

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1001

Vincent sneered. “Judging by the amount of tax you’ve evaded, the court will probably sentence you to a few years in jail. You’d be just as ashamed to meet the ancestors of the Mitchell Family since you’d be the first of the Mitchells to have ever gotten a jail sentence because of tax evasion!” He furiously ended her call. Other members of the Mitchell Family called him after that, but he didn’t pick any of the calls up.

Vincent wasn’t exactly a righteous or virtuous man, but he valued his pride. He never liked watching Sandra’s shameless acts of evading her taxes, and he knew that she wouldn’t be the only one to bear the responsibility of the issue if she were to get caught—the entire Mitchell Family would be dragged through the mud.

Wealthy families like theirs were indeed famous and powerful, but that also made them the focus of many higher-ups and authoritative figures. If they were to offend any of those higher-ups, those people could easily find some excuse to destroy the whole Mitchell Family. However, even after years and years of Sandra’s illegal tax evasion acts, Alex had never once lectured her about it. Instead, he tolerated it and told her to be careful about it.

She was playing with fire, and her acts would clearly shove the Mitchell Family into the deep end someday. This time, Vincent finally decided to leave Alex and the rest of the family. He gathered all the details of Sandra’s illegal tax evasion acts, and he initially thought of handing them over for Cooper to deal with it, but Cooper ordered him to do it himself. Vincent personally brought all of the files to the tax department even before the news of the leaked files were released. The tax department therefore began their secret investigation even before the public commotion. Sandra’s not going to get away this time!

Meanwhile, Sophia was the one who had gathered all of the pornographic pictures from some unknown source. The pictures were extremely old, and Faye even appeared in some of them. Sophia probably found them by accident when she was doing her research on Faye’s scandalous acts. Vincent felt a sharp twinge in his heart when he thought of Faye, but there was nothing he could do about it. In fact, he was lucky he hadn’t actually gotten married to her back then. He would’ve been much worse off if that had happened. Now, Sandra was the one that was suffering instead.

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Both the public security and tax departments worked together to launch an investigation on Sandra and Glory Entertainment. They were well prepared, and it was easy for them to dig for any further information. Just the double contracts and the sum of money involved in it was enough for them to throw Sandra into jail, and all those documents were already on the Internet. Sandra, who had never felt so helpless, immediately approached the members of her think tank to begin brainstorming.

Firstly, they would have to deny the fact that the compressed zip file had been released from Nicholas' phone. They would have to explain that it was a misunderstanding, that the after-sales center for Dragon Eye had found no issues with the phone's system after checking—basically, that all the details were forged. This way, they would be able to avoid any legal accusations, and they would also satisfy Dragon Eye's intentions. After all, what Sophia wanted was probably for them to admit that there wasn't actually anything wrong with the Dragon Eye phones.

Then, they would have to destroy all of the data that had been leaked. They would have to approach all their connections; they would have to offer huge sums to get people working; they would have to use the influential power of the Mitchells to reduce the public's interest on this topic. If they had no other choice, they might have to get a few scapegoats to take the blame. Ultimately, they had to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

To Sandra's surprise, Lucy was the first to phone her to check if she had found any solutions. Although the scandal had mostly to do with Sandra's own matters, Lucy understood that Sophia made this move mainly because of the competition between Serpent and Dragon Eye. Lucy therefore felt the need to check on Sandra since Sandra was one of the pawns on her chessboard.

Furthermore, Nicholas was still the spokesperson of Serpent. All the advertisements had been released, and the public had shown great response to it. But now that he was involved in such a huge scandal with pornographic images, tax evasion, and other illegal acts, it would definitely affect the image of Serpent. Since Lucy asked Sandra about her upcoming plans, Sandra gave her an honest reply. She prayed that Lucy would be able to help her out.

Lucy's response came as a surprise. "Well, now that all of the confidential information that was supposedly in Nicholas' phone had been leaked to the public, everyone would definitely believe that Dragon Eye's phones are problematic. This news indirectly proves that there's something wrong with Dragon Eye's system. If this is truly the tactic that Sophia employed, then she might as well be digging her own grave and jumping right into it!" Lucy uttered with a chuckle. Cooper's daughter simply isn't as smart as he is, huh! She didn't even get 1% of Cooper's brains and brawns. How could she come up with such an idiotic solution?

Now that they've made such a huge issue out of this, they're practically giving a public announcement on how problematic their phone's system is! Their phones have caused their client's confidential details to be leaked to the public! For the past 30 years, Dragon Eye has been performing well in the international market precisely because of their quality and security. They claimed to be the most secure phone that couldn't be hacked even with the advanced technology we have.

