

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 982

Sophia noticed that Alice had lost her balance momentarily when Sandra grabbed her.

Sandra was determined to embarrass Sophia since the latter had brought up her embarrassing past. Filled with anger and hatred, she subconsciously exerted too much strength while grabbing Alice, causing the unprepared Alice to nearly fall over.

Alice frowned as her body toppled for a moment. Despite her best efforts at exercising restraint, she still felt an excruciating pain in her waist.

Her wound had yet to heal, causing her to feel severe pain when Sandra tugged at her. She felt deeply unwell, and the color gradually drained from her face.

At this critical moment, a pair of large, warm hands suddenly reached out from behind and supported her back gently, saving her from further gaffes.

Alice didn't look back, but she smelled the classically elegant scent of sandalwood. She had been helplessly intoxicated by the exact same scent six years ago while she was by River Seine that fateful night. When she woke up in a hotel bed after that, the person had left nothing behind in the room except for the lingering scent of sandalwood.

Just like that, he left without a trace.

Snapping out of her memories involving the sandalwood scent, she whispered to Daniel behind her and said, "Thank you."

Daniel kept standing behind Alice while watching the situation in the hall without saying a word.

Sandra deliberately skirted the issue of apologizing as she wanted Alice to punish Sophia for using a knock-off cell phone. Seeing that Alice did not take action, she boiled over with rage and went so far as to reach her hand out again in an attempt to grab Alice.

After Sandra had grabbed her earlier on, several scratches appeared on Alice's exposed arm. Being well-prepared this time, she cleverly dodged Sandra when the latter reached out

to grab her again. Meanwhile, the bodyguard sensed that something was wrong and immediately stood between the two to keep Sandra away.

Sandra stared at Alice in utter surprise. She was mortified after Sophia teed her off just now, so she desperately needed Alice to save her from embarrassment by coming forward to give Sophia a hard time. However, she didn't expect Alice to remain silent even after she had spoken so much.

"What's wrong with you, Alice? This woman is using a Dragon Eye knock-off! You're one of Dragon Eye's developers—how can you let it slide? What the hell is going on with you?!"

Sandra's questioning tone was filled with displeasure; it was as though Dragon Eye belonged to her and Alice was a mere worker.

Knowing that the Mitchell Family was finished, Sophia smiled gracefully.

As expected, Alice had lost her patience; she was displeased from the very beginning when Sandra overstepped her position. Now, Sandra had even took liberties with her and leveled such nonsensical and shameless accusations.

Feeling a dull ache in her wound, Alice looked a bit pale; the smile on her face had long since been replaced with an immeasurably commanding and impatient expression.

Sandra was waiting for Alice to give Sophia a slap in the face, but she didn't expect to hear something else. "Miss Mitchell, the cell phone Miss Edwards is using is not a knock-off, but a genuine custom-made model produced by the Michel Group's cell phone division. Only a pair of them are available across the globe!"

That was right—Sophia certainly wouldn't use a knock-off cell phone. In reality, her cell phone was a customized Dragon Eye model made specially for her by Cooper and Linus.

The cell phone ran on Dragon Eye 7's latest operating system, and it was equipped with the most advanced functions. Since it had the best quality, the materials used for this custom-build cost even more than Dragon Eye's market price. Sophia thought that Dragon Eye cell phones looked ugly on the outside, so Linus redesigned the cell phone's exterior just for her. Because of that, her cell phone looked different from the ordinary Dragon Eye cell phone models.

Cooper had given her a pair of these cell phones as a present, and she gave one of them to Michael. Therefore, the 'knock-off cell phones' they were using were actually custom-built models.

Upon hearing Alice's words, everyone looked at the 'knock-off' cell phone in Sophia's hand.

No wonder! Sophia's 'knock-off' cell phone felt very high-class and expensive from the beginning—it's completely different from other knock-off devices. It turns out that...

Ignoring Sandra's profound shock and disbelief, Alice reproved angrily with a commanding look in her ocean-blue eyes and said, "Mr. Murray's cell phone isn't a knock-off either. Not only is he using a genuine one, but he is also the global spokesperson for the new Dragon Eye 7 which will be announced soon. Miss Mitchell, please show some respect to Dragon Eye's spokesperson!"

Everyone was astounded.

It turned out that Taylor was also a spokesperson for Dragon Eye—in fact, he was the global spokesperson for the high-end version!

This revelation reminded them of previous online articles. Whenever Nicholas showed off his low-end version of the Dragon Eye cell phone, what immediately followed would be slanderous articles that accused Taylor of using a Dragon Eye knock-off. These articles accused Taylor of overrating his abilities by competing with Nicholas for the endorsement deal with Dragon Eye despite becoming less handsome due to his old age. According to these articles, Taylor issued press releases to show off even before he had landed the endorsement deal, but he was slapped in the face right away when Nicholas landed the endorsement deal with Dragon Eye once again.

