

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 871

When Stanley found out that his furkid had gotten itself in trouble again by biting someone at the kindergarten this time, he rushed over to the Fletcher residence. Judge had been hoodwinked twice for biting people. If it scored a hat trick this time around, it would definitely drive Stanley mad.

Judge's dog-walking log tracker recorded its daily activities and whereabouts. It proved to be a handy tool that helped them tremendously the last time. Inspired by Stanley, Michael also installed the same monitoring device on his pets just to keep abreast with their daily adventures.

Thanks to this dog walking log tracker, Judge was once again vindicated of its assault charges that were uncalled for.

They sifted through the Cereberus' tracking logs from the past few days to be analyzed, and they discovered that the trio had already been hanging around nearby the kindergarten just within days after Carmen started school.

As robots, Nicholas and Shae would follow a specific duration and route that was pre-programmed to complete their daily dog walking tasks.

The Cereberus would need to be walked a few miles a day in order to tire them out. Otherwise, they would have made good use of that excess energy to wreak havoc at home.

Linus was the one who programmed the walking route, while Nicholas and Shae were the ones performing the job. No one noticed that the dog walking route had been secretly altered!

All this while since the program had been tampered with, Nicholas had been walking the dogs near the kindergarten. They circled around from the front entrance to the alley with a dead-end at the back. Over there was a tree with a dog hole below it, which was connected to an abandoned lawn in the kindergarten!

At 10.00AM every morning, Nicholas would walk the dogs to the dog hole, and Carmen would call from the lawn on the other side. The dogs began digging the hole for two days until they managed to make a tunnel wide enough for them to travel in and out of the kindergarten conveniently.

When the three hellhounds surfaced on the other side, it could be seen that the lawn was unoccupied, and so it became their secret base.

Carmen, Hope, and Ashton would always be waiting inside; one smuggled the dogs in while the other would be in charge of the lookout, and the last one would give out commands as she coordinated the operation.

As the video playback speed was sped up to 24 times, it could be observed that Carmen was smuggling the dogs in for the first few days just to play with them. Once they had their fun, the dogs would then return home. However, as time passed, other children at the kindergarten were fascinated by the humongous canines and came over to pet them as well.

The dogs gained popularity within a mere two days. As more children began lining up discreetly to pet the dogs, Carmen decided to turn it into a money-making venture.

She charged 1 dollar for a pet on the head, 2 for petting from the head all the way to the tail, and 3 for petting all three dogs together. They'd even get half price for the second petting, and 10 for a weekly pass of unlimited petting. Any banknotes above 10 were not accepted, simply because the cashier could not calculate more than two digits yet.

Ever since then, Carmen was in charge of the money while Hope was the dog keeper, and Ashton was responsible for maintaining order by making sure the children were lining up accordingly.

Michael could not believe his eyes when he watched his daughter conscientiously counting the banknotes in the video.

The children were running a high-risk business with lucrative gains, for their underground operation could have been jeopardized by the kindergarten security at any time. For a startup with next to no capital to earn a daily revenue of over 100, even their loose change was already a sizable stack of banknotes.

At the end of every hard day's work, they would distribute the profits. Carmen only knew how to count up to ten as the total revenue of over 100 was clearly out of her arithmetical capabilities. Hence, she used the oldest method in the book and split everyone's share by handing out note by note until the pot was empty. Heeding her conscience, she took out a small share from hers and gave it to the dogs as a bonus.

As the venture grew, Carmen began exploring different business models, such as Husky petting on odd days, Samoyed petting on even days, with the occasional special appearance of the Bedlington Terrier. Even the Giant Poodle, which was too large to pass through the dog hole, was available for petting—the clients were to make their upfront payment at the kindergarten, and Carmen would then arrange for them to pet it at her house. Meanwhile, the Giant Poodle that was sponsored by Hope had a petting fee of 3 dollars, which yielded a higher premium than other dogs.

The petting business continued to flourish, so Carmen stepped up to recruit specialized teams under her employment. There was the lookout team and the security team to maintain order; they would receive a certain salary by the end of each day.

Watching the playback up till then, the adults froze in disbelief.

No wonder Carmen's arithmetic skills had improved lately; no wonder there had been a number of children who came over to pet the dogs; no wonder the Bedlington Terrier's hip turned bald!

Everyone shifted their gaze to the three unsuspecting toddlers, who were playing with sand outside the house.

How are toddlers their age capable of such business acumen?

At the final part of the video playback, they had arrived at the climax.