Now that they did something so disadvantageous to their own brand, I'm sure Alice is mentally strangling Sophia to her death! Lucy couldn't wait to see the look on Alice's face! This is what happens when she fails to recognize who the better option is! I can't wait for Alice to come begging me to clean up her mess!

"So... what should we do now?" Sandra asked timidly.

"Since the issue is so big now, I doubt the public will believe you if you say that there had never been anything wrong with Nicholas' phone," Lucy quickly said. "You should just remain silent about the leaked documents for now. We now have solid proof that Dragon Eye leaked their customer's information, and I'll help you out with the rest. Don't worry—I'll never let you get thrown into jail! Once all of this is over, you'll be able to stand up for yourself and sue Dragon Eye."

Sandra thought she had heard the other woman wrongly. Lucy actually wants me to admit that those files were leaked from Nicholas' phone? She might as well ask me to kill myself! My company is the one that is being surrounded by people from the public security and tax departments; I'm the one that is being investigated here, so of course it'd be easy for Lucy to say this!

But Lucy continued with a determined tone that suggested that she refused to be disobeyed. "We'll do this for now. I'll handle all the matters regarding your company. Also, all the Serpent advertisements that have Nicholas in them have just been taken down. My lawyer will issue a letter for termination of contract soon, and I've already made a public announcement about it, so I'll need your cooperation." With that, Lucy slammed the phone down and ended the call.

Sandra remained dumbstruck for a long while after the other end of the call fell silent. Her handphone automatically showed her the trending news. Apparently, Serpent had made the announcement of their termination of Nicholas' contract almost immediately after the scandal went public. Many netizens praised them for their swift actions. Nicholas' fans, on the other hand, quickly turned into his haters.

Sandra thought to herself, Lucy is exactly the sort of ungrateful person that would burn the bridge after she got across the river! All she cares about is her own survival. How could she possibly care about me?! My survival, Glory Entertainment's survival, the whole Mitchell Family's survival... Why would Lucy care about that at all?! She had secretly allowed all of these nasty acts to go on all along, and she'd never brought it up when she was benefiting from it. Is she trying to avoid all responsibilities now that we're facing a problem?! That's not going to happen! That selfish old virgin deserves to be single forever. Linus isn't interested in her, and neither is Michael, so who does she really think she is? She's just lucky she was born into the Edwards Family. She wouldn't be worth anything otherwise! She'd be worth less than a single strand of hair in my nose! Sandra gritted her teeth as tears of anger began to burn at the corner of her eyes.

Her assistant, who had been standing beside her, overheard the entire conversation, so she asked gingerly, "President Mitchell, should we still proceed with the plan?"

"No. I have a new plan!" Sandra smirked. Since Lucy doesn't care about me and wants to watch me die, what else do I have to lose here? Now, it's my turn to sit back and watch them fight one another!

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After hanging up on Sandra, Lucy kept waiting for Alice to give in to her. However, that didn't happen despite several days of waiting, so she lost her patience and called Alice instead.

"Miss Alice, you'll really lose the opportunity if you still don't replace the agent for Dragon Eye!"

Alice was still in the Edwards Residence, and her personal assistant was packing her baggage. Unexpectedly, she received the swaggering phone call from Lucy.

She sounded indifferent over the phone. "Miss Edwards, I'm in a bad mood right now, so I don't want to discuss work-related matters with you."

With that, she hung up.

Lucy thought Alice was worried about the hacking of Dragon Eye's operating system, so after the phone call ended, she waited with a gloating expression for the latter to give in to her.

However, she didn't know that Dragon Eye wasn't the cause of Alice's agitation at all.

Now that she had had everything handed over and arranged, she was ready to leave Cethos.

Casper reluctantly carried his little backpack on his back while running out to pat the alpaca, the cat, and the dog. After saying goodbye to Carmen and Ashton, he sat on the porch, as if waiting for someone.

However, it had been quite a few days since the last time that person showed up.

Casper had been looking forward to calling the person 'Daddy', but he never came again.

Carmen comforted him like an adult, saying, "Don't wait anymore. Mr. Psychic has gone back to his hometown. He'll be back when you spend your holiday here next time."

In the end, Casper didn't get to see Daniel. After leaving the Edwards Residence, he and Alice took a car to the airport to leave the country on a private plane.

In the car, Alice worked using her laptop, whereas Casper pouted his lips without saying a word while playing with the sandalwood bracelet he had brought with him.

Once arriving at the airport, Alice got out of the car. Casper, led by Alice's assistant, slowly walked toward the airport in dejection.