In the eyes of any layman, this was an entertaining drama between two male celebrities in show business. A male celebrity who was past his prime put up a last-ditch struggle after being too confident, but he didn't expect to lose face when he lost the fight against his junior in the entertainment industry over an endorsement deal.

However, those familiar with show business knew that this was actually a plot hatched up by somebody so that they could rise to fame by riding on Taylor's popularity and even slandering him.

The identity of the person behind the plot was obvious; whoever benefited from this had to be the mastermind behind the plot.

“Ah, so this is Dragon Eye 7! I must’ve been blind earlier on. This looks so much better than Nicholas’s low-end version!”

“How could the low-end version be compared with the high-end one? They are totally different in terms of concept; the low-end version is significantly cheaper than the high-end one. There are big differences between the two models, and there are big differences between the respective spokespersons too.”

“The high-end version’s global spokesperson kept such a low profile, whereas the low-end version’s spokesperson in Cethos couldn’t wait to play up his endorsement deal with Dragon Eye every single day. Perhaps this is the difference between a low-class, attention-seeking idol versus a first-class artist!”

“He slandered someone else for more than a month and showered him with all kinds of abuses, slanderous remarks, and foul language just because of a cell phone. I wonder How Glory Entertainment is going to clear up this mess this time.”

The crowd whispered among themselves while looking at the cell phone in Sophia’s hand. Meanwhile, Sandra’s face grew darker as she listened to their comments.

Unwilling to stay out of the limelight, Stanley took out his Dragon Eye 7. “All of you have been mistaken, people. My aunt’s cell phone is custom-built, and there are only two of these cell phones in the world; my aunt has one of them, whereas my uncle has the other. Come and take a look at this—this is the Dragon Eye 7 that will soon be released to the market, and it’s quite pleasant to use. Its operating system runs more smoothly than before, and it responds to the user’s touch a lot more quickly. What’s more, it comes with portrait retouching functions...”

Everyone’s attention was drawn to Dragon Eye 7, but some people were still paying attention to the embarrassed Sandra. As Glory Entertainment’s actual controller, not only did Sandra mock people online for using knock-off cell phones, she even humiliated someone in person at the banquet organized by L/K today.

Sandra was absolutely shocked at this moment before she was consumed with towering rage.

Did Dragon Eye make Michael the global spokesperson for its high-end version?

She looked at Alice furiously, and her fingernails sank into her palms.

Alice had turned around and left while everyone was paying attention to the Dragon Eye. She didn't want to see Sandra anymore.

As expected, someone who's engaged in sports isn't fit to do business. When Alice saw Sandra for the first time, several words which could be used to describe the latter came into her mind. There must be something wrong with her mind; she failed to recognize a great person, yet she's so intoxicated by her success and acting like a d*mn snob.

She was so puffed up with pride only because one of the artists under her agency became a regional spokesperson for the low-end version of Dragon Eye cell phones. Judging by how confident she looked, was she absolutely certain that she'd become Dragon Eye's agent? Who gave her the confidence to think that way?!

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Daniel immediately caught up with Alice as he noticed that she looked very unwell. It seemed that the physical contact just now had caused the wound in her waist to hurt. "How are you? Are you alright? Do you need to go to the hospital for a checkup?" Daniel asked Alice if she was alright, but she was indifferent about it.

To their surprise, Alice had barely taken a few steps when a woman's deep voice suddenly broke out from the crowd behind them. "Stop right there!"

Alice's footsteps faltered upon hearing the voice, and Daniel immediately followed suit. Stop right there?

Alice paused in her tracks and glanced back at Sandra stonily. Meanwhile, the latter stood among the crowd with a darkened expression on her face; it turned out that Sandra was the

one who ordered Alice to stop right there just now. How dare someone order her around like that?

However, Sandra was even more audacious than Alice had imagined. Making her way out of the crowd, she walked up to Alice and said viciously, "We're friends, Alice. Don't you think that you're making me look bad by leaving right now?" Sandra believed she had shown Alice much respect. She was Lucile's close friend, yet Alice dared to put on airs in front of her despite working for Lucile. She hadn't explained why Sophia and Michael's cell phones were genuine, nor had she explained why Michael became the global spokesperson for the high-end version of it. How dare she leave?

Alice was so irked by Sandra's attitude that she laughed after a brief moment of dismay. What the hell is going on with this woman? Does she have a loose screw or something?

