

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1056

At the banquet venue, Sophia was listening to Cooper and Linus talk about announcing their engagement and turning the banquet into their engagement banquet as well. After all, they were all present and members of the Michel Family had also come tonight.

Furthermore, marriage and divorce among celebrities were a common occurrence. For the time being, Sophia would be engaged to Linus. After some time, when the opportunity came, they could break off their engagement, and she and Michael could remarry. It was all the same. In the end, she would only have two marriage certificates.

As for Linus, this marriage was his chance to become a real member of the Michel Family.

When she watched Cooper and Linus discuss the details, however, she was suddenly seized with terror.

*Is marrying Linus this publicly the right thing to do? How are we going to have fun eating skewers and playing mahjong together from now on?*

She would have felt less burdened if they had just signed the papers, but they were making their engagement public now. It was not the same anymore!

She was the main subject at the banquet tonight. Those that came today were all people that she invited and a lot of them were business partners she met through Michael.

She felt so ashamed.

People were whispering and giving strange looks from every corner of the venue. Sophia took a look around and saw that everyone was pointing at her.

With the Michel Family present, however, she could not oppose on the spot and could only force a smile.

*What should I do? What should I do?*

They were going to make the announcement soon, but she still felt conflicted.

*No! I can't do this!*

She wanted to take it back.

Having a fake marriage was fine, but making it public was not!

*After making her decision, she slipped away quietly. I have to stop Cooper and Linus from making the announcement!*

At the same time, she could not let Linus find out that she was unwilling to make it public. They had a close relationship, so it was harder to reject him.

She snuck off toward the lounge room where she saw Joel bring Stanley earlier.

*Close the door and let the stupid dog out so he can ruin this engagement banquet!*

But, before she reached the lounge area, she saw a spiteful pair of eyes glaring at her from the corner.

She looked in that direction and found Sandra sitting there. Her cold and deadly eyes were staring at Sophia, blatantly expressing her jealousy and anger. She looked like she was just itching to pounce on Sophia.

Sophia came to a halt and a light flashed across her eyes. Shortly after, she was smiling brightly and skipping over to Sandra with an air of confidence.

“Miss Mitchell, what are you doing here by yourself? I’m going to announce my engagement with Linus soon. Aren’t you going to watch?”

She hugged her arms and lifted her chin slightly with a smug smile on her face.

Sandra tightened her grip on the wine glass so much that the red wine inside of it started to form ripples from the quiver in her hand. Her threatening eyes were red, making her look like a mad beast. Her teeth were clenched and she looked like she wanted to drink Sophia’s blood.

Once Sophia was done flaunting, she intentionally swayed as she left and even seductively twisted her small waist. She could not get any more arrogant.

Sandra’s burning jealousy had taken over her rationality.

*Why does she get to be engaged to Linus? He's mine!*

*Linus can only belong to me.*

Marrying Linus was not just marrying him alone. It was getting the power and influence of the Michel Family too. Linus was the Vice President of the Michel Group. If nothing out of the ordinary happened, he would be the sole head of the Michel Family and Michel Group!

All of that would belong to Sandra. She was not going to allow Sophia to take away everything that belonged to her!

The tears in her eyes quivered as she clenched her teeth.

*I can't let Sophia and Linus get engaged! I have to stop this engagement banquet!*

Suddenly, she thought of an idea. Standing up without making a sound, she grabbed a bottle of wine and walked toward the lounge.

Seeing Sandra come in, Sophia smiled. She went into the restroom and did not come out for a long time, waiting for Sandra to make a move.

On the other side, Linus and Cooper had finished discussing the details for the engagement banquet. This was supposed to be a celebratory banquet, but now it was changed into an engagement banquet. Hence, they did not have a lot of things prepared. Fortunately, the hotel management was experienced in that aspect, and they quickly prepared everything. They also found engagement rings in time. They rushed to get it prepared then used what they had. After all, it was just a formality.

Once Linus got everything in order, however, the whole venue was suddenly filled with smoke. The fire alarm rang, and the waiters ran out in a panic. "Fire! Fire! Someone is stuck in the hotel room!"

There was a commotion in the venue when they heard that a fire had broken out. Cooper was busy directing people to control the venue and evacuate the guests to the swimming pool while he went to check on the situation.

He saw that on the second floor of the hotel where the banquet was being held, there was smoke coming out and a fire had started. The people staying there that night were all guests who had come to participate in the banquet. The hotel immediately evacuated the guests and sent people into the room that was on fire to save Sandra who was stuck inside.

