

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1076

When Louis spoke of that harp, Sophia subconsciously turned to look at it. The harp looked unique and sounded very pleasing to the ears as well.

But no matter how beautiful it was, it belonged to somebody else. So, she hurriedly refused. "No need. I don't know how to play the harp either. This young lady here should keep it instead."

While they were talking about the harp, the girl named Anne nervously glanced at her harp. It was clear that she didn't want to lose her favorite instrument, and Sophia did not know how to play the harp either, so giving it to her would be pointless.

Anne glanced at Sophia with resentment in her eyes, as if Sophia was the one who had deliberately snatched her harp away from her. It made Sophia fidget around fretfully.

But then Louis insisted again and again, "It's just a harp. There are so many of them in our house. I've decided to give it to you, so you shouldn't refuse! If you refuse, it means you look down on me."

Getting up, he took the brush and, with a flourish, wrote 'Sophia Edwards' on the harp, signifying that it was hers from now on.

At this very moment, Sophia could no longer refuse since her name was already written on it.

"Grandpa, this is a Phoenix Harp that is priceless..." Anne bit her lower lip. She was obviously filled with hatred, but she couldn't express any of it.

How can such a precious thing be given away! And to a random person to boot!

This Sophia Edwards... She is not worthy enough to own this harp! This Phoenix Harp has such an extraordinary history that she'll probably be shocked to death.

Louis knew the value of this harp, and it was precisely because he knew it that he wanted to give it away.

"It's just a harp. You have so many harps, so you won't miss this one anyway," said Louis as he put away his brush.

Besides, most of these harps were not Anne's. Instead, they were part of Louis's collection, so he was free to give them to anyone he pleased.

Since her name was already written, Sophia had no choice but to accept. She said, "Thank you, Mr. Osborne."

Louis smiled and stroked his white beard, looking very satisfied.

Michael spent time with his elderly fan in Audistin for the whole day and only left after dinner.

When he left, he also had that harp packed up and taken away.

In Louis's car, Anne remained depressed and did not speak.

Louis knew that she was angry, but the harp had never been hers in the first place. It was obtained by Louis from Anne's aunt and had been in his showroom all this time. Since Anne loved to play the harp, she had been excited about seeing this particular one and had borrowed it to play.

For this visit to Cethos, apart from holding a private art exhibition, Louis had another motive too. Knowing that his idol was divorced, he had quickly brought his young and beautiful granddaughter on the trip. He thought that if he was lucky, he would be able to become a family with his idol through his granddaughter's marriage.

Unexpectedly, Michael didn't get divorced, and his wife even showed up, so Louis's idea of becoming a family with his idol through his granddaughter's marriage was a complete flop.

Anne was good at playing the harp. At a young age, she was already much accomplished. Initially, Louis was very confident in her, but now, he was completely powerless to do anything.

"Okay, don't be angry. There are many good men in Cethos. I'll introduce you to better ones someday," Louis comforted. He had bragged about Michael before and praised his little idol to high heavens before Anne. So, the girl was also looking forward to meeting Michael, but unexpectedly...

Although Anne was angry, she couldn't help but be intoxicated by the thought of Michael's gorgeous looks.

She had fallen in love with Michael at first sight. The man in real life was more charming than on screen. It was like a subject in a spectacular painting coming to life or a prince right out of a fairytale. He was both domineering yet tender, gentle yet strong. She especially liked his role as Leporello and was fascinated by his acting. In fact, she did not expect the real man to be more charming than the role he played on screen.

But unexpectedly, he didn't get a divorce...

How could that pleb Sophia Edwards be worthy of him! Sophia looked like a halfie b\*stard. That woman could never match up to Anne herself, who had such an elegant charm and sweetness about her. For Sophia to be with Michael was an outrage.

A man like Michael deserved to be matched with a gentle and elegant beauty like Anne herself. She had an artistic temperament and came from a great family. Together, they were a perfect match made in heaven.

But now, everything was gone. Even her favorite harp was gone.

However, she also knew that it was not her own harp, so Louis had the final say. She could do nothing about it other than being upset!

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On the same day at the Fletcher Residence.

Linus stood outside the military compound, looking at the main entrance that was heavily guarded. He stopped in his tracks without going forward any further.

"Linus, why aren't you moving?"

Today, Cooper had officially brought his son Linus to visit Mark Fletcher.

