectation as he could not believe that the military would pardon a killing maniac like Quinton.

Apart from the Fletcher Family interfering with the matter, there were also elements of competition among the powerful nations.

Many huge powers outside the country had bribed terrorists to carry out attacks in Cethos and once they successfully did so, they were able to escape to other countries and openly gain protection. Apart from that, those former terrorists could easily earn more money by giving speeches on their experience all around the world and publishing books on the ‘tough experience’ of being oppressed by Cethos. Some of them could even receive the Nobel Peace Prize, a very influential achievement, and become an ambassador for peace as well.

How ironic and unbelievable!

Although Phantom Wolf killed many people on an international spectrum, he never committed his crime in schools or in Cethos. To be precise, he had landed himself in hot water thrice—one was at Time Square years ago when he received an order from Kayla to assassinate Sophia, but before he could do so, two people from his side had already been killed. His second time was when he tried to kidnap Mark and Sophia to bring them away, but his plans were foiled. The third time was when Phantom Wolf tried to kidnap Sophia again.

Every crime that he committed in Cethos was all related to the grudge that he bore against the Fletcher Family. When Celine and Justin were ambushed, it was at the time of an anti-terrorist movement by the United Nations in other countries. So, the Fletcher Family did not pursue that matter and the military adopted the same approach.

Since the powers abroad could openly provide sanctuary to those terrorists who killed the citizens of Cethos, the Cethos government could do the same as well.

Even though Phantom Wolf was cruel, he was an assassin who would not murder innocent people as his victims only consisted of politicians and big shots. All in all, he was merely an assassin who accepted money in exchange for lives. He was a tool—a dog whom anyone could purchase. The people who had blood on their hands also included the politicians and big shots who wanted to use illegal methods to gain advantage. Since they were afraid of staining their hands, they thought of Phantom Wolf.

The details were extremely complicated to be discussed and Quinton had something that the Cethosian military was interested in. Phantom Wolf's crimes paled in comparison with what the advantages that the country could gain.

However, Quinton never cared about the special pardon. After looking away, he answered, "I've already regretted it. The special pardon is not enough. I want to see her. I want to bring my wife, Sophia, away with me."

All was good until he brought up that name. At the mention of Sophia, a cool and collected Michael completely lost control. He went berserk like an awakened beast and grabbed Quinton by his collar and threatened in a menacing manner, "Don't even think about seeing her again!"

Upon looking at the irate Michael, Quinton chuckled in a low voice before saying, "Brother, you are still less patient than me."

Gritting his teeth, Michael looked at Quinton before releasing his grasp. Then, he placed the special pardon in front of Quinton again.

"Ten days later, both the military and the Fletcher Family will announce that you have been captured and hold a public trial. At that time, even the special pardon is useless. This is your only chance. Treasure it."

With that, Michael quickly left.

Upon looking at the seemingly warm special pardon with the military stamp on it, Quinton suddenly raised his head and looked at Michael's direction.

"Actually—" Quinton deliberately dragged his tone.

Michael's flurrying steps came to an immediate stop.

Then, Quinton continued, "I can't recover her memories anymore. They have been completely erased by me."

Michael did not turn around. After stopping for a few seconds, he continued to head off.