Alice looked unusually frosty on this day, for she didn't say a word and was expressionless the whole time. She indifferently and resolutely walked up the boarding stairs to board the plane. Unexpectedly, she had barely made a few steps when a loud screeching sound of car tires was heard approaching from behind.

"Alice!"

Alice trembled, for she heard Daniel's voice.

He came!

Daniel came in a hurry. His usually neatly combed hair was utterly messy on this day, and his eyes were bloodshot. He looked haggard, with dark circles bulged under his eyes.

“Daddy!” Casper happily ran up to him. This was the first time Casper called him ‘Daddy’. Daniel quickly walked up to Casper and hugged him, holding the latter tightly in his arms.

This is my son! My son!

The father and son reconnected at last! Tears spilled out of Daniel’s eyes as he held Casper in his arms.

He then looked at Alice, who didn’t look back the whole time. She looked cold and resolute from behind, but her long, thin, and uncontrollably trembling fingers betrayed the surging emotions within her at this moment.

Daniel let go of Casper and stood up before looking up at Alice, who was about to board the plane. “Alice, if I could turn the clock back, I would never regret going to the River Seine that day, nor would I have chosen to run away from you. I was wrong; I was totally wrong. Can you forgive me, Alice?”

Daniel could never put that particular night out of his mind; he couldn’t forget this beautiful lady from the West for the rest of his life. But he couldn’t be together with her. He was a vagabond who wandered all over the world like a seaman, unable to live a settled life. Therefore, he chose to run away from her until now.

However, he acknowledged his heart’s desire on this day, for he knew he couldn’t run away from his feelings for Alice. Even if he buried his memory of the encounter in the depths of his mind, this memory would be conjured up one day. He couldn’t control the feelings that he had suppressed for so many years once they were released.

Alice still didn’t look back, but her emotionless words were heard in the wind. “Daniel, how is there forgiveness to speak of when there’s no resentment between us?”

With that, she walked up to the door to the airplane’s passenger cabin. She placed her hand on the door frame and was about to go inside, only to hear Daniel calling out affectionately and desperately from behind, “Alice...”

No words followed after that, though.

It was as if Daniel wanted to say something and could say it with just a little effort. Still, he didn't have the courage to say it.

Tears streamed uncontrollably out of his reddened eyes as he looked up in her direction.

Alice paused upon hearing his voice. However, as she had expected, she didn't hear what she wanted to hear after waiting for over ten seconds. Hence, she entered the passenger cabin without a word and disappeared from sight.

Daniel couldn't tell Alice's despair and agony.

She was waiting for a simple sentence from him. Regrettably, she wouldn't get to hear that from him.

How she wished Daniel could leave everything behind and go with her! However, she knew that Daniel couldn't do so, nor could she give up everything she had worked so hard for and stay in Cethos with him.

They knew that they couldn't get over each other, but they still couldn't be together.

Daniel's tears dried up from the breeze while he watched in a daze as Alice disappeared from his sight. He had never felt that the world was as full of hopelessness and helplessness as it was right now.

"Why are you crying, Daddy?" asked Casper naively.

Daniel quickly wiped his tears away and crouched down to be on a level with Casper. As he looked at his son, he thought of how much he owed them over the years, and the grief within him caused tears to well up in his eyes.

Suppressing the urge to cry, he replied, "I'm sad because you and Mommy are about to leave."

Casper reached his hand out to wipe the tears away from Daniel's face. As his warm little hand tickled Daniel's face, Daniel couldn't control himself for a moment, and tears streamed down his face again.

Casper tried to wipe Daniel's tears away, but he couldn't do so no matter how hard he tried. Those aboard the plane urged him again, so he said to Daniel, "Daddy, I'm leaving now. I'll call you once I get off the plane."

Daniel answered with a choke in his voice, "Alright. Remember to come and play with me during the holidays."

Casper then boarded the plane before waving his little hand at Daniel.

Daniel also waved at Casper before watching as the cabin door closed and the plane took off, taking Casper and Alice away from this land.

Watching as the plane disappeared from his sight, Daniel crouched down helplessly and let himself cry.

After a while, a few people came over and surrounded him.

Michael had never seen the manly Daniel crying so hopelessly. He had bluffed his way through the seven continents and five oceans with his plausible tongue, but there was still something that he couldn't handle.

Michael also understood that what was happening to Daniel on this day would happen to him later. He and Sophia would have to face the same problem sooner or later.

Family name matters, after all...