However, Linus stood outside the military compound without entering. So, Cooper had hurriedly asked him why.

“Dad, you go in. I’ll wait for you in the car.” With that, Linus turned around and got back into the car.

Cooper knew why his son didn’t want to go in. He sighed and said, “Then you wait for me in the car for a while. If you can’t wait, go to your sister’s house first.”

He had planned to bring Linus to see Mark, then go to Sophia’s place to have dinner and spend the night before returning to Riverdale tomorrow morning.

After all, he hadn’t seen his little sweetheart for about three or four days now, and he really missed her!

Since Linus didn’t want to go in, Cooper didn’t force him to and went in by himself.

The military compound was still the same as before with its extremely tight security. Even the black dogs brought by Cooper had to be checked several times. There was a persistent fear that someone would attempt to steal military secrets given the chance. After all, this was a military powerhouse.

But what they didn’t know was that Linus had sent in his high-tech equipment before and stole some secrets of the Fletcher Family from within.

That was why he was too ashamed to see Mark.

In the car, Linus handled his work using a laptop, while Lucky lay by his feet obediently.

Lucky was a stray dog that Linus had picked up when he went to a farm just outside the city to pick strawberries. It was a big and yellow dog which Linus liked very much. He even had Lucky styled by a groomer and made several beautiful collars for it.

Lucky was also brilliant; it was actually the smartest dog in their family. Even the most mischievous Judge did not dare to bully Lucky. If it offended Lucky, it would only meet a tragic end.

Right now, Lucky seemed to sense its owner’s dejection and placed its head on Linus’s lap, then raised its eyes to look at him.

Linus touched Lucky’s head and smiled slightly.

I shouldn't have done all those in the past...

Back then, he was too young and didn't know much. He was in his early twenties and eager for quick success and instant gratification. Indeed, he lacked control and judgment while doing things back then.

Linus didn't expect that things would develop this way. He turned out to be Cooper's son and now had to face Mark with a different identity.

Unfortunately, what was done was done, and there was no use crying over spilled milk.

To his surprise, Linus suddenly heard Cooper calling his name outside. He raised his head and saw Cooper and Mark walking side by side. Mark was very old and was on crutches, but he was still very energetic.

"Little muffin, if you won't come to see me, then I'll have to come to see you!"

Mark was very enthusiastic. No wonder the young man next to Cooper has always looked very pleasing to the eye! Turns out that he's Sophia's twin brother.

Such a fate!

"Old Master Fletcher..."

Linus was rather startled, for he didn't expect that Old Master Fletcher would come out personally to meet him. Flattered, he hurriedly got out of the car to greet him.

At this moment, he felt even more guilty for what he had done.

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Mark was very nervous. "Hurry, let's get in the car. I'm already 'dead', so I can't be seen walking around out here."

The group hurriedly got into the car and drove to Sophia's home, The Imperial. Although Sophia and Michael had eaten dinner with Louis today, they didn't eat much because they had already received a call saying that Cooper and Linus were coming over. Sophia hurried home and prepared for their visit; she needed to eat with them too.

When they got home, Michael had already prepared a glass case and put the harp in the living room as a decoration. Sophia could not play it, but such a rare item could not be hidden away. So, it was only right that he placed it in the living room as a decoration. There was also Louis' autograph on it, which made the harp even more impressive than it already was.

The glass case that contained the harp was thick, dust-proof, moisture-proof, bullet-proof, and most importantly, anti-orange-cat. If the harp was left out in the open, it would be completely ruined by the orange cats at home within one day. Even if the orange cats didn't ruin it, Richie Edwards would try its hardest to scratch it.

As Michael watched the harp being placed down in the living room, he glanced around and saw the big fat cats in the room had already begun to stare at it. Frowning, he asked Sophia, "Chica, why do I feel that there are more and more cats around?" He had neutered and given away most of them last year, keeping only those personally remembered, such as Chrysanthemum, Simba, Scorchy, Garfield, and that grassland cat Leapy. Sunset and its babies were also taken away by Stanley. All the rest were given away to adoptive families, so only seven or eight cats were left. But today, he could count at least thirty cats in the house!

There were orange cats, black cats, tabby cats, calico cats... He didn't remember that there were so many cats in his house. Could it be that the neutering was not thorough enough? Or has Sophia started collecting cats behind my back again? Oh my God, we're back to square one!