It was the day before they closed their last petting sale and finalized their earnings for the day. Having done that enough times, Carmen had a rough idea of how much she could make. With a lollipop dangling from the corner of her mouth, she looked like a seasoned hustler as she masterfully split the cash and gave them out to her partners and employees. Not forgetting the dogs, she slipped her share and theirs into the zipped pocket in her pants with bear prints, looking like a seasoned businesswoman.

Suddenly, Albert and a few of his friends came over and immediately went ahead with their prank. They lifted Carmen's skirt up and attempted to remove her pants.

In a fit of anger, Carmen fought back with a hard slap on his face and yelled at him, but that did not deter Albert for long. He giggled as he continued to lift her skirt and tried to remove her pants, which were filled with wads of cash. Judging from his movements, it was not his first time doing it to girls.

That further escalated Carmen's wrath. She grabbed Albert and gave him a good beating.

It was unfortunate that the video playback had no audio recorded. All that could be seen was Carmen's lips wiggling as she scolded Albert, while her nimble hands landed countless slaps on him, leaving him crying. At her orders, Hope and Ashton effortlessly pinned Albert and his friends down on the ground as they squirmed in pain.

It was exactly the same way Sophia pinned Sandra down on the floor yesterday.

When they were done, Albert retreated to a corner to cry while the three children regrouped to start a discussion. Carmen gnawed on her lollipop with a solemn contemplation on her expression, which was a contradictory look for her age. Sophia was guessing that they were formulating a convincing explanation for the teachers when they found out what happened.

At last, they seemed to have come up with a solution and turned to look at the three hellhounds.

Carmen then pulled Albert over while Hope held on to Judge and opened its mouth, revealing its rows of sharp teeth. He then pulled Albert's arm over into Judge's mouth and imprinted its teeth on his forearm. By repeating another bite mark on Albert's leg without breaking his skin, they effectively framed the poor canine for something it did not do. It also proved that the bandages Sandra wrapped around her brother's limbs were grossly exaggerated, with the aim to escalate the drama.

As they were imprinting the second round of Judge's dental marks on Albert, the teachers heard his cries and tracked it to the abandoned lawn. They wasted no time in shutting down their secret base and covered up the dog hole. In a state of panic, Carmen led the dogs into the sports equipment room and waited for her parents to come.

Now that the mystery was solved, everyone felt an awkward mix of feelings.

Michael was dumbfounded, for it reminded him of the first time he witnessed from the control room how Sophia fought with a misfit girl in the bathroom. He recalled the pitiful expression on Carmen's face when he found her in the sports equipment room and realized he had truly fallen for his daughter's masterful acting.

My goodness... She really took after her mother—they're like wolves in sheeps' clothing! She's acting all nice and sweet at home, but she's behaving like a seasoned hustler at the kindergarten!

Sophia, on the other hand, was filled with relief. She was glad that her daughter's modesty was not compromised, and Albert got what he deserved for crossing boundaries. He had had it easy as the injuries were not as severe as they claimed to be. If he ever dared repeat it again, she would send her Bedlington Terrier to break his arm!

Cooper was also surprised to find his granddaughter to be such a streetwise kid. *Streetwise is good; that way, she won't be easily taken advantage of.*

Stanley jumped up with displeasure after the video ended.

"Sophia, look at your daughter—she's been exploiting my furkids for her hustle! And she even framed it! Worst still, he even got the smallest share! All of you... give back my son his money, right now, immediately, all of them!"

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The biggest concern that Linus had was searching for the person who altered the program for the dog walking route.

Although it was not rocket science, all that was needed for several parameters to be reset. However, in order to do that, basic technical skills for running computer programs were still needed as the person would need to login and search for the correct program to do so—something that a child who struggled to add and subtract complex numbers could do.

Moreover, not everyone had access to Nicholas' controls. One needed to log in with his administrator password to adjust the functions and moreover, the perpetrator even deleted all the logs recording the changes made.

Nobody knew how Nicholas' dog walking route had been tampered with.

They shot a glance at the three children playing in the mud and broke out in cold sweat.

When Stanley heard about the news, he completely lost his composure. "This is the third time! The third f*cking time! What has my kid done to deserve your treatment? You are all animals—no, worse than that!"