Cethosians were very obsessed with family names. Michael left the Fletcher Family and severed ties with them back then, giving up his family name to leave the opportunity to his sister. He roamed the world publicly under the name of Taylor Murray and secretly as an anonymous. In the end, however, he had his name listed back in the Fletcher Family's genealogy record book since he couldn't let go of his family name.

Anonymous? Ha... who would want to be anonymous if they were given a choice?

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Back when Celine and Justin went missing during the operation, the Mitchell Family wanted to take Nathan back and give him the surname Mitchell. Michael had taken a great deal of effort to forcibly snatch him back from the Mitchells. Now that Celine was pregnant with her second child, Cooper was dead set on the child bearing the surname Mitchell.

Cooper himself didn't dare to go back to visit the Mitchell Family's ancestral grave on New Year's Day and other festivals. He said he didn't give a damn about doing so, but in reality, he didn't dare to visit his family's ancestral grave because he was too ashamed to face his ancestors! That was because he had given up the surname of Mitchell and registered himself as a member of the Michel Family's household.

Ordinary Cethosians were extremely obsessed with their family names, not to mention the distinguished families with a legacy of a few centuries.

Beyoncé, Cooper's mother, abandoned her surname and family after falling in love with Woody back then. Leaving everything behind, she came to Cethos penniless and gave birth to Cooper. However, no one knew she was a member of the Michel Family and the daughter of the Michel Family's head until her death. It wasn't until more than 20 years later that the head of the Michel Family missed his daughter while on his deathbed and sent somebody to find out about her. Now, Alice had fallen in love with Daniel, yet she chose to run away and cast aside her love for him for the sake of her career.

Beyoncé chose to give up everything for love, whereas Alice chose to secure her career. She kept everything she had except for love, and this was the choice made by most of the women in the Michel Family. What about Sophia? She chose a path that had never been taken by anyone before. She chose to fight to the end together with Michael! However, nobody knew where this path would lead to...

As Daniel cried hopelessly, Harry comforted him, saying, "Alright, that's enough. You're already in your thirties; don't you feel embarrassed to cry like this? Alright, stop crying. The sky is getting dark; it's time to go home and have dinner."

In the end, Daniel forced himself to stop crying. He then lit a cigarette and smoked it slowly. Michael, Harry, and Justin smoked together with him, and the four men smoked cigarettes while sitting on the lawn at the private airfield.

Harry said with a sigh, "Now that I think of it, Justin, you're the lucky one, for you've overcome the odds."

Daniel couldn't be together with the woman he loved right now, whereas Michael had an uncertain future ahead of him, leaving Justin the only person who had finally overcome all

sorts of hardships. He got back together with Celine and was expecting his second child, making him a winner in life aside from the fact that Celine was a little mentally retarded right now. His eldest son was quite promising, and he would soon be a father again. He had had a rough life, for everyone had witnessed his miserable past.

Justin blew a ring of smoke before chuckling foolishly and sweetly. Now that he had gotten back together with Celine, everything in the past seemed like a nightmare to him. Luckily, it was dawn, and he had woken up from the nightmare. Everything was fine, except that he broke into a sweat out of fright. The world was once again filled with sunlight when he drew the curtains. He said, "I think that you're luckier than I. You're expecting your second child now."

Harry's relationship with Sarah didn't seem to have many difficulties. They had never been apart from each other as Justin and Celine were, nor was their love story as heart-wrenching as that of Michael and Sophia's. Also, unlike Daniel and Alice, Harry and Sarah could be together with the person they loved, so what had happened to Harry was enviable.

Harry blew a ring of smoke sadly and watched as it slowly disappeared. Then, he said, "Just a while ago, Sarah's dad tried to have her kidnapped on her way home from work, but I got wind of it in advance and stopped him. This was already the fifth time he had tried to lay a hand on Sarah and Sour Face. That father of hers had totally lost his mind; he harmed them again immediately after I let him off. So, in a fit of uncontrollable rage, I had him thrown into the high seas to feed him to the sharks. When I went back on it and had him picked up later, a leg was all that was left of him. Sarah doesn't know this yet."

Everyone fell silent at his words. What a man he is! He's so ruthless as to kill his father-in-law! Harry now had his heart in his mouth for fear that Sarah would find out about this.

Justin said, "It's alright. At the very least, your father-in-law couldn't make mincemeat out of you anymore. Look at how miserable Mikey is. He's afraid of being made into minced meat every day."

Michael, who hadn't a hope of remarriage, and Daniel, who didn't have a hope in hell of getting a wife for himself, were silent the whole time.

In the end, the four men spent half of the night smoking, using Michael's cell phone as their ashtray by stubbing out their cigarettes on its screen.