With some effort, Carmen picked up an overweight calico cat and said, "Daddy, this is Royal Sweetheart Aristocat!"

Sophia was pouring cat food into bowls, which instantly caused all the cats to charge toward her in a stampede. After feeding the cats, she stroked each of them and took their pictures. "These are the cats from our next-door neighbor. There are more than 300 cats there! It's amazing! They are all Internet superstars, and they often come over to play."

Michael was taken aback. Which 'next-door neighbor' of theirs had such a wealth of money? Three hundred cats! No matter how wealthy they were, they would become poor instantly.

He glanced down at the cat's collar and suddenly understood which neighbor it was—the ancient Imperial Palace next door.

There were many wooden buildings in the ancient Imperial Palace Museum, which were precious historical sites. However, there were many rats in the ancient Imperial Palace. Just one nibble from the rats would cause distress to the archaeologists for years. Therefore, the ancient Imperial Palace raised many cats to catch the rats, and the cats were numbered. Most of those cats were descended from the favorite pet cats of the emperors and concubines of the ancient Imperial Palace, so the title 'Royal Sweetheart Aristocat' was really apt.

Sure enough, their house attracted cats. No, it should be Sophia who attracted cats. Maybe it was because she couldn't give birth anymore that had caused her to be unable to resist little animals and kids.

Michael squatted down and stroked the cat with her. Sophia grabbed his hand and placed it on a cat's head, then said, "Touch this one. Its fur feels very comfortable to the touch."

Michael touched it for a few seconds before suddenly holding her hand instead. "Nothing feels more comfortable to the touch than you."

"Such a flir you are..."

When it was getting dark, the night shift security guard of the ancient Imperial Palace came to get the cats to go back to work. How could the cats stay over at their neighbor's house for food at night when rats were most rampant? That was simply outrageous.

The night security guard was familiar with the area. He entered The Imperial and went straight to No. 8 as he knew that all the cats were there for the delicious food.

The night security guard was a middle-aged man rehired after retirement. He had worked in the ancient Imperial Palace all his life. Nowadays, he wore a security uniform with a flashlight on his waist and pushed a cart to catch the cats and bring them back.

Sophia was always a kind-hearted lady. Seeing that he was getting older, she helped him catch the cats, put them into cages one by one, and pushed them away with the cart. She also gave away a lot of homemade cat food.

Unexpectedly, after the security guard took the cats, he caught a glimpse of the harp in the living room. Shocked, he quickly stepped forward, took out his flashlight, and illuminated the harp closely, his eyes full of amazement and disbelief. After scrutinizing it, he turned his head, looking astounded. "This is the harp? The Phoenix Harp? Where did you get it?"

Currently, Michael was helping to cram the last stubborn calico cat into the cage. He was so busy that he was sweating profusely. On hearing the security guard's words, he recalled that Louis' granddaughter seemed to have mentioned the harp's name today, so he replied, "A friend gave it to us as a gift. I think it is indeed the Phoenix Harp."

Sophia had always known that this security guard was competent. He had worked in the ancient Imperial Palace Museum all his life and dealt with cultural relics every day. Even if he did not have a professional background, his knowledge was definitely better than ordinary archaeological experts. In any case, he knew at a glance which ones in Sophia's family's antique collection were authentic and which ones were fake, as well as their worth. He was superhuman in this field.

"Yeah, it seems to be the Phoenix Harp. What about it?"

The security guard was so in awe that he kept taking videos and photos of it. As he did so, he introduced with excitement, "This is not an ordinary harp but the Phoenix Harp that has been lost for hundreds of years! The harp is not a musical instrument that originated from Cethos. It was introduced to our country from Vestia. Later, it was favored among the royalty, and then slowly, it was made available to the masses. However, due to various factors such as wars, many types of harps had been lost in time, including this Phoenix Harp."

He continued, "There are ancient records of it in our museum, but no one has ever seen the real thing, nor has anyone successfully recovered the real thing. The Phoenix Harp made its way abroad in the past, as there are relevant records and fragments displayed in the museums of Japan and other Asian countries, but the real thing has never surfaced once all over the world! I've looked and looked at it, and this is the Phoenix Harp! I didn't expect someone to recover the real thing! It's amazing!"

Sophia was completely befuddled by his introduction, but she did grasp the important bit—this harp was valuable. No wonder that Anne girl was so unwilling to give it up! It turns out to be such an amazing object!