Sandra was in great shock. The moment she was saved, she started to weep as she rushed into Linus' arms.

"Linus, I was scared to death... I thought I was going to die!"

She looked pitiful as she shivered from head to toe in his arms. She had a death grip on his clothes. He tried to tear her away from him, but she wouldn't budge. She just cried in a miserable and aggrieved state.

Under the audiences' gazes, Linus could not just kick her away, so he could only let her hug him for now.

When Linus did not reject Sandra, everyone grew curious. They whispered among themselves, making guesses about their relationship. Meanwhile, Sophia, Linus' soon-to-be fiancée, was just watching everything from the side without saying anything.

The three people's relationship was slightly unusual.

Leaning in Linus' arms, Sandra looked in Sophia's direction. Her tear-filled eyes hid a smug look.

Sophia smiled, then turned to leave.

The sudden fire led to a temporary pause in the banquet's processions. Nonetheless, they were a trained seven-star hotel. They quickly put out the fire and returned order back to the banquet, but the announcement was still on pause for now.

They were just delaying it for a moment. By the time Cooper was done settling everything, he was going to return and continue the affair with the engagement.

Sophia looked around and found Cooper. "Dad, I checked the calendar and it's not a good day to get engaged today. Look; something bad will happen. Let's change to a different day."

Cooper looked at the fortune-telling app that he had created. It could even find an auspicious date.

Today was not a good day for an engagement. Rather, it was an exceptionally good day for finding his son.

“Okay. Everyone was quite shocked today. We can do it another day,” he said.

But, Annabel immediately said, “It’s only a small matter. That fire shows that today is a fiery day! Since we already have the banquet, it would be a waste not to get engaged now. How troublesome would it be to have to find another date to have their engagement banquet.

Annabel still did not know that it was a fake wedding, so she kept egging them on.

Cooper pondered on it. Since it was a fake wedding, they could set any date they wanted. Hence, he decided to continue.

Sophia was in a panic, and her mind was searching for a solution. Suddenly, she turned around and saw the people in an uproar.

She looked over at the source of the commotion. Unexpectedly, she saw a face that she knew like the back of her hand.

Hale and Justin escorted Michael over with haste. He was still dressed in his black suit. The pure white shirt on the inside and the black color created a shocking contrast. He looked cool and ravishing. Every step he took with his long legs was firm and strong, and he was enveloped in an ambiguous fragrance. He came in from a distance and appeared before Sophia in a blink of an eye.

“I’m back.”

The color drained from Linus’ face when he saw Michael and Justin appear at the same time.

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The moment Michael appeared, Sophia started to cry.

He was only gone for a month, but it felt like a lifetime had passed.

During this month, she did not hear any news from him as communication was completely cut off at his filming location. Carmen fell ill, and a multitude of other things also happened. Seeing him appear in front of her now made her feel like she had her pillar again. The strong front that she put up crumbled down in an instant.

Lifting the hem of her dress, she ran straight into his arms. A pair of big hands caught her, then precisely and skillfully brought her into his embrace.

He came dressed up tonight in his formal attire which made him look smart, elegant, and gentlemanly. His outfit today matched hers perfectly, easily making them the most dazzling pair in the crowd.

As she sobbed in his arms, the exhaustion on his face was instantly masked over by a look of affection. He murmured next to her ear, "There, there. I'm back now. You're the star of the show tonight. You can't be crying."

Just then, she pulled away from him and wiped all the happy tears off her face.

His return was better than anything else.

I can't cry. That wench will laugh.

Sophia replaced her tears with a smile. Michael took out a pack of tissues from his pocket and pulled one out to lightly dab the tears on her cheeks. He did it carefully so as not to ruin her makeup.

A roar of soft murmurs sounded as the crowd watched the two of them act lovingly with each other in the middle of that big hall.

What's happening now?

Aren't they divorced?

Wasn't she about to announce her engagement with Linus?

What's the meaning of this?

A frown appeared on Cooper's forehead, and he was able to figure it out from the get-go.

Perhaps Michael had gone back on his words.

However, the color drained from Linus' face. What is Michael doing here?

According to this plan, Michael was not supposed to show up.

Justin, who was beside him, was not supposed to be here either.