“Hey! This cell phone is pretty nice; it’s usable even in such a state! Stay still; let me take a photo and post it on Twitter!”

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Sophia was also aware of Alice’s departure, but she was too busy to see Alice off. The presale for Dragon Eye cell phones was around the corner, so she had tons of matters to attend to.

While she was busy, her assistant suddenly said happily to her, “Miss Edwards, someone anonymously sent the evidence of Lucy instigating Nicholas Yates to throw mud at us to your official mailbox. I have sent the evidence to your laptop separately.”

Sophia immediately checked the folder her assistant sent over. The folder contained quite a few gigabytes of files, including the phone recording of how Lucy’s assistant instructed Nicholas to purposely drop and break his cell phone to smear Dragon Eye. There were also some screenshots of some text messages, including conversations and voice conversations detailing how they had orchestrated the whole incident.

The assistant said happily, “With these pieces of evidence, we can prove that there’s no problem with the cell phones’ quality, and the ratings will rise very soon!”

Sophia didn’t even finish looking at the files before she deleted them right away; she dragged them into the recycle bin and even emptied it. She said, “There’s no need to care about these pieces of evidence, for they’re all fake. We’ll be playing right into the enemy’s hands if we really release these pieces of evidence.”

The assistant was baffled. “I have had these pieces of evidence verified, and they’re all genuine! We’ll be able to save Dragon Eye’s reputation as soon as possible by releasing them right now!”

The release of Nicholas’ videos lent weight to his accusation that Dragon Eye cell phones had quality issues. As a result, questions and comments of disappointment poured in, and Dragon Eye’s anticipation scores in many online forums’ surveys plummeted.

The release of these files would save Dragon Eye’s reputation, proving that Dragon Eye’s operating system hadn’t been breached into and that everything was a malicious plot by their opponents!

Burying herself in work, Sophia said, “We can’t release them even if they’re genuine. Don’t worry, for someone is more anxious than us.”

The assistant didn’t understand what Sophia meant; however, since Sophia had spoken, she naturally didn’t dare to decide things for herself. Therefore, she deleted the files along with the email, pretending as if this had never happened.

Meanwhile, back in the Mitchell Group’s office, Sandra kept waiting, but no news came. The anticipation for the low-end version of Dragon Eye cell phones was diminishing online, and Sophia should have received the files she had sent her. Why was there still nothing going on on Sophia’s side? She would be able to save her cell phones’ reputation as long as she released the evidence to prove that this incident was under Lucy’s instigation!

Nicholas could also play up his pitiable persona by claiming that he had been threatened and that he was forced into doing everything against his will. Everything he had claimed online was false—his cell phone wasn’t hacked, nor had his personal data been stolen!

Sandra would then go under the radar for a while. Once this incident went out of the limelight and sank into oblivion, the matter would be played down and trivialized into nothing, and Lucy wouldn’t be able to place the blame on her. With that, she would be saved, and so would Glory Entertainment and Nicholas, the money-spinner! By then, she would sit idly by and watch the dogfight between Sophia and Lucy!

Sandra waited for quite a few days, but nothing happened on Sophia’s side. She had enough trump cards in her hand, but she didn’t use any of them. The day of Dragon Eye’s global sale was drawing near, and its presale in Cethos would start soon, yet the quality issues hadn’t been solved!

Sandra was more anxious than Sophia. She kept waiting for Sophia to make a move and come to a face-off with Lucy so that she could seize this opportunity to find a way to survive and save her own skin.

Sophia didn’t make any moves, but a lot was going on with the Taxation Bureau and the police. In a fit of desperation, Sandra eventually chose to clutch at straws by having someone spread the pieces of evidence anonymously. Besides trying hard to make it look like the evidence was released by Sophia’s team on purpose, she shifted all the responsibility to Lucy! Now, she shall wait for Lucy and Sophia to face off!

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There was a public outcry when Sandra spread the news. Gosh, how could there be such a thing?

Serpent actually bribed the spokesperson for Dragon Eye in secret and threatened him to openly sling mud at Dragon Eye's cell phones! Everything he said about his cell phone being broken and his important personal information being leaked after hacking were all outright lies!

Unexpectedly, their competitors took this opportunity to add insult to injury by releasing a mixture of genuine and false 'leaked data', making a big deal out of this and even drawing the attention of the police and the Taxation Bureau!

It was unknown whether these pieces of evidence were released by Sandra's team to save their own skin, nor was it known if these pieces of evidence were obtained by Sophia's team, who didn't know whether Nicholas threw mud at Dragon Eye of his own free will or at Lucy's coercion. Still, Dragon Eye's reputation had been saved.