But Michael discovered another key point: the Phoenix Harp was long lost and was exclusive to the royal family. It had been lost for hundreds of years, but through a Cethosian

living abroad, it came back to Cethos again. At once, he thought of the Yard Family. When the Imperial Yard Family fled abroad hundreds of years ago, they brought away countless craftsmen. They still retained some long-lost Cethosian skills, so most likely, they still retained the Phoenix Harp. So, how did the Phoenix Harp fall into Louis' hands?

Michael had never heard of any connection between Louis and the Yard Family. Although they were all Cethosians who lived abroad, they had never met. Interesting...

Michael had known Louis for decades, and he was not the kind of person who interacted with the likes of the Yard Family. Although Louis lived abroad, he was generally warm-hearted and scholarly. Therefore, he would certainly despise the very existence of the Yard Family.

Michael looked at that harp with a complicated expression. He had a feeling that this harp must have something to do with the Yard Family. The Yard Family is really everywhere!

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Meanwhile, Sophia was still listening to the ancient Imperial Palace's night guards as they spoke of the history of Phoenix Harp. "The harp is a musical instrument of Cethos, but most were lost later. The harp we speak of in the modern days is actually the lyre that came in from abroad, a Western musical instrument. Never had I expected that I'd have the opportunity to see Phoenix Harp with my own eyes in this lifetime! It's truly stunning!"

"Look! The craftsmanship of this Phoenix Harp is perfect! It's simply flawless! No matter the material and the craftsmanship, everything is just superior! It's worthy to be a national treasure!"

"It's truly the same as written in the ancient records in our museum! Everything is the same! My life hasn't been in vain since I've gotten to see such a perfect instrument in person during my lifetime!"

And so they continued waxing lyrical about the harp, but Sophia was skeptical. A national treasure? Isn't that too much?

The night guards then insisted on borrowing the harp to study it. Sophia couldn't manage to dissuade them, so she agreed. Subsequently, they then ordered a few enthusiastic people to transport the harp and even issued a borrower's form from the ancient Imperial Palace museum.

Upon seeing the infinite care and caution the Imperial Palace employees took to the point of even wearing gloves, Sophia's heart pounded. Stark regret assailed her for allowing the guards to see her harp. What if... it becomes a national property instead of my personal property once it's taken away? All at once, she quickly pulled Michael over, placing him front and center. "Be careful!" she urged anxiously. "This is our family's harp, given by a friend of Taylor's, so there's just this one! And his fans are all aware that this harp belongs to us. Remember that..."

Earlier, Michael asked Justin about the harp. As Justin was well-read over the years, he knew quite a bit about the harp and agreed that this harp was no ordinary harp. I wonder how Sophia is so lucky to have gotten her hands on Phoenix Harp that has been lost for centuries. The last time Phoenix Harp was ever seen was probably during the last years of the previous dynasty when battle raged to combat foreign invasion. The Imperial seal was stolen then, alongside a large number of national treasures, and among them was the final pristine Phoenix Harp in the palace.

Taylor had also once hired a composer who specialized in history as an advisor when he was to film 'The National Treasury Action.' The expert had duplicated a harp perfectly and even asked the ancient Imperial Palace museum to duplicate a Phoenix Harp as prop, but it was not as exquisite as this harp before his eyes. Back then, the Phoenix Harp suffered a tragic end, for it was burned by invaders before it could be transported away. What a pity!

"Tsk-tsk. If this is truly the Phoenix Harp, then it's truly priceless! It'll fetch a king's ransom. Buddy, your fan is truly something else!" Justin lamented while carrying his daughter, smelling like baby powder.

After putting away the harp, a senior guard came over with an ingratiating expression on his face. Rubbing his hands, he said to Michael, "This... well... you once donated the Imperial seal, Mr. Murray, so why don't you donate this harp now?"

Sophia instantly panicked and blinked at Michael vigorously. Her eyes were flashing so swiftly that Michael was almost blinded.

Noticing that she liked this harp very much, Michael schooled his face into a serious expression and answered, "This is different from the Imperial seal. I obtained the seal for the country, but this harp is my wife's private collection. Master Louis Osborne has even worked on it, so we're reluctant to part with it for the time being. However, you can take it back for study and duplication."