Even though Michael was talking to Sophia with his head down, Linus could feel his gaze on him from time to time. Those eyes carried a sharpness that seemed to pierce right through a person and into their soul.

Thus, Linus knew that his plan had been exposed.

Breaking into a cold sweat, he remained stiff and frozen in place. He knew that he couldn't hide it anymore, but he did not dare to look at Cooper or Sophia.

He knew that Michael was going to tear apart his act in the next moment.

Then, he would have to face a disappointed and angry Cooper and Sophia.

Feeling like the world was starting to spin, he could not even comprehend what the people next to him were saying and could only hear that extremely ear-piercing voice. It felt like he was being separated from the rest of the world by an invisible, formless membrane. He did not know anything anymore, and all he could hear was that ear-piercing yet unclear voice by his ear.

Sophia was holding Michael's hand as she rushed toward Cooper and Annabel.

"Dad, Mikey is back! Mom, this is my hubby, Michael Fletcher. Hubby, this is my mom. Our family is finally reunited."

When Annabel saw Michael, she was stunned for a moment and still had an awkward smile on her face. After all, she did just brag about Linus being her son-in-law without expecting that her actual old son-in-law would return that quickly. She let out a dry laugh then said, "It's good to have you back."

Despite being unhappy that Michael went missing for a month, Cooper did not treat him coldly for it was Sophia's big day. "Since you're here, you should greet your mother-in-law."

Michael's eyes went back and forth between Cooper and Annabel, then his eyes shifted slightly. Immediately putting up a shameless smile, he said, "Hello, Mom. I'm Michael. I didn't know what to get you for our first meeting. This is some local jewelry piece that I bought when I was filming overseas. I hope you'll like it."

Simultaneously, Justin took out an exquisite-looking box from behind him and opened it to reveal a full set of head accessories, including a pair of hairpins, a pair of earrings, and a ring. It was carefully made with choice materials. It even had the logo for the Yard Family's luxury goods.

The sight of the Yard Family's logo showed that it was not an ordinary piece of jewelry.

Annabel was overjoyed and was impressed with their old son-in-law. She praised, "You're a good son-in-law, Mikey!"

The family of four looked happy and harmonious together. Standing a distance away, Linus looked like an outsider.

He stood there by himself with a glass of wine and did not make a sound for a long time. His eyes did not dare stumble upon that perfect family of four as it only made his heart ache.

How he wished that he was the one standing in Michael's place.

With one arm around Sophia, he would stand before Cooper in a dignified manner and call him 'Dad'.

That way, he could become a family with Fass and Sophia. As a true member of the Michel Family, he did not have to worry about being given up on by Cooper when he was no longer good enough or the best, resulting in everything he had worked hard to gain being taken away by someone else.

Ever since Cooper brought him back to the Michel Family, he lived in a way that did not disappoint Cooper. He worked harder and was better than others by a thousand-fold. Cooper found him adoptive parents and let him live a secure and happy life. He lived up to Cooper's expectations and became Michel Group's brilliant genius.

He knew, however, that he was adopted and that he could never be a real member of the family. He did not share their blood. Growing up, he always had the same nightmare of Cooper sending him away.

He loved Sophia. He wanted to marry her, protect her until the end, adore her, and gain true status as a member of the Michel Family. He figured that if he and Sophia got married, Cooper wouldn't chase him out so easily even if he disappointed him.

Today, he missed by just one step.

He blocked Michael's connection and even created fake videos and calls to bluff Sophia with.

He used the issue with Lorelei to get Justin out of the picture.

Once again, he lied to Sophia and took advantage of her good nature and kindness toward him.

He knew that he was unworthy of Cooper's trust.

Linus sat alone in the corner. His eyes were lifeless. He took a sip of the red wine, but it all tasted bitter.

The other people did not know what was going on. But, seeing Michael come back and a desolated Linus, they could guess what had happened. They were all trying to get some inside information.

Stanley was tipsy. He was leading a group of people and glaring at Linus.

He knew that he couldn't change that easily.

Mountains were hard to move, and natural dispositions were hard to fix.

At that moment, Sandra was the happiest person there. Seeing the desolation on Linus' face, and the fact that Sophia's husband had returned, she knew that the engagement would fizzle out. She walked up to him and said, "Linus. Stop drinking now. Even though you can't marry her, you still have me."

It was as though he did not hear a word that she said. He kept drinking glass after glass.

He knew that it was over.

Everything was exposed now.

Cooper and Sophia were disappointed in him once again.