His furkid had been merely minding its own business, but both Faye and the Mitchells manipulated the dog to hurt others. Not only did Carmen have the nerve to frame Judge for attacking children, Sophia even made the husky model at her shop to boost the sales of her dog collars and chains. Only God knew how much revenue Judge brought in for her and all he received for his hard work was a pat on his head—and nothing else. *This is too much!*

To quell Stanley's incessant rant, the children's fathers conducted a search for the black money from the little mob's underground business and redistributed it—Judge took half the share as he was rightly deserving of it while the other half was evenly shared by the three musketeers.

Carmen, who was feeling unjustified, whipped out her little book where she had recorded the dog's performance. The husky was duly paid with pets that he received on his head and the occurrence of his tail wagging. She raised her fingers and counted his payout—each of them as per the pay ratio and precise to the decimal point. The salary she paid Judge was fair—no more, no less!

After that, Judge was fired from her company and he was not allowed to mingle with them anymore.

Stanley left with his dog's pay and brought him to his beach villa. *I'm angry! I'm not coming back!*

With a cold case being solved, it meant that her dog petting empire was ruined and her secret base was exposed. She was furious and even declined to drink her milk until Cooper dug up about 200 in loose change and told her that Stan had returned it out of guilt. She counted the amount and only fell asleep after she was satisfied.

After seeing that Carmen had fallen asleep, Sophia gently exited the room and saw that Linus was still studying Nicholas and Shae.

It had perplexed him to learn that all of the logs had been eradicated and the robots' dog walking routes were changed. Even after much observation, he failed to discover the perpetrator.

Cooper also took the matter seriously and personally investigated it.

Linus had hacked Nicholas using a backdoor method to monitor Sophia at her residence many years ago, but Cooper had since blocked that access.

However, as Cooper still held the passcode to it, the access was not temporarily removed. It was only inactive and served as a folder for memory backups.

He had almost forgotten about the backup folder and now that he did, he immediately retrieved the files from there and discovered the log change. Indeed, someone had logged in with Linus' account and password to alter the parameters of the dog walking route before completely removing their trace. It was such a pity that the perpetrator was unaware of the backup function.

The backup had a video recording of the perpetrator—it was Carmen with her lollipop dangling from the corner of her mouth, wearing the expression of a seasoned operator as she adeptly changed Nicholas' parameters.

Linus had enjoyed having Carmen's company when he did maintenance work on Nicholas and Shae. He even demonstrated to her how he did it, thinking that she was too young to grasp what it was all about. Little was he aware that she had secretly learned all of his methods, altered the dog walking program on her own, led the dogs to her kindergarten, and ultimately built her dog petting business. What she never expected was her perfect crime to be exposed.

Carmen had roughly known that the days of her illegal venture were numbered since day one, so she made as much as she could on a daily basis. In the imminent event that she was caught, she could at least play dumb and get out of trouble scot-free.

She had almost escaped unscathed with the incidents of Judge biting children and her beating Albert up, but a little girl like her had missed out on one important loophole to her flawed plan.

Sophia felt as if she was beginning to know her daughter all over again. Beneath Carmen's sweet, innocent looks, she was already a tyrant who exploited her employees. *Imagine what she would be capable of when she grows up!*

On the other hand, Cooper felt like Christopher Columbus when he first discovered America and developed a newfound admiration for his vicious little granddaughter. *Not bad; she takes after me!*

Now that the mystery had been resolved, Sophia saw that Michael loitered in front of her house. He looked like he had something to tell her, but was hesitant to do so. He paced back and forth in front of Villa No. 2 as his shadow blended with and departed from the shade under the trees. The scent of tobacco filled the air around him.

Sophia had never recalled seeing Michael smoke in front of her and never knew that he maintained that habit.

Donning her sleeping robe, she went out the door. As she arrived at the trees not far from her garden, there were mosquitoes flying around. The sweet, captivating scent of her fragrance found its way to him with the help of the evening breeze, causing him to finally stop in his tracks before he walked to her with his head hung low.

The both of them faced each other, but said nothing. He had a lot on his mind, but lacked the courage to voice his thoughts.

Finally, Sophia broke the silence by raising her hand and slapping his cheek, leaving a fresh handprint on his cheek.

Michael felt a sting on his cheek, but he did not react. Instead, he lowered his head in shame and replied with guilt, "I'm sorry; it is my fault that I failed to protect Carmen and you. I have failed as a father and a husband."

He considered that he failed as a father when Carmen was almost bullied in school. If it had not been for his own negligence, Sophia could have avoided being hurt for the second time and would not be depressed. He deserved the slap from Sophia!