At this, Sophia breathed a sigh of relief though her eyes remained anxiously fixed on the harp as she fretted. Upon seeing this, Michael couldn't help stroking her hair and wrapping an arm around her shoulder. "It's fine. I'll keep an eye on things. They won't dare steal it. After all, who would dare steal from the winner of the Academy Award for Best Actor?" he murmured in a whisper.

While the harp was being transported, Cooper and Linus came with Mark after learning that a wealthy fan of Michael's gave Sophia a Phoenix Harp. At a single glance, Linus who was rather famous in the collectors' world made out the worth of this Phoenix Harp and hurriedly took a photo with it for keepsake before it was carried away. As he did so, he inwardly lamented, It sure is nice to have a famous husband!

After the harp had been taken away, they all sat down and chatted. Michael then took out 'Beyond the Border' which Cooper requested today and presented it earnestly to his young-looking father-in-law.

As soon as the scroll was opened, the majestic and bold words manifested before Cooper's eyes—"If the city generals were present, the barbarians' horses would never have crossed the mountains." At the back was Louis Osborne's signature. Cooper was wholly gratified. While he still maintained an aloof expression, his surreptitiously fluttering brows betrayed the excitement within him. He couldn't reveal the slightest hint of softness before his old son-in-law, so he kept up his aloofness. The reason being, he probably felt that he could only intimidate this perverted old son-in-law of his if he were aloof and authoritative.

Mark loved Linus, holding his little muffin's hand with his left hand and his good grandson's hand with the other. Sophia grew green with envy as she looked on, but still, she ate dinner with Cooper, Mark, and the rest.

Mark only returned to Fletcher Residence late at night. Sophia then took a shower and was just about to go to bed when Maria came over and said, "Madam, there's an extra cat in the house whose owner is unknown. The Imperial Palace said it isn't theirs, and I've also asked around in the neighborhood, but no one came to collect it."

An extra cat? Sophia went over to the cat bed to have a look. All at once, she saw an elegant and graceful Norwegian Forest cat with long fur among the orange cats. It was an exceedingly lovely cat that was truly a feast for the eyes. As she took it out, the cat meowed in hunger, so she put out some cat food for it. However, it then looked all disdainful after lowering its head for a sniff, refusing to eat it despite meowing in hunger. She then changed it out to a more high-end cat food that she only used during New Year, but it still continued meowing, disdaining it and refusing to eat. Hey! What a snob!

Chrysanthemum jumped up and slapped it on the ear before gobbling down the cat food. The Norwegian Forest cat meowed hungrily as it stared at Sophia.

Sophia then picked it up, glimpsing its intact collar. On a closer look, it was a foreign luxury pet collar that was sold by her biggest competitor, so she was aware of its price. This collar costs about 800 grand! This is a cat with a rich owner! Unfortunately, there was no contact number on the collar, merely its name in Cethosian language—General. It's a bit odd for such a beautiful cat to have such a name.

She then hurriedly had someone take good care of the cat since it might be her client in the future. Thereafter, she promptly phoned the shop to check whether there was a record of General having been there.

General wasn't as domineering as its name, for it was very much fastidious. It refused to eat anything and continued meowing incessantly while being even better dressed than Chrysanthemum. Irritated, Chrysanthemum again boxed its ear, whereupon it quietly went silent and hid in the corner to cry. As an aristocratic cat with an 800-grand collar, it had never suffered such aggrieve, so it cried for the entire night. In the end, it was Linus who took pity on it, giving it a bath before carrying it into the guest room to sleep.

The next day, the store reverted that a Norwegian Forest cat called 'General' had indeed been to the shop for grooming the day before. After comparing the photos, Sophia saw that the similarity was 99%, so she quickly had them contact the owner and said that she'd personally send the cat back. It'll definitely be an excellent client!

The venue was set at Audistin. Since Michael hadn't yet started filming, he went with Sophia. When they arrived at Audistin and pulled open the door of the designated private room, Sophia saw someone unexpected. "It's you, Mrs. Anna Yard?"

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As Michael, who accompanied Sophia, walked in the door, he saw a classy lady in the private room who seemed to be in her early 30s. She was extremely beautiful, so if she were a few years younger, she'd definitely be a veritable beauty, though she was also no slouch now. Judging from her aura, she was definitely from a wealthy family. Mrs. Anna Yard? And she even seems acquainted with Sophia. Anna... could it be what I'm thinking? It was exactly as he thought.