Sandra really clutched at straws right now to whitewash what she had done. She kept hyping up this issue to try to play down the matter about the double contracts.

The nude photos and the casting couch were no big deal, but the double contracts and tax evasion would drive her to her death. She would really lose all standing and reputation if this was found out!

Now that her life was at stake, she wouldn't hesitate even if she would offend Lucy!

Just when everyone was talking about the incident, Harry posted a photo of a Dragon Eye cell phone being used as an ashtray, which again caused a heated public discussion about Dragon Eye cell phones' quality.

Moreover, Michael rode on the wave of this incident's popularity by posting the video of him playing fetch with Judge using the cell phones of those two brands. He didn't even pixelate the cell phones' logos. The photos showed how the Serpent cell phone was about to disintegrate at any minute when Judge sank its teeth into it. On the contrary, the Dragon Eye cell phone remained intact, immediately showing the contrast between the quality of the two cell phones.

The public and the cell phone fans' enthusiasm for Dragon Eye cell phones was immediately rekindled. Some technology-focused influencers and celebrities also received the Dragon Eye cell phones in advance. After trying the cell phones themselves, they shared what they thought of the cell phones, arousing public anticipation toward Dragon Eye cell phones again.

When Lucy saw the news, she really wished she could kill Sandra, the idiot, on the spot.

Sandra thought she had hidden her tracks, but in reality, Lucy could tell at a glance that she was the culprit.

She spoiled my well-hatched plan just like this! Moreover, she even dared to place all the blame on me!

However, after her anger subsided, Lucy decided to resign herself to this reality.

She should never have worked together with Sandra in any way from the very beginning. That lady could get her in trouble anytime!

It was indeed Lucy who had proposed competing for the endorsement deal back then. It was very normal for a spokesperson to be replaced or removed. There were even cases where the leading actors had signed the contracts to act in films, only to be removed after the filming started. This kind of thing was a common occurrence.

Competing for endorsement deals wasn't something new either.

It wasn't Lucy's idea to discredit Dragon Eye cell phones, but she had indeed tacitly consented to this.

Right now, Lucy had calmly taken the blame; she decided to take it as the price she had to pay for her ignorance and tacit permission back then. What she needed to think about was how to remedy the situation.

After the incident broke out, everyone was waiting for Lucy's response.

Meanwhile, Sandra was gleefully waiting for her to pick a fight with Sophia.

Sophia was also waiting for Lucy's next move so that she could decide what to do next.

Their wait didn't take long. A few days after Sandra released the evidence and caused a wide and heated discussion, Lucy, the agent for Serpent mobile phones in Cethos, immediately held a press conference.

Upon seeing the news, Sophia immediately turned on her computer to watch the live broadcast.

That's so quick of her; she's actually holding the press conference on Monday!

Stanley and the others also gathered around Sophia and her computer to watch how Lucy would deal with this.

At the start of the press conference, Lucy bowed and apologized to the camera. "As Serpent mobile phone's exclusive agent, I can find no excuse to shirk my responsibility when such an unpleasant thing has happened. Whatever has been done wrong was wrong, so I'm willing to apologize to society for what my team and I have done wrong. I'm sorry. I'd also like to apologize to the fans who have been supporting Serpent mobile phones. I'm sorry to have disappointed you all. I have fired those responsible for this incident, but I don't want to shirk my responsibility. I have to take most of the blame for this incident. I hereby wish that the numerous fans of Serpent mobile phones can give me another chance. I'll make sure to lead Serpent mobile phones to greater heights and create another remarkable legend."

With that, she bowed again and answered the reporters' questions in detail.

"Miss Lucy, may I ask if you signed with Nicholas Yates on purpose back then?"

Lucy answered, "It was Miss Sandra Mitchell, my former business partner, who proposed signing Nicholas to be the spokesperson for Serpent mobile phones, and she even offered to lower the endorsement fee to compete for the endorsement deal. I have terminated all collaboration contracts with her after this incident."

"Did you know about Nicholas Yates' smearing of Dragon Eye cell phones in advance? Did you take part in it?"

Lucy answered coherently, "I didn't know about this until after the incident. However, I have to take responsibility for letting the incident worsen instead of informing the public in time about this. I'm willing to apologize and pay the compensation fees for the unwelcome effects of this incident on Dragon Eye cell phones."

Another reporter then asked, "What do you think of the incident where Mr. Taylor Murray played fetch with a dog using a Serpent mobile phone and posted a video of it? Do you think of this as a kind of provocation toward Serpent mobile phones by Dragon Eye cell phones? Will you take legal action against Mr. Taylor Murray?"