Sophia frowned and asked, "What's wrong with you? I was merely killing that mosquito on your face." She then opened her palm to reveal the disfigured carcass of a mosquito buried in the messy puddle of Michael's blood.

A stunned Michael fell into silence.

Following that, they both sat down on a long bench where Sophia took her insect repellent to spray on his face. His mind was clouded by his numerous thoughts and woes that he was oblivious to the mosquito bite on his face—where a bump had begun to rise from that bite.

Splatter! Sophia attentively sprayed and rubbed the repellent on Michael's face before noticing several more bumps across his body. "Look at you—there are many mosquitoes flying around us. What are you doing out here and getting yourself bitten by them? There are mosquitoes and you never killed them yourself. Look here... and here... as well as here—there are bumps all over!"

As she spoke, she pinched his bumps, leaving the marks of a cross.

Michael gazed at her while she grumbled and reminisced about the past. After a long pause, he finally summoned the courage to speak and asked with apprehension after the lump in his throat moved.

"Sophia... Did you find out what happened that time?"

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Naturally he referred to that matter. It was a darkness hidden in Sophia's heart and a place which nobody could reach. No amount of sunlight and warmth could ever reach that place.

Hence, whenever somebody mentioned the darkness in her, her whole world would sink into that darkness without being able to free herself.

She forgot about who she was, but the moment she accepted her identity as Sophia Edwards, people recalled her past.

No matter how much protection Sophia had, as long as she had to face the reality, she would learn about her past from somebody else. Yesterday, for instance, Sandra mentioned about the past while using certain words to insult and humiliate her.

He thought, All those years ago, it took her a lot of courage and vigor to leave the past behind her. She moved forward in determination while gritting her teeth together. My chica has to suffer through that pain, which she has experienced before, once again. Is there anything else that is more hopeless than this situation?

Therefore, it was unexpected when Sophia smiled nonchalantly. "Are you referring to the fact that I was molested as a child?"

Michael's heart skipped a beat and his chest reflexively tightened while his gaze reflected the pain he felt. *She knows about it after all. Since she's back, it's impossible to escape the past.*

However, Sophia did not seem to be bothered by it; instead, she sighed while batting her long eyelashes. Under the streetlamps, her eyelashes looked like a pair of butterflies. "When I regained consciousness in Africa, Quinton told me that there's nothing to feel humiliated about in this world as long as one has a clear conscience," she answered.

I have forgotten all about my childhood, so I've lost both sweet and painful memories. There can't be any pain since there's no happiness to begin with. I've heard about my helpless and dark past from somebody else long ago. In fact, I've read through the book that I wrote.

My childhood life was extremely painful, so I wanted to change my fate. I worked hard by studying because I wanted to change my fate by doing so. I met Xyla and Richard, who almost destroyed my education, so I did all that I could to take revenge. My methods were as cruel as the darkness I went through during my childhood.

Sophia chuckled while tucking loose strands of hair behind her ear. "As a matter of fact, I have to thank those people who made my life hell because they trained my will and grit. Despite losing my memories, these characteristics are still within me, but I've forgotten all about the pain and unhappiness. Come to think of it, I suppose it's a gift from God," she stated.

Michael stared at Sophia's side profile in a daze and the pain in his heart was reflected in the tears that started to swim in his eyes.

Quinton made her lose her memories and it wasn't an easy feat to do so. On an international level, there were already psychiatrists advocating amnesia as a treatment for mental illness. However, it was a tricky matter to succeed in it.

Amnesia is most probably not a bad thing for her.

The two of them looked up at the crescent moon in the sky.

"I think the weather will be great tomorrow. I have met up with Daniel to check the dates and he mentioned that the day after tomorrow is suited for me to join the team. Tomorrow, on the other hand, is perfect for traveling. Will you send me off?"

"It depends on the situation."

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The next day, Carmen did not go to school because she released the dog and it bit someone. Besides that, she even illegally opened a dog petting spot in the kindergarten and gathered a group of personnel to carry out unlicensed activities. As her illegal dog petting spot had been banned, it meant that the location for dogs had also been blocked, so the dogs had all been sent home. Therefore, she had to stop her business and she was not in the mood for the past few days to return to school. Upon learning that Michael was leaving soon, she was adamant on sending him off.

Michael would be gone for a few months with the filming crew and it revolved around 'The Winter Breakthrough' that was popularized by Woody and Mark a long time ago.

There were three main characters—namely Woody, Mark, and a fierce, cruel Japanese general.