Forcing a smile, a pain was stabbing at his heart.

He just wanted to stay by Cooper's side for the rest of his life. But, that was probably not possible now. He was just an adopted child, and Cooper also had his own biological son.

That son was going to return one day and replace not just his position at the Michel Group, but also his position as the receiver of Cooper's attention and love.

Linus was nothing to them; he was completely worthless.

Suddenly, Justin was standing next to Linus with a blank expression. "Linus, Mr. Mitchell wants to see you."

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Linus knew that he would have to face it sooner or later. He was already prepared for Cooper and Sophia to despise him.

Otherwise, he would not have started this. When he made the first attack, he was already prepared for this, wasn't he?

This day was going to come sooner or later.

But, he did not have a way out anymore; he had to marry Sophia.

He did not want to lose this family, Sophia, or Cooper.

Without much thought, he started to walk toward Michael when Sandra quickly held him back and urged, "Linus, you're drunk. Let me go with you."

She naturally pulled his arm back knowing that Sophia and Michael had called him over to ridicule him. In the name of Linus' girlfriend, she wanted to go over there and slap all of them.

Linus, however, was completely out of it. He did not even know if that was a person or a dog standing next to him.

He saw Justin glaring at him.

He also saw Stanley circling around him in an unfriendly manner.

Currently, the family of four was having a splendid time with each other. Annabel was immersed in the joy of having received new jewelry. It was obvious that Michael had meticulously picked it himself. He knew exactly what middle-aged women liked and sure enough, it put a smile on Annabel's face.

As long as his wife was happy, Cooper was happy too. He had also grown more fond of Michael.

The more Annabel looked at him, the more she liked him.

Sophia was also happy because Michael and Annabel's first meeting was going smoothly. Turning around, she saw Justin bringing Linus over along with Sandra who was holding on to Linus' arms. Sophia looked at Linus and Sandra with a puzzled look.

Seeing Linus in that frightened state, though, made Sophia feel guilty. She had promised him today that she would announce their engagement in front of the Michel Family, but who would have thought that Michael would come home so suddenly?

When Sophia saw Michael standing before her, she completely forgot about everything else. Thinking about it now, she felt conflicted inside.

Not too long ago, she told the Michel Family that she was going to marry Linus, but now she was being affectionate with her ex-husband. Perhaps she was being slightly obnoxious.

She did not dare to look at Linus.

Cooper also felt sorry for Linus initially. However, now that Michael was here, he probably regretted it too. Linus' engagement was placed aside for now. There was no rush; he was still young. There were many outstanding women in the Michel Family. Linus was bound to find someone well-suited for him.

At the moment, Sandra was happily holding on to Nathan and looking arrogantly and contemptuously at Anna.

*Didn't you want to steal my man from me? Come and try. You easy woman! You can protect that outdated male star for the rest of your life.*

Linus was young and wealthy. Moreover, he was in charge of the important businesses at the Michel Group. The Fletchers were no good now. The head of their family, Mark Fletcher, had passed away. Without Mark, the mountain on which Michael could lean on was gone.

Between Linus and Michael, it was obvious who was the better option.

*Linus will be mine!*

Sophia only felt guilt and remorse toward Linus and she did not notice Sandra sticking her nose up in the air. She was holding on to his arm, but she did not even dare to look up at him.

Today, Michael was winning favor with his youthful father-in-law. In his last film, 'The Winter Breakthrough', he gave an exemplary performance of the character Woody Mitchell. The film won an international prize just recently. Because of Michael's wonderful performance, Woody was able to gain widespread attention when he appeared on screen for the first time. His achievements became widely known due to the popularity of the film at the box office. As Woody's son, Cooper was filled with pride.

When they saw Linus walk over, Michael, who had a wine glass in his hand as he chatted with Cooper, put down the glass and said, "Oh, Dad, while I was filming my movie overseas, I was able to do some digging on my brother-in-law's whereabouts. I've been looking into it for years, but every time we seemed to be getting close, we would come to a dead end."

At the mention of his son, Cooper's eyes lit up while Linus' eyes dimmed.

Finally, Cooper's biological son was coming home.

It was time for him to make his exit, too.

Cooper was excited to know that there was news on his child. "Did you find him?"

Michael frowned. "Unfortunately, the last clue was a dead end too."

The light in Cooper's eyes dimmed.