Lucy responded frankly, "I have watched the video as well. As an internationally well-known cell phone brand, Dragon Eye has always been the benchmark in the high-end cell phone industry. The quality and operation system of its cell phones indeed surpass many similar cell phones by a great margin, so I have to admit that Serpent mobile phones are inferior to Dragon Eye cell phones. The video only illustrated the truth visually, so I don't think it is slander for Serpent mobile phones."

...

Lucy apologized, and Dragon Eye cell phones' reputation was saved. It was all Sandra and Nicholas' fault. Lucy had done wrong, but she had publicly apologized and paid the compensation fees, making her innocent instantly.

This incident ended just like this by steering the public opinion a little. Everyone was satisfied since Serpent and Dragon Eye had made peace with each other.

Back in Plum Technology's building, Sophia and her team finished watching the live broadcast of Lucy's press conference. She didn't shut down her computer until Lucy finished answering the reporters' questions and left.

The fact that Lucy, the Young Lady of the Edwards Family, apologized so frankly truly gave her some stress... This seemed so familiar, for what happened was similar to the previous incident when King's dog-abuse matter came to light. While Sandra was still making excuses for herself and threatening the people involved, Lucy had readily stepped forward to apologize and pay the compensation fees. Also, she promised to shut down King for good even though the brand had just established itself.

The early-stage investment required to establish a luxury brand was huge, but the profit would be very handsome when the brand was established later. King was at the stage where it was about to make money after its fame and brand reputation were brought about by the huge investment, yet Lucy shut it down for good without hesitation. Currently, the domestic luxury pet supplies market was monopolized by Sophia's Pouri, whereas King had withdrawn from the market completely.

This meant that all the money that had been invested previously had gone down the drain!

Yet this was how bold and resolute Lucy was.

Back then, she even cleaned up the mess Sandra had created without leaving any loose ends.

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Sophia didn't know whether Lucy would still save Sandra's skin this time. For now, though, she had to admit that Lucy had dealt with the incident perfectly, for everyone responsible for the incident had been held accountable. She fired the personnel involved, apologized, and paid the compensation fees immediately, winning the support of many fans of Serpent cell phones.

Contrary to Sandra—who secretly had someone spread the news around—she held a press conference and apologized publicly, making her look more credible.

She had really left nothing to chance!

Such an enemy was the most ruthless and hardest to deal with!

If it weren't for Sandra, Lucy would probably have ruined Dragon Eye cell phones' reputation for good this time.

This was precisely what Sophia was certain of. She had been hoping that Sandra, Lucy's stupid partner, would stir up some trouble. As she had expected, Sandra did exactly that!

Having finished watching the press conference's live broadcast, Sophia immediately called Michael—who was doing some filming in another part of the country—and told him to delete the video of Judge biting a Serpent mobile phone that he had previously posted.

Unexpectedly, Michael acted faster than she did. Not only did he delete the video, he also issued a public apology.

He also frankly admitted that it was quite reckless of him to have posted such a video.

Sophia also took the initiative to get in touch with Lucy's team to discuss making peace with each other. They even purposely let the media photograph them doing so.

With that, the incident was over. Serpent and Dragon Eye were now independent of each other, and they would compete in the future by relying solely on their strength.

...

Sandra was still in disbelief as she watched the news coverage about Lucy and Sophia making peace with each other just like this.

How could this be possible? How could they possibly bury the hatchet when things have progressed to this point? Lucy is Michael's ex! Did Sophia really shake hands and make peace with her just like that?

Now that both Lucy and Sophia pleaded ignorance while Sandra had cleared Dragon Eye's reputation single-handedly, everyone placed the blame on her.

Lucy had taken the responsibility upon herself for the smearing of Dragon Eye cell phones, and she fired several responsible personnel to smooth things over. However, the matter of Glory Entertainment signing double contracts could no longer be concealed. Moreover, nude photos of Nicholas Yates spread widely, completely tarnishing the image of a good father that he had taken so much effort to establish!

All his endorsement contracts and film contracts were terminated unilaterally. He could no longer appear in the second season of 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' as scheduled, and all his scenes in the two films he had acted in lately were all cut and reshot directly.

The money-spinner collapsed just like that!

Glory Entertainment's stock price plummeted all the way until it hit limit-down.

It could be said that Nicholas was finished as a celebrity, for he also had a hand in the double contracts. Similarly, Sandra couldn't escape the responsibility for this.