Indeed, Sandra's audacity surpassed Alice's expectations of her. She said threateningly, "Are you sure that Miss Edwards and her husband's cell phones are genuine, Alice? Also, is Mr. Murray the global spokesperson for Dragon Eye? My friend, Lucile, has shown me the designs before—I'm certain that their cell phones aren't the Dragon Eye 7, and Taylor isn't the global spokesperson at all!"

Alice stared at Sandra dazedly for two seconds before she finally realized what was going on. She was dropping Lucile's name, forcing Alice to withdraw her previous remark on the spot.

Sandra had slung mud at Michael and Sophia on the spot by accusing them of using knock-off cell phones, but she ended up with a slap in the face by Alice—after all, she was the one who developed the cell phone series. Right now, the only way Sandra could save face was to make Alice withdraw her previous remark immediately by saying that she had made a mistake. Who gave her the nerve to do so? Who gave the blockheaded daughter of a second-rate wealthy family in Bayside City the cheek to threaten Alice?

Alice glanced at Sophia—who almost couldn't conceal the sinister smile on her face as she stood among the crowd—before looking at the threatening expression on Sandra's face. She didn't know what had happened, but she figured out that Sandra must have done something unreasonable because she walked right into a trap Sophia had set up.

Is she possessed as rumored? How ironic of me to have chosen her as one of my agents. Stupefied, Alice felt that she was unaccustomed to the people here.

Alice's 170cm figure walked up to Sandra before looking down at the latter, who only stood at 160cm tall. With a look of unquestionable authority in her eyes, she uttered, "The cell phone Sophia has might not look genuine, but it is a Dragon Eye cell phone—it is a custom-made version that won't be officially released. As for Mr. Murray, I personally signed him on as the global spokesperson for Dragon Eye 7, and we have already signed the endorsement contract. Also, Mr. Winston will endorse Dragon Eye 7 alongside Mr. Murray. Miss Mitchell, if you think that your artist's endorsement deal is a cut below Mr. Murray's and a great insult to you, you may terminate the contract anytime. I'll consider the endorsement fee a gift to you! Besides, you'll never be the agent for Dragon Eye!" She turned around and left immediately, ignoring the expression on Sandra's face.

Seeing that the situation seemed to have developed in a direction he hadn't expected, Vincent immediately stepped forward and stopped Sandra for fear that her conflict with Alice would escalate. He urged, "That's enough. Calm down a bit; we are all of the same family, so you should show some restraint when you speak."

Alice's attitude seems a little strange...

After sleeping with Lucile, Vincent managed to get much information out of her with some pillow talk. For example, Fass was still the de facto head of the Michel Family, but Lucile was the family head's rightful successor. Linus and Alice were merely right-hand men that Fass had trained for his daughter. Alice appeared very powerful to the outsiders, but she was actually Lucile's puppet.

Lucile was the actual person who had developed Dragon Eye and single-handedly supported the whole Dragon Eye series. However, she kept a low profile and didn't like to be in the limelight, so she always allowed Alice to act in her capacity. In other words, Alice was merely working for her.

In reality, Lucile kept the Mitchell Family in suspense about the selection of Dragon Eye's agent because she had been testing the Mitchells the entire time. The matter had been under her control all the while; now that they were in such an intimate relationship, the right to act as Dragon Eye's agent would definitely be given to the Mitchell Family.

Vincent and Sandra never doubted Lucile's words because the latter had previously helped Nicholas to secure the endorsement deal for Dragon Eye. They truly believed that Alice was merely working for Lucile whereby she had the final say in everything, and all the competition was merely a superficial gesture to pull the wool over everyone else's eyes.

Knowing that Alice would be here on this day, Sandra had deliberately used her to humiliate Sophia. However, she didn't expect Alice, a mere worker, to be so arrogant by humiliating her instead!

As expected, Lucile's right—Alice is disloyal to her. Burning with ambition, she's forgotten her place and plans to overstep her position by replacing Lucile thoroughly! Sandra was so furious that she trembled all over; her nostrils flared, and her eyes flashed fire. No longer caring about Sophia at this moment, she shoved Vincent aside and went after Alice.

At that moment, she would only be humiliated by Sophia if she continued to stay here. She had to catch Alice back! Who gave this mere worker the nerve to humiliate her?!

Vincent immediately went after Sandra; Alice would certainly get in his way when he married Lucile and climbed up the social ladder later on, so he had to get rid of her sooner or later. However, now wasn't the right time to do so.

Meanwhile, everyone continued to gossip with great relish as they watched Vincent and Sandra going out after Alice. Sandra had spoken to Alice in such a disrespectful tone just now; it even seemed like she was talking to her subordinate. Why did this happen? Wasn't Sandra vying for the right to act as Dragon Eye's agent? What gave her the cheek to speak to Alice in that tone?