Michael lamented, "We found out that not long after the couple brought Sophia's brother out of the country, he was sent to a different Cethosian family for various reasons. That Cethosian family moved houses and took them with him, then that child disappeared without a trace. Some people think he was sold off at a high price."

"The person who bought him must have connections with higher authorities because they got rid of all traces of the child's existence. We can't even find a hint now."

Cooper was silent.

*It's been twenty years. Even if there were hints, they would not be very helpful.*

Sophia comforted him. "Dad, don't be sad now. If we're meant to meet him, we will be able to reunite as one family again."

Leaning her head against him, Annabel cried into his embrace. "I'm sorry, Coop. I shouldn't have given our son away. If it wasn't for me, our family of four would be complete already."

Meanwhile, Linus continued to stay silent like a person about to enter the execution grounds.

Looking at the state that they were in, Michael knew that he could not keep teasing them with the information.

"But, I acquired some new information this time."

He calmly took out his Dragon Eye mobile phone and played a video in front of Cooper. "I found out that the child has been on local television because he was too smart. After that,

someone came to take the child away, and all his information that was released on television got erased. He can't be found on any media or website in the world."

"The people behind this did a very neat job, but they forgot about one place—Cethos. Cethos just so happened to have built a firewall network twenty years ago. Foreign users could not use websites in Cethos. The related video somehow entered Cethos' network and could not be removed anymore. Look; I found a portion of the video."

Cooper quickly took Michael's phone and pressed 'play'.

The video was old and blurry, but it was still possible to see the three to four years old Caucasian boy in it. He was on some kind of program and the host was looking for someone on the scene to give him a mathematical equation.

He was still at a tender age, but when he saw the equation, he picked up the pen without hesitation, propped himself up, and started writing out the solution on the board.

A round of applause was heard from the audience, but the child looked at them coldly and did not have the slightest reaction—as though he was unhappy.

Cooper was dumbfounded.

Twenty years ago, he had watched that program before. He remembered the look in the boy's eyes. The boy was not happy; he was like a lion being raised as a cat. If he had enough money, he would be able to truly unleash his talent.

Back then, Cooper had gone to the broadcasting station to take the boy away. To the best of his abilities, he got rid of all traces of the boy's existence and gave him a new name—Linus Michel.

## My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1059

Linus was the child all along!

So, that was why he shared the same birthday with Sophia!

It explained why, from the very moment Cooper had laid eyes on the child, he had the strangest feeling that the child was different from others, and he felt compelled to adopt the child.

It also made sense as to why he had not been able to find anything on his son; he had given orders to wipe out everything that had even been remotely connected to Linus, thus effectively barring his own efforts to locate his son.

It turned out that Linus Michel was his son after all!

By the end of the video, Cooper's hand was shaking so badly that the phone slipped and clattered to the floor.

Sophia hurriedly picked up the fallen phone and passed it back to Cooper. "What's the matter, Dad?" she asked curiously.

However, Cooper stumbled backward, and if Justin had not reached out in time to steady him, he would have fallen over.

"Hahaha—"

Cooper burst into laughter before taking several steps back, then broke down into heaving sobs.

"My son, my son, my son..." he wailed.

He would never have known that he had children at all if Sophia hadn't turned up two years ago.

Up to a year ago, he wouldn't have even known that he had another child other than Sophia if Michael had never brought it up.

It was only today when the revelation came upon him that the person he had been taking care of these past 20 years—the person whom he'd thought of as his 'younger brother'—was in fact his biological son all along!

What a complete twist of fate!

Everyone was shocked to see Cooper as anguished as he was now, and they began wondering if something had happened to his son.

Linus had rushed over at the first instance, thinking that Cooper had found out what he'd done.

He knew he had let him down again.

However, Cooper abruptly began pushing through the crowd surrounding him, and when he saw Linus by the sidelines, he reached out to grab hold of him. Linus had never seen this look on him before; when he tried to speak, he was so overwhelmed that he stammered.

"Linus..."

Linus stared at him blankly, unsure as to how he should respond.

Cooper was still gazing at him as he chuckled bitterly, then, unable to control himself, he began sobbing. He threw his arms around Linus; his voice was shaky and raspy as he cried out, "Linus... my son... You're my son—you have been my son all along! Linus, I'm so sorry... I'm so sorry..."

Still looking dumbfounded, Linus was no longer able to comprehend what Cooper was saying.