Never had Sophia expected that the person she saw the moment she opened the door would be Anna Yard, the person who held the real power in Yard Group and the mother of Cade and Callum Yard!

Upon seeing her, Anna put down the teacup in her hand and raised her head a fraction. "Have a seat," she murmured elegantly.

Sophia was still flustered from astonishment, but a flurry of movements came from the cat carrier in the hands of Hale who came with them. As soon as the cat carrier was opened, General who was inside leaped out and flew into Anna's arm, meowing loudly. Meow! The sound was long and piercing, carrying the joy of seeing its owner while also complaining at the same time—I was at a commoner's house yesterday, and the cat food was horrible! They even had a litter of local breeds that batted me!

Cuddling the cat, Anna stroked it lovingly for a while before having her assistant take it away. As she did so, she smilingly said to Sophia, "I'm sorry, but this cat grew up in the Yard Family, so it only eats the cat food made from the recipe passed down during the imperial times of the Yard Dynasty."

Sophia gave a dry chuckle before sitting down on the sofa across from Anna. "I didn't know it's your cat, Mrs. Yard. No wonder it's so elegant."

This is also a descendant of the Imperial cat? It's very much different compared to the ancient Imperial Palace's Imperial cat!

At this time, Michael quietly sat down beside Sophia as well. Then, he scrutinized the woman in front of him. So, she's Anna Yard. He surreptitiously studied her face, but it was entirely different from the Annabel Johnson he imagined. No matter her countenance, aura, or temperament, they're two entirely different people, and she never had cosmetic surgery.

The only picture left of Annabel Johnson is that of her at 18 or 19 years old. Meanwhile, a woman's countenance is wholly different when she's in her teens than when she's 45 or 46 years old. There's a 20 plus year gap, and the life experience throughout that time is sufficient to render one's temperament and countenance completely different. So, is she Annabel Johnson? Unfortunately, I've never really interacted with that mother-in-law of mine, so Cooper may be the only who can tell.

But if she's really Annabel Johnson, she already has another family. If I tell Sophia and Cooper about her, how would they be able to accept it? After mulling it over, Michael nixed the idea. If Anna Yard is truly Annabel Johnson, it's fate that they met again. Fate is in God's hands, so I don't need to do anything deliberate. They'll recognize the relationship between them when the time is right.

Anna personally poured Sophia a cup of tea, her long and slender fingers exceedingly delicate and lovely. As she did so, she remarked, "I brought General to the ancient Imperial Palace yesterday, but it unexpectedly got lost. I searched for an eternity."

The Yard Family originated around the Lombardi River where their political power was also centralized. When their imperial power was later demolished, their palace was torched by the peasant army. The previous dynasty replicated the Yard Family's palace to the current Bayside City, turning it to the ancient Imperial Palace today that still preserved some of the structure of the Yard Family back then. If it were a few hundred years ago, she could probably enter the ancient Imperial Palace freely, but she now needed an admission ticket, so she probably felt a tad resentful.

Sophia didn't know what to say to that, so she chortled. "There are indeed a lot of people in the ancient Imperial Palace, so even a lost person would be difficult to find, let alone a cat." Picking up the tea Anna slipped over to her, she lightly took a sip. It's sweet and fragrant. It's quality tea.

The two of them chatted as they drank tea, merely talking about cats, dogs, and the magnificent view in Bayside City instead of anything serious. Michael was merely an ornament, for he rarely said a word.

Anna seldom came to Cethos. This time, she was only accompanying her son here. The Yard Family had long since known that there was no hope in recovering their power, so they'd given up on that. As they merely wanted to make money, they'd long made peace with Cethos and forged a collaboration. The Yard Family now wanted to expand their business to Cethos, so both Callum and Cade had been in Bayside for some time, even having attended Sophia's banquet.

“Are you planning to go all out in developing the Cethos market now, Mrs. Yard?” Sophia asked as she poured some tea for herself.

Although Anna put her cup down, her elegant countenance carried a hint of amiable smile. “While the Yard Group has always been abroad all these years, the Yard Family’s descendants have always known their origins. Hence, returning to Cethos has always been Yard Group’s desire. Despite having made some historical blunders in the past, it’s a culmination of our ancestors’ wish many years ago that we get to return peacefully now.”

Sophia nodded unceasingly though one couldn’t be certain whether she’d truly digested it or she was merely feigning understanding. “If so, the collaboration between us will definitely grow by leaps and bounds in the future,” she said.