In a celebratory manner, Sophia raised her glass and clinked glasses with her team. Alright, the Mitchell Family is finished. Let's deal with the next one.

On the other hand, Sandra had angrily caught up with Alice, Daniel, and the others outside the door. She darted toward Alice while threatening furiously, "Don't be ungrateful, Alice! You're merely working for Lucile. How dare you disobey her orders? Lucile has designated me as Dragon Eye's agent, so what gives you the right to change that without her permission? She also appointed Nicholas as the global spokesperson for Dragon Eye 7, so who gives you the right to decide things yourself?"

Alice couldn't quite believe that there was such a shameless person in the world as she looked at the unreasonably hysterical Sandra. Knowing why Sandra would act like this, Daniel urged Alice to leave and said, "Let's hurry up and leave this place. This woman has been bitten by a dog and is having a bout of rabies!"

Naturally, Alice didn't want to talk to a person with whom she couldn't communicate. Escorted by some bodyguards, she hurriedly got into her car and left, fearing that Sandra would really bite her if it was too late.

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Alice's wound continued to ache while they were inside the car, but she asked Daniel, "What's wrong with this Sandra? She doesn't seem to be in her right mind."

Daniel knew that Sandra had fallen into Sophia's trap, but he couldn't tell Alice about it. He answered, "It wasn't easy for Sandra to rise from an illegitimate daughter to the Young Lady of the Mitchell Family. Sophia's return placed her position in jeopardy, so she suffered a mental breakdown and went crazy."

Suppressing the anger within her, Alice removed the entire Mitchell Family from consideration.

Sandra ran after the car, but she failed to catch up with it. Overwhelmed with anger, she immediately dialed Lucile's number.

How dare Alice-the-lapdog treat me like this?! I'm Lucile's close friend! Now that she has disrespected me, Lucile will have the chance to denounce her!

Alice was overweeningly ambitious, but she used to hide her ambition so well that one couldn't find fault with her. Now that Sandra had found an open and justified excuse, she believed that Lucile would certainly thank her this time.

However, Sandra couldn't reach Lucile on her phone; she simply assumed that the latter was too busy to answer her call. Anyway, she could no longer stay at the banquet since she would certainly be humiliated if she went back inside. Therefore, Sandra decided that she'd better go home and have Lucile speak up for her.

When she and Vincent called home, they learned that Lucile and Abbie had gone out shopping that morning and hadn't returned yet. Sandra immediately sent her people to

search for them, but after a day of looking around, the Mitchell Family's men went to the place where Abbie and Lucile used to stay and realized that the house had already been emptied.

When they arrived at Abbie's house, they learned that Abbie's family had moved out a year ago. At that moment, the Mitchell Family realized that something was wrong.

Lucile and Abbie had disappeared into thin air, and the property under their names had been converted into cash and transferred a long time ago!

They left without leaving any clues behind; no one knew where they had gone, nor could anyone get in touch with them. The luxury goods they left in the Mitchell Residence had been spirited away.

That night, word finally came that Lucile and Abbie had left the country by plane.

At this moment, Sandra and Vincent seemed to have guessed something. No! How could Lucile possibly leave like this? The daughter of the Michel Family certainly wouldn't abscond with their money!

She must have left in advance because of some urgent matters. Lucile has always been mysterious; being unable to contact her is normal. Besides, she's the daughter of the Michel Family, so how could she possibly report her schedule to us in advance? This must be the case... thought Sandra and Vincent as they tried to comfort themselves.

They knew that they would suffer a huge loss if Lucile was actually a con artist!

Panic-stricken, Vincent immediately called Linus; he believed that Linus would know where Lucile was.

Linus' assistant answered Vincent's phone call, telling him that Linus was booked and busy; he could only wait until next month to make an appointment with the man. However, he refused to answer him about matters regarding Miss Lucile.

Vincent was as anxious as hell. He lost both Lucile and his money—which meant that he had lost everything.

Ian was equally anxious as Vincent, for he also discovered that Lucile and Abbie had gone missing. He also realized that all the property he gifted Lucile had been converted into cash, but the money couldn't be traced.

They utilized various channels and even contacted the Mafia abroad to search for Lucile and Abbie. However, the two women seemed to have vanished into thin air; they couldn't even find a trace of the duo's whereabouts.

Even so, they couldn't conduct a large-scale search for them. If word got out that the Edwards Family and the Mitchell Family's Young Masters were swindled out of their money by the same woman... Losing money wasn't the matter here, for they would lose face completely.

Moreover, Vincent had even slept with Lucile.