Upon seeing how overwhelmed Cooper was as he embraced Linus, the dinner guests grew curious and were now coming forward to see what the commotion was.

Among all the sobbing and crying, Sandra, who had been standing next to Linus when Cooper had pushed her aside, somehow managed to pick out the most important piece of information of all.

*What?*

*Linus Michel is Cooper Mitchell's son?*

*Was Sophia not Cooper's only child?*

*How did Linus end up as his son?*

Seeing how his father-in-law was becoming unhinged, Michael placed a hand on Cooper's shoulder, then leaned in to say, "Cooper, please keep it together; we're at a dinner party and everybody's watching—you must get ahold of yourself."

Cooper was as shaken as he was on the day when Sophia had been resuscitated, but after Michael's urging, he remembered that this was Sophia's big day and he could not be seen like this. With that in mind, he hurried to the guest room.

The family gathered in the guest room.

"What? Uncle Linus is... my brother?"

No one was more astounded than Sophia.

Linus, with whom she had been about to fake a marriage announcement, was actually her brother—her fraternal twin brother!

Sophia felt numb with shock, and Linus was rendered speechless.

The next moment, he was pulled into Cooper's arms again while the latter was overcome with emotions.

Cooper looked borderline insane as he laughed and cried at the same time.

All this while, the son he'd been searching for had been by his side... for the past twenty years!

How could the heavens be so cruel to him and his son?

The child had been through so much hardship, and had even been on the brink of death on more than one occasion!

For the past twenty years, he had dedicated himself to ensuring that the child could receive the best under his care, and yet it had eluded him that the same child had been his son all along!

Presently, Linus was finally coming to terms with this newfound—albeit groundbreaking—reality; he recollected himself as the numb and shock began to wear off.

*I'm Cooper's biological son?*

*Cooper is my father?*

"D-Dad?" Linus called out, stupefied.

Cooper nodded ferociously. "Son, my son; my dear son..."

The novelty of the situation had presented itself without warning; Linus felt as though he was dreaming, but as his tears fell uncontrollably, he realized that all of this was happening in real-time.

"Dad! Dad!"

Linus pulled Cooper into a rough embrace, and the both of them began to sob painfully as they held onto each other.

This was more heart-wrenching than the time Cooper had first been reunited with Sophia. After all, for twenty long years, both father and son had been within each other's orbits, but never knowing the truth. What a cruel twist of fate!

Shell-shocked, Sophia stared at the scene before her with a blank look on her face.

This sudden turn of events meant that Linus had been separated from her at birth, and had subsequently been given away; he had been sent abroad when Cooper had, by some inexplicable coincidence, come upon him and made the decision to adopt him.

This meant that Linus had been living with his own biological father without ever knowing the truth.

Sophia thought back to the time when she had asked Linus if he would try to track down his real family.

He had simply answered that he would never want to find out anything about his past.

He had gone on to explain how his past was a taboo—he'd struggled to earn his place in the Michel family, and even the slightest thought of trying to track down his past would cost him everything he'd worked for.

Who knew that he was actually Cooper's son?

Michael saw how Sophia had gone still, and gently patted her shoulder. "Go; he's your brother, after all," he encouraged mildly.

Sophia remained unmoving until Cooper lifted his hand and beckoned her over, saying, "Sophie, come over here and meet your brother!"

Slowly, she felt her feet shift beneath her, and she somehow ended up standing before Linus. She regarded him with a pained look in her eyes, as it had only been moments ago when they had almost announced their engagement.

She could not believe that he had been her brother all along!

Linus gazed down at her as his tears spilled over.

He pulled Sophia into his arms, but no words came to him; it seemed as though the tears had drowned away whatever he had planned on saying, and he felt an overwhelming sense of guilt that threatened to suffocate him. How could he possibly explain the way he felt right now—it was as if someone had clenched their fist around his heart.

Sophia had been his younger sister all this time!

Looking back, it was no wonder that he felt a peculiar rush of familiarity when he first laid eyes on Sophia at the film studio. Back then, he thought that perhaps they'd met in their past lives, but all along, that sense of familiarity had been because they were fraternal twins who had, at one point, shared the same womb.

They shared the same parents—they had grown together within their mother's womb as they waited to greet the world. Who could have predicted that they would be so cruelly separated from each other and that twenty long years would have passed before they could be reunited?

Fate might have brought them back together, but Sophia could not help but think of all the times Linus had hurt her, lied to her, and manipulated her for his own selfish gains.