Michael was the producer and main actor of the film, so he had full control over the entire film. After the script had been fixed and with a thorough discussion, he confirmed that he would play the character, Mark Fletcher, for the second time whereas Harry would play the role of the fierce, cruel General Fuso. Michael initially fought hard to play Woody, but Cooper would not budge.

When Michael visited Cooper's new company, he noticed that the head of the security team was extremely handsome. Furthermore, he was only 20 years old with a height of six feet three. Michael was worried that such a handsome young man would loiter around Sophia, so he poached the man as an actor for the film.

After the Mitchell Family broke up, the man had been frequently visiting Woody with Sean. Hence, he had met Woody before and he knew about the latter's past—it also meant that it was easier for him to understand the character. In addition to that, the man was a talented actor and took on the role of the first male lead immediately after some training.

Cooper felt better since a member of the Mitchell Family was playing the role of Woody.

Sophia had brought Carmen along to send Michael off in the airport. The airport was a private facility established by him, so it was not particularly large because it only housed his personal aircraft.

Tomorrow was the day the main characters joined the filming crew, so he conveniently dragged the head of security from the Mitchells along.

His name was Drake Mitchell. Michael thought that he had exceptional looks, temperament and mannerisms, so he christened him with a stage name—Draco. Nevertheless, Michael was not sure if the man could live up to the meaning of his stage name.

Michael had brought along a simple luggage while making his way to the airplane while Sophia followed from behind as she held Carmen's hand.

"Dear, I'm counting on you to look after Carmen once I leave. The child is naughty, so I know it'll be hard on you," Michael mentioned solemnly as a father about to embark on a long journey because he was worried about his little princess.

Sophia responded, "Why are you saying that? Carmen is my child too, so I'll do my best to look after her."

Michael was about to leave for a few months, so he was bound to miss them...

The plane was about to take off, so he squatted to speak with Carmen, "Baby, I'm leaving now. Give Daddy a kiss."

Carmen turned away swiftly. "No way."

Previously, she acted in 'The National Treasury Action' and it was a top-grossing box office, but she did not receive any payment for it. After that, he even confiscated the earnings of her dog sales, which amounted to a few hundred. For the filming of 'The Winter Breakthrough', she was even promised that she would have a role, but the promise was not fulfilled in the end. She was convinced that someone had pulled some strings to secure that role through unspoken rules.

Besides, 'Where Are We Going, Dad?' was not being screened on the television too.

Upon noting that Carmen was angry, Michael felt helpless. "Are you blaming me? I am feeling hopeless too, but Grandpa was the one who pulled the strings. You should take it up with him. Please, give me a hug."

As soon as the cabin door opened, she ran up the stairs easily and swiftly without even a moment of hesitation.

"Baby, come down. Daddy is leaving soon and you can't be there." Sophia chased after her in a hurry.

Sophia caught up to Carmen in the plane and noticed that it was extremely spacious. Carmen had a custom-made small, pink seat where she placed her small husky bag down before fastening her seatbelt in her seat.

When Michael approached Carmen to hold her, she immediately burst into tears. "I want to join the filming crew! I want to act on set! You are not allowed to chase me off the plane!"

He immediately released her and patiently advised, "Please, be an obedient girl and head home with Mommy for now. Don't you want to go back to kindergarten?"

She answered tearfully, "No, I don't!"

He felt helpless and surrendered by raising his arms in Sophia's direction. "Since Carmen wants to come along, I guess I'll bring her along to have a look... Dear, why don't you come with me to have a look at the filming set? It's our own plane after all and we can leave once we are all onboard. We don't have to buy any tickets..."

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Have a look at the set?

Sophia was stunned into silence.

Michael nodded sincerely. "That's right; let's have a spontaneous vacation. How cool is that? It's within the country after all, so we wouldn't have to worry about sorting out our visas... Do you have your ID card and cell phone with you? It doesn't matter even if you do not have your ID card with you because you don't need to buy a flight ticket."

"Master, all the passengers have arrived. Let's go now. Let's go."

Michael had already answered all of Sophia's unspoken questions. By the time she snapped back to her senses, the airplane was already taxiing. The bodyguards whom Cooper had assigned to Sophia were left behind and they tried to chase after the airplane like madmen, but it was to no avail.

She was stunned into silence and stared at her exposed toes, suddenly realizing that she still wore her flip-flops and pajamas. Today, I was planning on heading back to sleep after sending Michael off. How did I end up leaving the place with him? Why didn't I reject or resist him earlier?