After several days of fruitless searching, the two victims put their prejudice against each other aside and met up to discuss the matter.

Ian said to Vincent, "Lucile spent the night with me that day. She promised to make me the agent for Dragon Eye; she also said that she would go back to the Michel Family and seek their blessings to marry me."

Vincent was speechless upon hearing his words.

At this moment, they realized that both of them had fallen for a romance scam.

However, they didn't just fall for a romance scam; the Mitchell Family had believed Lucile's baloney and offended Alice thoroughly. Losing the contract to be Dragon Eye's agent was less important than the fact that they had offended the Michel Family!

Still, they hung onto every last bit of hope, thinking that they could recover their losses once they found Lucile. After all, everything would be fine if Lucile was real. If she was an imposter, they would take the fake Lucile to Alice's and confront the imposter in her presence; perhaps they could even get back into Alice's favor by doing so.

However, the wait was endless. As Lucile and Abbie disappeared without a trace, Sandra finally realized that she had been scammed. Upon learning that Lucile had transferred all the property away, she passed out on the spot and was rushed to the hospital.

On the fifth day after the incident, Linus' assistant suddenly called Vincent. "Mr. Mitchell, Miss Lucile will set aside two hours from 2.00PM to 4.00PM tomorrow to meet you on the 18th floor of the Michel Group's building. She wants to discuss the quality issue you raised regarding the sports car. Please be there on time; we won't wait for you if you're late."

Upon learning this, the wilted Vincent came back alive at once.

Previously, he had made an issue out of the sports car multiple times in hopes of luring Lucile out and meeting her in person. Unexpectedly, Sandra brought Lucile to him afterward, so he forgot about the sports car entirely.

He didn't expect Lucile to make an appointment with him on this day.

Although he looked forward to this meeting, he was afraid as well.

He wanted to meet Lucile very soon, but he feared that the Lucile he was going to meet and the Lucile he had previously spent time with weren't the same person at all...

However, he had to attend the appointment no matter what!

The next afternoon, Vincent set out on time before arriving at the Michel Group.

I won't make a mistake this time. Even if I learn that the Lucile from before is an imposter, I'll be meeting with the real Lucile. If I can find a way to win her heart, I'd be able to recover the losses I've suffered previously!

With this idea in mind, Vincent stroked his head confidently. No matter what, I mustn't be taken advantage of today! he thought to himself. At the same time, he was full of anticipation for his formal meeting with Lucile. They would be meeting at the Michel Group's building this time, and this appointment was arranged by Linus' assistant; today, the Lucile he was going to meet certainly wouldn't be an imposter.

I should think positively—perhaps this is all Lucile's test.

Vincent seated himself in the tearoom on the 18th floor of the Michel Group's office building at 1.50PM.

The 18th floor also happened to be where Linus worked, and Vincent sat in the tearoom next to Linus' office. Linus was also present; upon seeing Vincent, he spoke to the latter. "Please wait for a moment, Mr. Mitchell. Lucile is taking the elevator up."

Vincent sat there waiting with his back straightened.

At 2.00PM sharp, the sound of quick, short footsteps made by someone wearing high heels could be heard from the outside, and it was accompanied by Linus' voice. "Mr. Mitchell has been waiting for you in the tearoom."

Vincent's spirits rose; he looked at the tearoom's door in anticipation, listening to the sound of footsteps as it came closer and closer... At last, someone pushed the door open. Behind the door stood two big and sturdy foreign bodyguards with the Michel Family's emblem embroidered on their sleeves. Then, Linus and a young lady walked inside under the escort of these bodyguards.

The young lady must be none other than Lucile.

Vincent stood up at once. However, when he saw the lady clearly, the smile of anticipation slowly disappeared from his face before it was replaced by a look of profound shock.

"Why are you here, Sophia?"

Sophia took off her sunglasses to reveal her smiling blue eyes. "Didn't you say that the second-hand sports car I sold you had some quality issues? I'm here today to have a look at it."

The faint, scornful smirk on her face gradually broadened as she stared at him.

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Vincent stared at Sophia dazedly for about ten minutes; his surprise and bewilderment grew as he shifted his gaze multiple times between her and Linus.

He was well aware of Sophia's background since he and Sophia were in the same grade at Bayside University. He knew that she was Cooper's daughter and that she grew up in Riverdale as a child; he also knew that she became who she was today because her uncle had sold her to Joe, who then sold her to Michael.

Sophia took off her sunglasses and asked impatiently, "Didn't you say that the car had some issues, Mr. Mitchell? What exactly is the problem with the car?"

Still being in a complete daze, Vincent stared at Sophia in shock and disbelief. He turned and asked, "Linus, where is Lucile?"