Linus held her tightly as he apologized repeatedly in her ear, "I'm sorry; I'm so sorry..."

He was sorry that he had, once again, let her down.

He was sorry that he hadn't lived up to the role of an older brother.

As she finally came to terms with the fact that Linus was her long-lost twin, Sophia allowed the floodgates to open and burst into tears of joy.

"My brother..." Sophia started to cry. "My brother—I finally have a brother!"

Cooper stood by the side as he watched his children, then, unable to help himself, he reached out and drew them both into his arms.

"Wonderful! How wonderful is it that I've found both my children?"

Moved by the sight of the family of four being reunited, at last, Michael felt his throat tighten.

It must have been difficult for his father-in-law to have gone through so much in one lifetime; now that the family was reunited once more, Cooper could finally put those days of turmoil behind him.

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Presently, several members of the Michel family were waiting outside; when Linus had been revealed as Cooper's long-lost son, the guests at the dinner party had descended into a frenzy, and the frantic discussions that spread through the vicinity had prompted the Michel family to enquire about the situation.

What wonderful news indeed if it was true!

Cooper wiped away his tears before hurriedly calling over those who were waiting outside; he wanted to make it clear to the whole Michel family that Linus was no adopted son, but the biological son of Fass Michel!

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At the dinner party, the dinner guests were whispering furiously among themselves.

“Is Linus Michel—the Vice President of the Michel family’s conglomerate—really Cooper’s son?”

“If that’s the case, no... isn’t he actually the Michels’ adopted son?”

“So, if Linus decides to return to his family, won’t he be about to lose his place in the Michel Family and Michel Group?”

“What could that possibly entail?”

“Michel Group will undergo a whole internal restructuring!”

The dinner guests were growing restless as they continued to speculate, but among them, Linus’ current as well as prospective collaborators wore grim expressions as they thought about how this turn of events could affect them.

If the revelation turned out to be true, then it could only wreak havoc.

The Yard twins were seated on the sofa while holding their wine glasses; their movements were synchronized as they whispered to each other.

Meanwhile, the Fletcher children had huddled up and were talking in low voices.

“That son of a b\*tch Linus is Uncle Cooper’s son? Are you kidding me? Weren’t they just about to announce their engagement?”

Equally invested in this whole affair were the Winstons, the Edwards, and the Mitchells—the latter group, in particular, was now engaged in a heated discussion.

As wonderful as it would be if Linus really did turn out to be part of the Mitchell family, the real issue here was whether Linus would be willing to return to his roots.

Where the atmosphere had been lively before, it now died down to hushed tones and careful whispers.

No one was more anxious than Sandra Mitchell.

Is Linus really Cooper's son?

No, how could he be?

Even if he was, I'm sure he won't acknowledge the Mitchells as his real family.

If he did, he would lose everything he had worked for in Michel Group; he wouldn't be so stupid to throw it all away like that. I'm sure he would deny all family relations with Cooper and retain his place within the Michel family.

How could a man like Cooper even father someone as clever as Linus?

He doesn't deserve to have Linus as a son!

The guests were still gossiping in earnest when they saw the Michels—who were noticeably agitated—hastily making their way to the exit. Without stopping, they boarded their cars and left the premises.

The crowd grew louder with speculation.

"Did the Michels seem furious to you?"

"Does this mean something else has happened?"

Before long, the hosts of the dinner party returned to the scene.

Sophia had carefully re-applied the make-up which had been ruined by all the crying, and Cooper had recollected himself from his outburst; there was only joy now where there had, only moments ago, been the bitter aftermath of the painful revelation.

As for Linus, he was beaming as he walked by Cooper's side.

Just like that, the family had returned.

Everyone was on the edge of their seats as they watched in anticipation at what the Mitchells would do next.

That was because whatever was about to happen next would greatly affect the interests of many.

Cooper was all smiles as he brought his son and daughter to the performance stage; he cleared his throat, and when he spoke into the microphone, his solemn voice was thick with emotion. "I, Cooper Mitchell, would like to make an important announcement today."

He paused for dramatic effect, then lifted Linus's arm by the wrist. "After twenty years, my long-lost son has finally been found! My son was Linus all along!" he declared to the audience.

Linus remained composed despite the wave of emotions that crashed over him, but there was no hiding the joy written all over his face.

The guests turned to each other with meaningful looks; none of them could have seen this plot twist coming.