Michael placed an arm around Sophia's shoulders while speaking, "Here, fasten your seatbelt. It's fine; just switch your phone off because you can't use it once you're on the plane."

Sophia switched her phone off in a daze before fastening her seatbelt. After thinking things through, she had a feeling that something was amiss.

He touched her forehead—she had merely applied a thin layer of BB cream without wearing any makeup. However, she was still breathtakingly beautiful. “You are one of the film’s investors too, so you should drop by the set to have a look. Don’t worry because I’ll make the arrangements for your daily necessities,” he reassured.

She still felt that something was amiss because she had the feeling that he had an ulterior motive, but she suddenly wanted to tag along and settled in her seat in the end.

The aircraft was rather spacious. In fact, she had her own bed space while Carmen found a bed that she liked once she was in the plane and immediately fell asleep. Hence, Sophia took a nap as well.

Michael observed both mother and daughter while tucking them under the blanket.

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Cooper almost took a flight to chase after them in anger after learning that both of his precious girls had been taken away when they were merely supposed to send Michael off in the airport. However, Cooper threw in the end. Michael knew that he would be preoccupied with work, which was why he had the courage to take Sophia away.

Recently, the Mitchell International Energy and Technology started to officially operate—their facilities greatly improved the utilization rate of petroleum, so they were swamped by large amounts of orders. There was no way Cooper could be in two places at once, so it meant that he could not chase after Sophia despite knowing where she was.

Therefore, Michael happily kidnapped Sophia and the airplane flew to the faraway film studio.

When the airplane landed in the airport, she still felt embarrassed as she had her flip-flops on the moment she stepped on the tarmac. Besides, she was still in her pajamas.

Nevertheless, Michael placed an arm around her shoulders while reassuring, “Don’t worry; we are heading to the hotel first. I have already prepared some clothes for you.”

Somehow, they held hands and he even intermittently kissed her cheeks. They seemed very intimate and became even closer—in fact, they looked like a family of three on vacation.

After all, they were getting into a car once they alighted from the plane and there was no one else in the car. Hence, Sophia was not as worried when she followed Michael to the film studio.

There was quite a distance from the airport to the film studio. Since the drive would take a few hours on the highway, they had lunch midway at a service area.

Sophia noticed after Michael had his lunch, he wore a mask before entering a retail store next door to purchase a few boxes of condoms.

She was rendered speechless when she saw that.

Upon arriving at the hotel, she entered his room.

“Since I always film here, I made an investment by building this hotel. This room is specifically for me, so nobody is allowed to occupy this room even when I’m not around. There is a specific elevator for this floor, so it’s extremely clean and safe. It’s just like my second home. Feel free to make yourself at home too.”

While observing the hotel room, Sophia had some complaints about the area—it was a suite, so it came with a workspace, study, and a kitchen. The renovations were passable, but the bed was small. In fact, the bedroom was tiny too and it did not look like a place where Michael lived.

Besides, once Michael entered the suite, he placed his clothes in the wardrobe and there were clothes prepared for him beforehand.

Michael is sleeping in this room...

“Where will Carmen and I... sleep?” Sophia asked shyly because there were no other bedrooms or beds in the suite.

Carmen started to fiddle with everything once she entered the suite—she was curiously exploring Michael’s tiny room.

Michael explained in embarrassment, "It's the peak season for filming since it is autumn. The weather is great for filming too, so the hotels in the film studio aren't enough to accommodate the crowd. Even this hotel is fully booked. There are no other rooms for now and I'd be worried if both of you stay in another hotel. You two should stay here temporarily. Don't worry, I'm barely here during the day and I will only take up some pillow space to sleep at night. I wouldn't bother you two much."

Sophia was at a loss for words. How does he say such a thing without looking embarrassed at all? He expects an unmarried young woman to share a bed with him, but did he just claim that he's merely taking up some pillow space? Is this about taking up pillow space? I know that I've been tricked. Furthermore, he bought condoms in front of me. He is telling me blatantly that he's planning to have his way with me tonight. No wonder he tried to ask me about my menstruation cycle indirectly a couple days ago. Sleazy!

Great. I'm only wearing pajamas with a pair of slippers. None of my bodyguards are here with me and I do not even have my ID card. My phone is running out of battery and I don't even have a charger with me. I've just borrowed Michael's charger to charge my phone, but it's not switched on yet. I walked into a lion's den, so I suppose I won't be able to get out of the situation tonight.