Knowing that Sophia had played a prank on Vincent, Linus answered with a chuckle, "Sophia is Lucile. Don't you know that, Mr. Mitchell?"

As Vincent's face froze completely, some muscles on his handsome face twitched slightly. He looked at Sophia and Linus with a look of shock in his eyes.

Still refusing to believe this, he waved his hand repeatedly. "This is impossible. This can't be true; she's Scarlett, Cooper's daughter."

The truth would be too horrifying if Sophia was indeed Lucile. The scheme behind the sports car that cost 100 million and the competition for the agency's contract would be more sophisticated than one could ever imagine!

Sophia frowned, but she unknitted her brows soon after that. She folded her arms across her chest and said, "Mr. Mitchell, you don't really think that my father has been mining coal in Africa all these years, do you?"

Vincent suddenly recalled that Cooper had shown up and told them about mining in Africa back when Woody passed away.

Since he talked about mining, Mark assumed that he was mining coal. As word about this spread like wildfire among the Mitchell Family, the story became one about Cooper being trafficked to a coal pit to mine coal for 20 years. Vincent was also present at the time, and he recalled what Cooper had said back then about him mining in Africa.

The Michel Family had been mining in Africa as well; what their family mined was not coal, but underground diamonds and rare metals used in the military and high-tech industry.

Upon thinking about Fass and Cooper, Vincent suddenly realized that the two of them were strikingly similar to each other!

Fass was a gifted genius who headed the Michel Family, whereas Cooper was a mind-blowing hidden talent from the Mitchell Family; they both worked in similar industries with equally outstanding achievements.

Back when Cooper was present, the Mitchell Family was in its prime. Half of the world's computers had products bearing the Mitchell Family's logo and intellectual property.

After Cooper 'died,' the Mitchell Family slowly went downhill until it was gradually replaced by its later peers in the high-tech industry. On the contrary, the Michel Family had Fass, an amazing genius who led the Michel Group—a conglomerate that had been leading the world in the first place—to even greater heights.

Vincent thought that all geniuses were about the same, but he didn't expect this...

Alex touted Vincent as the genius who surpassed Cooper, but it wasn't until Vincent truly took over the Mitchell Family's business and worked in the Mitchell Group did he realize how incredible Cooper was. He missed the era when Cooper was at the helm, but he could still see how incredible Cooper was even after more than ten years had passed.

As it turned out, Cooper was Fass!

As it happened, Fass rose to glory after Cooper's 'death,' and Lucile emerged after Sophia 'died.' If Fass and Cooper were one and the same, so was Lucile and Sophia!

As it turned out, all of this was a ruse. No, this wasn't a ruse at all—it was just wishful thinking on his side. He thought he had everything under his control and was a step ahead of everyone else, but he was merely an outrageous joke in the eyes of others.

Vincent thought he had gotten a great bargain after buying the second-hand sports car at 100 million complacently. However, he didn't expect to lose money and make a fool out of himself.

“Haha!” He suddenly laughed before lowering his head to wipe his tears away, looking extremely funny as he laughed and cried at the same time.

Sophia looked as though she couldn't bear to see him being hit badly by the truth. “It seems that you aren't quite yourself today, Mr. Mitchell. I have something else to attend to, so let us talk about the car some other day.”

With that, she turned around and left. Glancing at Vincent—who cried and laughed simultaneously as the truth hit him badly—Linus let out a sigh and patted his shoulder while comforting him. “Don't worry about the car, and don't be so sad about overpaying for the car. If the worst comes to worst, we'll give the money back to you. You can just return the car back to us.”

To his surprise, Vincent flopped down weakly onto the floor and cried like a child the instant Linus patted the latter's shoulder.

He cried not because he was scammed out of his money, his house, and his body, nor was he crying because he got a slap in the face after smugly posing as Lucile's husband in the presence of Lucile herself out of his own wishful thinking. He cried because he found that the faith he had been clinging onto the entire time had fallen to pieces.

His goal had always been to surpass Cooper and become the Mitchell Family's true genius. He thought he was still young and could make it as long as he was given enough time. He even thought that he had achieved his goal and surpassed the then-of-the-same-age Cooper in several fields.

He thought Cooper was already past his prime and at the end of his heyday; Vincent believed that he was now the master of a new era.

Back then, Cooper invented the first-generation USB drive that could only store 32MB of information at most. Twenty years later, Vincent produced a new-generation of USB flash drives that could store 32GB of information. Thinking that he had surpassed Cooper, he was so self-satisfied that he put Cooper out of his mind.