Just an hour ago, Mrs. Mitchell had been boasting about Linus becoming her son-in-law and now, an hour later, Linus was revealed to be Cooper's long-lost son instead.

It all seemed too bizarre.

Nonetheless, applause and cheers filled the room as everyone gave their blessings, congratulating Cooper on being reunited with his long-lost son.

However, as soon as they turned away, the guests began to make phone calls and send out text messages; it was only a matter of time before the news would spread like wildfire.

A storm was brewing over the horizon.

In light of this groundbreaking news, everyone immediately thought about how the Michels looked nerve-wracked as they hurried away from the scene, and it wasn't long before the crowd put two and two together.

If Linus decided to go back to his biological family, then he would have to give up his place in Michel Group and, by extension, leave the Michels.

How could someone as brilliant as Linus make such a foolish mistake?

Was his biological father, from whom he had technically been separated for twenty years, more important than the power he held as the vice president of Michel Group?

Sandra glowered at the Mitchells' reunion and felt her insides knotting up in disgust; she was sickened, her lips curling as she felt the bile rise in her throat.

Linus is actually Cooper's son!

Everything was so surreal; it was like a fairytale, but it was the prince who had turned into a toad instead!

However, Sandra knew there was no point in hating how this situation had unfolded. Linus had basically just announced that he would go back to his roots, and the Michels had already stormed off in fury—everything was a mess!

She had only just started to make her moves on Linus, but now, all she was left with was a toad who had given up his life as a prince.

How infuriating!

At once, Sandra took out her phone and blocked Linus on the spot.

She would retch if she had to take one more look at him.

Many among the guests today happened to be brilliant and distinguished businessmen; they were all left flustered by Linus's decision to inherit the Mitchell family name. It was an insensible move, seeing as how the Mitchells couldn't even begin to compete against the Michel Family.

When Cooper returned, he had been back at square one—it was difficult for him to match up to the Michel Family's trajectory, and even if he did, he would not be more powerful than the Michels. In fact, even in his glory days, Cooper could not even measure up to Michel Group.

Everyone knew what Linus' move entailed, and they'd seen how angry the Michels had been when they left.

It would only take a couple of days before the vice president of Michel Group would announce his resignation, which would inevitably lead to a massive drop in stock prices.

Michel Group was in charge of many enterprises, but those of which were listed on the stock market—including projects which involved the military, the insolvency department, and the hi-tech development—were all under Linus' management. Once he left, the stock prices for all those enterprises would undoubtedly fall.

Everyone turned to look at Linus in disbelief and confusion.

Was it all worth it?

As of this moment, the Mitchells were basking in the joy of their reunion; they couldn't care less about the stock market. The family was all that mattered now.

The Michels had gone in a hurry so that they could get started with rectifying Linus' name in the registry.

How wonderful!

Linus was actually Fass' biological son!

They no longer had to fear that Linus would run away!

There had been a time when the Michels had found themselves bottle-necked in their business development, and they watched helplessly as other families, such as the Yards, had begun to overtake them. If the regression had gone on, the Michels would have collapsed, but Cooper's return had been the curveball that they needed in order to turn the tables around.

Seeing as Linus had been brought up by Cooper, the former had learned everything he needed to know from—and had grown into an even more refined version of—the latter. The Michels had thrived and peaked, but they had constantly been reminded of the fact that Linus was not their own. The Michel family had wanted to keep Linus, but at the same time, they were worried that Linus would leave them if he were to track down his biological father; if he had done that, it would have been a huge loss for both the family and the conglomerate.

But now, everything had turned out for the better!

The dinner party continued in full swing; when the dance segment came up, Cooper took hold of Annabel's hand and guided her toward the dance floor; Sophia, on the other hand, had ditched her husband, who had rushed back to make it to the dinner party, and was now enthusiastically dancing with Linus.

When Michael had gotten off from his flight, he only had time to change into a new set of clothes before rushing over to the dinner party, and because this trip had been so last-minute, he had left a lot of things unattended. After resolving those at the first chance he could get, Michael had staked out a quiet corner and was now deep in conversation with Justin.

Stanley paced back and forth frantically. "Uncle, what happened?"

"Why did Linus want to marry Sophia all of a sudden?"

"How did Linus suddenly become Sophia's brother?"

While answering their questions, Michael could not keep his eyes off of Cooper and Annabel.

The more he looked at them, the more acutely he felt the chills running down his spine.