However, Anna was very much courteous in her reply. “No, no. If Yard Group truly wants to enter the Cethos market, we still need a lot of help from you, Madam Edwards.”

Michael had been listening quietly. He couldn’t join the conversation since the two women were talking, but he kept an eye on Anna’s expressions and movements. She seems extremely friendly without being distant at all when talking to Sophia, but it’s not because she has a pleasant attitude. Rather, she has a high EQ. She controls the entire Yard Family and is known for being cold and merciless, so she’s definitely not a simple person.

After drinking tea with Anna and adding each other on Messenger, Sophia left happily. Then, she posted it to her IG Stories. Ah, I’m the poorest of them all!

After having met Anna, Michael went about his own business, while Sophia went for a facial. Well, Anna Yard must be 40 or 50 years old at least, but she has beautiful hair, her hair plentiful, black, and lustrous. Even her skin is extremely supple without much wrinkles. If I could have her beauty at that age, I’d be willing to shave a few years off my life!

Unexpectedly, Sophia caught sight of someone she knew when she turned a corner. “Hey, Stan! You’re here for a blind date?” She saw Stanley at a single glance. This fella is dressed decently and classily with a white shirt, having even shaved his beard and wearing his precious, limited-edition L/K. Usually, he wears short pants littered with dog and cat fur at home, but there isn’t a single fur on him today! Judging from his dressing, he’s definitely here for a blind date!

Pleasant surprise filled Stanley’s face at the sight of her. “You’re here, Aunt? Please save me!” Pulling her into a corner, he solemnly admitted, “My father forced me here today for a

blind date again. I asked Sean to come here with Maisie and mess things up, but he said he's caught in traffic, so he might not make it. You must help me, Aunt!"

All the hairs on Sophia's arms rose. "Help you? I'm not going to pretend to be your girlfriend. Your uncle is here, so he might just kill you!"

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Clasping his hands together, Stanley almost fell to his knees before Sophia as he pleaded, "Carmen is attending an acting class nearby, so it'll just take her a few minutes to get here. I know that! Please help me, Aunt. Please." It seemed that he was truly panicked.

Dad and Caleb came with me today. They're all chatting happily now, so my impending marriage is about to be set in stone! I'm not Caleb's match, so if no one barges in to mess things up, my life will truly be ruined! "I'll kneel before you, Aunt! Sean said his cell phone died on his way here, so I can't contact him. He probably won't make it, so you must help me, Aunt!"

Sophia was caught between a rock and a hard place. Carmen had barged in several times when Stanley was on a blind date and messed things up. The Fletchers knew about this, but they didn't say anything since she was the apple of Michael's eye. But this time, Stan's father came personally, so he's probably taking this very seriously. Stanley was the same age as Sophia, both 28 years old. Although Stanley's family had been pressuring him to get married, it'd never been this bad, nor had it even gone to the point where his father and brother came to keep an eye on the blind date. Perhaps the Fletchers are pressuring him so much because they heard some rumors. After all, he has recently moved in with Sean and adopted a child.

At long last, she relented. I can't just look on as he unwillingly gets married, ruining both himself and the girl! Thus, she hurriedly made a phone call and had someone drive Carmen over.

Stanley then went back to deal with the situation first. Ten minutes later, Carmen arrived in a pink dress. She'd started being independent ever since young, so she was shouldering her own bag as she marched in with huge strides. Before Sophia could say anything, she blurted anxiously, "You don't need to teach me, Mommy. I know what to do, so just lead the way." She seemed very much skilled.

Back when Sophia first returned to Bayside City and had a blind date with Stanley, she'd witnessed how Carmen did her 'job.' At that time, even she was stunned by her performance.

When Stanley was forced into Bayside City's blind date circle, he got acquainted with a group of men who were likewise disinterested in getting married yet forced to go on blind dates by their families. Thus, he often took Carmen out to earn some pocket money, barging in on other people's blind dates and messing things up. An appearance cost one grand. Carmen's skills were superb, so she even made a name for herself in that circle.

When Sophia had led Carmen to the private room in which Stanley was having his blind date, she spotted two men in green military uniform guarding the door. At this, the two of them hatched out a plan in hushed tones. "In a while, I'll have someone restrain the men outside, and you seize the opportunity to rush in!"