Michael walked out of the bathroom almost naked after his shower as he only had a pair of briefs on him. If it had not been for Carmen, he would most probably have omitted that piece of garment too.

Sophia noticed that he was showing off his beautifully sculpted body in front of her, so she blushed furiously while feeling shy. He is truly... shameless!

Carmen voiced her thoughts. "Daddy, shame on you."

Michael was wiping his hair when he answered, "There's no issue since you and Mommy aren't strangers. It's fine if family members see me like this."

He deliberately made his way to Sophia's front. His eight abdominal muscles were especially prominent and alluring. Sophia was sitting on the bed, but she pretended to fiddle with her phone, which had a flat battery. However, her eyes continued to glance in his direction, as if they had a mind of their own. He is the epitome of a perfect male body... Look at his Adonis belt, ab muscles and chest muscles. Besides, he has such strong thigh muscles with that sculpted buttocks.

Sophia swallowed involuntarily.

After Michael wore his clothes, he removed the box he bought in the retail store earlier from his bag to place it in the drawer. He even locked it in there while making sure that Sophia saw it. If it were not for the fact that there was an extra layer of innocent eyes in the room, he would have opened it up to make good use of it.

Sophia knew for sure that she had walked into a lion's den.

"Dear, you should rest and relax in the hotel with Carmen. I'll be out for a meeting and return to take you guys out for a meal once I'm done."

Michael took his briefcase and left.

After a while, somebody sent over some toiletries and things for the child. On top of that, they even specifically sent a small bed with railings for Carmen.

Sophia brought Carmen into the bathroom to have a shower. Since she did not have her own pair of pajamas, she opened the wardrobe to wear Michael's. His set of pajamas was long, so the shirt covered her bum. Therefore, she did not even need to wear any pants. However, she thought it was inappropriate to leave it at that, so she wore his boxer shorts as a pair of bottoms.

Nevertheless, everything still felt loose. She merely took a couple steps forward when the boxers fell onto the ground.

Just as she was bending down to pick them up, Michael was back as he opened the hotel room door...

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At that moment, the air became silent.

Sophia paused midway as she bent over to collect the boxer shorts while Michael froze when he opened the door.

She was unsure of what to do anymore. Should I call him a 'hooligan' and chase him out? Or, should I just forget about the shorts? If I go along with the plan, I'll have to take them off later anyway, won't I?

On the other hand, he waited for her reaction because he had to plan accordingly. I'll retreat if she advances, but I'll move forward if she takes a step back. I'll admit defeat if she gets angry, but I'll make my move if isn't angry!

After a long and deafening silence, she calmly picked up the pair of shorts. "Are you back?"

He was stumped, but he reacted swiftly as best as he could. "Yeah, I'm back."

The two of them acted as if nothing happened. Michael entered the suite while closing the door behind him. Then, he placed his briefcase down on the floor while speaking, "Get ready and we'll head out for dinner."

Carmen was also wearing Michael's pullover shirt. She was walking around the room with bare feet and her tiny feet were reddened before she grabbed her husky bag to get ready for dinner.

Sophia hesitated at the mention of heading out for a meal. "Are we going out now? However, I don't feel like going out. How do I head out dressed like this..."

Upon paying closer attention, she sounded as if she was coyly saying that. Michael glanced at her clothing and realized that she was wearing his white shirt as her pajamas, exposing her snowy-white legs.

Michael took out his phone while dialing a number. "In that case, I'll get them to send room service," he answered.

He ordered their meals and demanded for a female server to deliver it to the room.

It was not long before their dinner arrived and there was a kid's meal specifically for Carmen. After she delightfully had her meal, she went to the bathroom to put on toothpaste on her toothbrush and brushed her teeth. Then, she went to bed while announcing, "Don't bother me now. I am going to bed."

Carmen was adamant on sleeping early to ensure that she had her beauty sleep. Michael prepared a child's bed for her and it even came with a mosquito netting to keep the mosquitoes out. It was also to prevent her from falling off the bed while ensuring that it was also soundproof.

After observing her fall asleep, he switched off the lights and closed the door to return to the living room.

Sophia had also showered after having her meal too. Upon walking out of the bathroom, she saw that Michael had asked someone to clear the meal. Furthermore, the couch in the living room had been spread out, revealing it to be a sofa bed that was large enough to accommodate a few people.

He had prepared the sofa bed and arranged some roses on it before he lit up some candles, uncorked a bottle of champagne, and played some music. He had switched on the romantic aromatherapy diffuser and left the open box of condoms on the side. He was wearing nothing but a pair of briefs while lying almost naked on the couch to wait for her return.