Sandra gnashed her teeth in hatred as she watched from the news how Lucy had put all the blame on her.

All of you are morally perfect people! All of you are right, and I am the only person who has done wrong!

Sitting in her office, Sandra smashed everything within arm's reach while looking at the spectacular view of Bayside City outside the building with a malicious look in her eyes.

It wasn't easy for her to work her way back then from being an unknown swimmer to being the Young Lady Mitchell that she was today.

She would never allow anyone to pose a threat to her position.

Suddenly, an idea that had never occurred before came into her mind.

With a ferocious look in her eyes, she put out the cigarette between her fingers and found her laptop back. Her laptop was manufactured by Michel Group. Surprisingly, it was still usable even after she had dropped it many times.

Her fingers typed on the keyboard before she soon sent out an email.

Then, she called Lucy. As she had expected, it was Lucy's assistant who answered the phone call, for Lucy had blocked her number on her own cell phone.

"I'm sorry, Miss Sandra. The Edwards Group has terminated all collaboration with you, so please don't call us again."

Sandra's lips curled into a sinister sneer as she held her cell phone. "I have just sent an email to Miss Edwards' official mailbox. Take a look at it first, and then tell Lucy to call me."

The assistant hung up. She didn't want to pay attention to Sandra, but she still took a look at Lucy's official mailbox. Her job was to clean up Lucy's mailbox every day anyway.

Finally, she saw the email Sandra had sent over. Not a word was written in the email—only a photo was attached. After the photo was downloaded, a high-definition photo that seemed to have been taken secretly in a bar showed up on the monitor.

The photo showed Lucy and a man sitting in a booth in the bar. Lucy—who was usually forceful and vigorous, as if she had no femininity in her—sat on the man's lap with her arms wrapped around his neck while staring at him tenderly. Her red lips parted slightly, as if she was saying something to him.

One could tell from the look in a woman's eyes whether she was in love with someone.

Lucy's eyes were shining in the photo, so one could tell that she was truly in love with the man.

Dressed in a white shirt, the man gently held Lucy's waist with his long and thin fingers while speaking cheek-to-cheek with her. His face wasn't visible since only his back was photographed, but one could still tell his relationship with Lucy at a glance.

Shocked, the assistant sent the photo to Lucy.

Meanwhile, Sandra waited for Lucy to call her.

Lucy must have never expected this. I even found out who the man was, and I have many photos and videos of them!

Lucy had dated the man secretly for many years. They started dating as early as nearly ten years ago, which was before she started dating Michael!

She openly dated Michael while going steady with the man the whole time. She even wanted to unite with the Michel Family by marriage, and she had a few other boyfriends while dating Michael!

She was so disgusting!

God only knew what would give her the right to compete for the position of the head of the Edwards Family after their scandalous affair was exposed!

As Sandra had expected, Lucy called her in person after a while. "Sandra, I'll help you deal with the aftermath of your problems, but you must keep your mouth shut. Otherwise, I don't mind making you unable to speak anymore!"

...

Time really flew; it was June in the blink of an eye, and Michael had gone overseas to act in a film.

Michael had wanted to have Cooper's son registered in his household before the Ancestors' Day and have himself registered in Cooper's household before the Dragon Boat Festival.

Unexpectedly, Sophia secured the dealership rights for Dragon Eye, and the series of events that followed forced him to repeatedly put off his plan to have Linus removed from Cooper's household registry.

He decided to proceed with his plan on the day of the Dragon Boat Festival. He must have a son registered in Cooper's household on that day!

The presale of Dragon Eye cell phones in Cethos finally started. Now that the cell phones' ratings were positive again, many businesses joined the presale. There were many authorized dealers, distributors, and retailers to ensure that the cell phones were available for sale in big cities as much as possible.

A widespread promotional campaign for the Dragon Eye cell phones had begun before the presale. The film 'The Winter Breakthrough' had finalized its release date, and the promotion campaign for the film had started. The key members of the film crew did roadshows in many parts of the country to promote their new film. The cell phone commercial that Drake appeared in was released with good reviews, so Sophia had him take his cell phone to the roadshows to boost Dragon Eye's popularity a little.

The TV drama 'I Am the Village Chief 2' also began to be broadcasted on Cethos Central Television. Due to Michael's guest appearance in this drama, the drama became a hit and established itself as a classic local TV drama. It even won many awards and was broadcasted on local TV stations before being shown on Cethos Central Television. Now that Dragon Eye had become one of the drama's sponsors, Michael also returned for two episodes in the drama, playing the heroine's first boyfriend.

Sophia took the opportunity to insert an advertisement into the TV drama.