Carmen nodded. In merely five seconds, she'd managed to force out some tears, her eyes filling with anguish. Sophia then had someone restrain the two guards at the door while she rushed into the private room with Carmen. Instantly spotting Stanley who sat right in the middle, Carmen let out an earth-splitting cry. "Daddy!"

She charged forward and hugged his leg, putting all her emotion into her brief yet powerful script with immense professionalism. "Why... Why are you going on a blind date, Daddy? Do you not want me anymore? You promised to take care of me and Mommy! I don't want a stepmother!" she sniffled.

As expected, the atmosphere in the room stagnated for a moment before a livid woman slammed her hands on the table and sprang to her feet at once. Pointing at Stanley, she lambasted, "Y-You actually have a daughter this old? How dare you?" Then, she demanded, "Dad, Grandpa, let's go!"

Sophia had been looking down at Carmen, once again shocked by her daughter's acting. Sure enough, she's destined to be an actress! However, she suddenly found the woman's voice extremely familiar, so her head snapped up, only to be greeted by the sight of Stanley blinking at her, his eyes blinking so quickly that it was as though he'd pulled a muscle.

Hence, Sophia swept her gaze over the table. First, she saw Stanley's furious father and forbidding brother, Caleb. Meanwhile, the woman who slammed her hands on the table and sprang up seemed vaguely familiar. It's as though I've seen her somewhere... Isn't she Anne Osborne? Anne Osborne is having a blind date with Stan? Moving her gaze past Anne, she saw her father, followed by her grandfather, Louis, then... Michael. She went speechless.

Michael was also struck dumb. Having seen Carmen on the job, he covered his face with his hands in utter embarrassment.

Sophia, on the other hand, was flushed bright red, and her brain whirred around for a way out.

Meanwhile, Stanley was still blinking his eyes at Sophia. Who the f\*ck would've thought that Michael would make an appearance while I'd gone out to figure a way out of this mess on the pretext of going to the toilet? Only then did he discover that it was Michael who arranged this blind date! He set his own nephew up!

Thus, he inadvertently set Sophia and Carmen up. Furthermore, his cell phone was confiscated, so he had no way of telling Sophia about it. Hence, this situation now transpired.

The entire room went as silent as the tomb; the only sounds that remained were Carmen's anguished wails. She wanted to take it even further, but the moment she lifted her head, she caught sight of her biological father who was sitting at the table. She first looked at Stanley who kept blinking in an effort to convey the situation before shifting her gaze to her father who had his hands over his face in embarrassment. All the while, her tear-stained face was filled with confusion.

She'd been doing this 'job' for many years and had scared off many blind dates. Stanley even gave her 'jobs' occasionally since he was acquainted with many men who didn't want to get married, but this was the first time she'd ever bumped into her biological father while on the job. What should I do now? My performance today is going down the drain! However, her pride as the Best Actor's daughter didn't allow her to admit defeat. No matter how awkward the situation is, I've got to salvage it!

In the next moment, she released her hold on Stanley's leg and slipped under the table, crawling on her hands and legs over to Michael who was on the opposite side. Then, she hugged his leg tightly and wailed loudly, "You're here, Daddy! Why did you go on a blind date behind Mommy's back? Have you really divorced Mommy? Do you not want me anymore? Everyone is saying that you two are divorced and that you don't want me anymore!"

Yes! The plot has been seamlessly connected, and things are now good! Following Carmen's lead, Sophia hurried over to Michael as well. "Don't worry, baby. Daddy is only here to eat with his friends, not to go on a blind date. It's Stanley who's on a blind date."

Tugging on Michael's sleeve, she then shook it vigorously as she begged, "Michael, hurry up and explain things to her. She's been crying ever since she heard that you went on a blind date!" I'll hand things over to him next. He won't possibly embarrass us, will he?

Michael was torn between crying and laughing, at a loss as to what he should do about his two precious babies. They even dare mess up the blind date I arranged. This is simply preposterous! Fortunately, I'm an Academy Award winner, else this would really end up in a farce. He could only go along with their script and put on the performance of his life.

Taking out his professionalism as an Academy Award winner, he scooped up his precious daughter who was about to pass out from crying. Wiping her tears and snot, he gently and touchingly reassured, "Don't worry. I'm really not here to go on a blind date. I'm just here to supervise Stanley's blind date. Alright, don't cry anymore, baby. I swear I'm really not here for a blind date."