The moment he saw her walk out, he excitedly patted the space beside him. "Come over here, dear."

Sophia rolled her eyes as she approached him on bare feet. Michael's boxer shorts were loose on her, making her feel extremely uncomfortable. She lifted the shorts before taking a seat beside him.

Under the romantic candle lighting and soft music, Michael poured white wine into two champagne flutes. The two of them enjoyed some champagne while watching television to get into the mood.

After having a few flutes of champagne, Sophia started to feel tipsy and her cheeks were slightly flushed. She was breathing heavily and throwing coquettish glances at Michael. He sensed that the time was right, so he made his move on her.

The atmosphere was intoxicating; they were both drunk in their emotions instead of the alcohol. Michael started to kiss Sophia's small, flushed cheeks whereas she felt that she should not be proactive since women should be reserved. However, she somehow felt weakened when she tried to push him away. Then, after she moaned for a while, she stopped resisting him. In fact, she seemed as though she was merely playing hard to get.

When their bodies came into contact, she felt that it was a wonderful feeling—there was a tremor in her brain as she felt a wave of heat surging in her body and giving her goosebumps.

When she was in Africa, Quinton never laid a finger on her or teased her. He would hold her to sleep at night because Stanley had maimed him all those years ago. Quinton knew that he would never be able to satisfy her in that manner, so he never tried to tease her.

Therefore, it was almost like Sophia's first time. Based on her memory, everything seemed new whereas her body felt that it was familiar. Her limbs automatically encircled around Michael.

Michael's lips feathered kisses on her eyes, her cheeks and her lips. He was lost in the sensation of her smooth and sleek skin, but he was patient because he wanted her to have an unforgettable night.

He picked up a rose and plucked its petals to scatter them over Sophia's body.

After doing that, he solemnly announced, "Here, chica. Allow me to introduce an old friend to you. You might have forgotten all about it, but I am sure you would find it familiar upon meeting it."

Sophia was well aware of the 'old friend' that he was referring to, so she rolled her eyes at him.

He added, "Here, please greet the old partner. After all, you two haven't met for many years."

She was becoming impatient and rolled her eyes at him again. This is the downside of an actor. He is skilled with his lines, so he has many obscene remarks. With every remark, he adds more obscene comments to the collection.

He kept spewing obscene statements without actually keeping to his words. In the end, she could no longer endure it and rose from the bed to take matters into her own hands to satisfy herself...

...

The next morning, Sophia was still bleary from sleep. Her dreams were filled with Michael's obscene remarks and she woke up to more of it.

She was lusting like the Devil before she slept, but she was now as holy as a Buddha upon waking up.

Sophia was currently at the Buddha stage, so she was filled with regret the moment she opened her eyes. Michael didn't ask whether this is what I want at all! He somehow duped me to board the plane and I have been tricked into staying in this hotel. After that, somehow, I ended up sleeping with him. Did he ever ask if this is what I want? He did not; he was just thinking about himself. He has never taken into account that I have known him for such a short period of time and we aren't even close with each other. However, I understand that Michael has been testing my limits and attitude from the get-go. He openly hinted at the service area when he was buying the box of condoms, but I merely rolled my eyes at him. If I had rejected him immediately and turned to leave, he wouldn't have continued his plans courageously. Besides, he didn't even use the box of condoms after opening it! He wasn't even planning on using it!

Today was the day to get the ball rolling. Daniel predicted the best date and time—9.15 AM was the perfect time for the opening ceremony, so Michael scheduled accordingly. He set his alarm to go off at 6.00 AM. Upon waking up, he planned to go for a round with Sophia and it would be in time to catch a cold shower at 6.30 AM before waking Carmen up. Then, he would leave the hotel at 7.00 AM for breakfast before making his way to the film set at 7.30 AM. His makeup and clothing would start when he arrived at the set at 8.00 AM. The opening ceremony would then start at 9.15 AM—it was a perfect schedule.

It was 6.15 AM with traces of dawn. Sophia was still sleepy, but she was blushing. She lightly pointed at Michael's sweaty chest while reminding, "Don't think that I will end up with you just because I slept with you."

Michael responded, "No worries. There is no rush when it comes to feelings. We can talk about that in the future."

Sophia added, "I am no longer the same Sophia as before."

Michael replied, "That's alright. Nobody can ever predict things like feelings and love. We might fall for each other over time."