Today, Vincent discovered that Cooper had already produced USB drives which could store up to 1024GB worth of information ten years ago. Besides, the USB drives Cooper produced were smaller than that of his, and they ran at a higher speed.

His outlook on life instantly fell to pieces. It was as if Cooper had given him a slap in the face, saying that he could never surpass the former.

He was never a match for Cooper, for he couldn't even hold a candle to the latter; this was what drove him to despair.

Vincent cried in the tearoom for a long time before he was helped away by the Mitchell Family's bodyguards. Crying as he walked out of the room, he had never cried so sadly and hopelessly as he did on this day in his 27 years of life.

His agonized look drew the attention of the front desk ladies as he tearfully walked to the building's lobby. However, once in the lobby, he saw someone whom he had never expected to meet.

"Why are you crying like that, Vincent?"

Vincent wiped his tears and saw a familiar person coming toward him. Surprised, he asked, "Why are you here, Derek?"

The person was none other than Derek, Alex's illegitimate son and Sandra's younger brother who used to bear the surname Oak. Vincent had known Derek back when they attended Bayside University; they even had meals, drunk alcohol, and discussed professional knowledge together. Vincent was already in graduate school at the time, whereas Derek was still an undergraduate. Nonetheless, the latter quickly rose to fame as a well-known straight-A student in the department. Back then, Vincent didn't know that Derek was Alex's illegitimate son. However, he wanted to make Derek work for him because he noticed the latter's cleverness and talent.

On this day, he saw a young and handsome Derek dressing like a successful businessman with a suit and leather shoes. Derek was no longer the baby-faced junior he was back then; he was now Plum Technology's manager. He seemed to be here on business, for he was carrying a laptop and a briefcase while being followed by assistants and bodyguards.

Vincent knew that Derek was in Cooper's camp, so it didn't come as a surprise to see Derek here at the Michel Group's office building.

"Stan and I are here on business!" responded Derek with a smile.

Vincent looked up to see Stanley and Sean. His tearful appearance was immediately met with ridicule from Stanley as he said, "Hahahaha! Aren't you Vincent, the dupe who spent 100 million to buy a second-hand car from my aunt?"

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Stanley continued to taunt Vincent aggressively and said, "What is it? Are you here to tearfully ask my aunt for a refund? It's alright—it's just a car. I'll just go up right away and ask her to return the money to you. You don't have to worry since she's very fond of you. After all, she is your great-aunt."

The 100-million luxury car used to be the apple of his eye, but it was now a disgrace to him. He still remembered how the car's price had been driven up to an exorbitant price of 100 million!

Sean knew that Vincent had suffered a blow to his pride on that day, and he found it rude to deal the latter with another blow while looking at Vincent's pitiful appearance. He comforted Vincent by saying, "It's alright. Sophia has joined the Michel Family after Uncle Cooper, but she's still your great-aunt no matter what. She'll surely return the money to you since you're a younger member of the family."

He seemed to be comforting Vincent, but the note of ridicule in his voice was evident.

Vincent had been in the same grade as Sophia and the others back at Bayside University. They even went through military training in the same reinforced battalion, but Vincent wasn't on familiar terms with Sophia back then.

However, Vincent was reaching for the stars back then. He kept a low profile at university, devoting himself to his studies and taking part in the Mitchell Family's affairs early on. Also, he distanced himself from Stanley and Sean, whom he viewed as two good-for-nothings

who only knew how to play online games. Contrary to his expectations, everyone's circumstances had changed after so many years.

In the end, Vincent left the building as he wiped the tears away from his reddened eyes. After going back, he got himself drunk. Feeling that his life had been turned upside down, he'd never be able to recover from the shock. Seeing that he was hit badly, Sandra abandoned him in disgust.

What a useless thing—he ended up like this just because a woman scammed him out of a bit of money!

Sandra was burning with anxiety right now. Knowing that she had fallen into a scam and offended Alice, she knew that she had to make up for this.

*D*mn it! I was scammed out of so much money by a con artist!*

In the Michel Group's office building, Sean, Derek, and Stanley laughed and joked as they commented on how embarrassed Vincent looked just now while going up to the 18th floor to see Linus.

Plum Technology and Michel Group were joining hands to launch a cutting-edge gaming laptop, and the two companies were now discussing the contract.

On the 18th floor, Sophia was extremely pleased as she recalled how Vincent had left tearfully in deep dejection just now.

Vincent had truly never suffered such a devastating setback. For a person like him, a major setback could cost him his life.

Feeling happy, Sophia became mischievous all of a sudden. She raised her hand and turned toward Linus before saying, "Come on, Uncle Linus—let's give each other a high five!"

She wouldn't have reduced Vincent to tears on this day without Linus' help.

Of course, most of the credit belonged to her. After catching the fake Lucile that day, she told her to con Vincent and Sandra for one last time. Not only did she have the fake Lucile sleep with Vincent, she deliberately instructed her to promise the Mitchell Family and give them rights to the Dragon Eye agency contract. Also, she had the fake Lucile describe Alice

as a completely worthless person who harbored evil intentions. Wanting to display her ability in front of the fake Lucile, Sandra foolishly confronted Alice face-to-face.

That way, the Mitchell Family was no longer in the running for the agency contract with Dragon Eye.

Linus shook his head while looking at her dotingly. Then, he raised his hand and gave her a high five in resignation.

“Yeah! Now that I have finished off two competitors, three competitors are left to be dealt with. I’ll deal with them soon!” Sophia clapped her hands happily like a child who had gotten some candies. Then, she tossed the handbag she was holding into Linus’ arms and said, “Please excuse me—I’ll be going to the restroom for a bit. If Stanley arrives, you can talk to him first.”

She was already several meters away when the handbag fell into Linus’ arms. Linus looked at her and laughed dotingly as she walked away happily.

She’s really like a kid... She’s the same as when she was attending university.

Sophia had just left when Alice popped up behind Linus before he even realized it. Alice looked fine; she had recovered quite well after Sandra almost hurt her carelessly a few days ago. Holding her cup of coffee, she gently took a sip of it.

“Well? Has she given up yet?” Alice didn’t sound surprised at all.

Carrying Sophia’s handbag in one hand, Linus responded with a nod, “Not yet. When she sets her mind to it, she’ll do whatever it takes to accomplish it—even if it’s something impossible.”

Since Alice had refused to appoint Sophia’s company as Dragon Eye’s agent, she would finish off all the competitors with similar qualifications and force Alice to comply.

Alice walked away expressionlessly in her flat-bottomed shoes while holding her cup of coffee.

It didn’t take long before those who represented Plum Technology went up. Seizing this opportunity, Daniel came with them on the excuse of inspecting the geomantic quality of the

Michel Group's office building. He made his way into Alice's office as soon as he arrived, but the latter drove him out immediately. Right after leaving her office, Sophia called for Daniel.

Even though she had never worked here for a day, Sophia had her own small office in the Michel Group's building.

As soon as Daniel entered her office, she asked, "Did you see a man running away tearfully just now?"

Daniel frowned. "I didn't see a man running out tearfully, but I did catch sight of someone being carried away by the bodyguards as he cried; he sobbed so sadly as if his mother had passed away."

Sophia adopted a stern countenance. "I'll give you three days' time. I want him to be of use to me."

Daniel was stunned for a moment before he retorted, "Why should I work for you?"

Sophia responded, "Let's talk about the 80,000..."

"Alright, alright! Please don't mention the 80,000 ever again!"

...

At last, Plum Technology's team and Linus agreed upon a contract to develop gaming laptops together. Stanley took this opportunity and went to Alice's office next door whereby he continued bombarding her with another round of persuasion. Regrettably, he couldn't make Alice change her mind.

Plum Technology's experience and team were pretty good, but there were even better ones here at Bayside City. For example, the Edwards Family had distribution channels, whereas the Winston Family had a wide range of contacts. Naturally, she'd choose a better option.

The next day, Sophia watched the news and saw that someone had photographed Vincent getting drunk in a bar; Vincent looked unusually haggard in the photo. Having been on a roll all his life, he used to be very conceited and proud—he believed that he was the fortune's favorite chosen by God. This time, however, he fell into a romance scam and was humiliated. He could never recover after encountering the biggest setback in his life.

Sophia had run a background check on Vincent; he did very well in his studies, and they both graduated from the same school in the same year. Both Sophia and Vincent had been straight-A students in school, but Vincent kept a low profile and wasn't as ostentatious as Natasha. Hence, only a few people in the school knew him and were aware of his identity.

He even graduated from Bayside University with a doctoral degree in economics. After joining the Mitchell Group, he made a lot of achievements. He should've had a bright future, but it was unfortunate that he ran into Sophia.

He wanted to buy a second-hand car, but Sophia and Michael teamed up to raise the car's price by bidding for it, forcing Vincent to brace himself as he bought the car at an exorbitant value.

When he got married, his wife's nude photos were exposed by Sophia at his wedding.

After he finally found himself another girlfriend, Sophia tricked him into losing both his money and the love of his life. He lost his direction, and his career fell into an abyss.

On the third day, Daniel brought Vincent to Sophia.

After spending last night listening to Daniel's nonsense in a bar, he washed his face, shaved his head, and got changed this morning. Wanting to start all over again, he crossed over to Cooper and Sophia's side.