

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 976

“What do you want to tell us, Aunt Sophia? Is it some breaking news?” Stanley asked as he munched on some snacks. Both Sean and Sarah perked their ears up to listen to Sophia’s announcement. After organizing her words in her mind, Sophia finally spoke in a clear, concise manner. “Fass is about to launch his handphones for sale in Cethos, but they segregated the workload among two teams—Michel Group will only handle the sales for all the high-end, premium phones but not the low-end, cheaper phones. Instead, the product licensing for these low-end phones will be fully handed over to an agency in Cethos, who will handle all of the sales.”

Everyone began to pay attention after they heard Sophia’s words. *That means that Alice will be looking for a Cethosian agency for her lower-end phones!* The quality and reputation of the high-end phones produced by Fass were undoubtedly the best. The brand itself was one of the first phone brands that appeared on the global market, and it had been around for at least 10 years. The phone’s technology was always one step ahead of everyone else’s—it already had a video recorder when other phones just started to have colored screen displays.

However, it was the first time Dragon Eye produced handphones that fell into the low-end category. They were all geared up and prepared to surpass other large brands like Apple and Android. Furthermore, Cethos was also one of the main industries when it came to the global sales of low-end phones. Fass’ phones were all military-grade, so its quality was guaranteed. Anyone who managed to become the agent for this... would become really rich!

Plum Technology, on the other hand, had gotten themselves involved in a variety of markets throughout the years. Stanley didn’t want his company to be limited within a certain domain, so apart from the basic online applications and games, they also produced mobile games with other digital companies. They even acted as the agent for gaming computers. Right then, all four of them fell silent for a moment before Stanley rolled his sleeves up and slammed the table. “Damn!” Both Sarah and Sean agreed that it’d be a waste if they didn’t take the job. After all, they had similar experiences that were completed with success, and Sophia had her connections—it wouldn’t be hard for her to secure their role as the main agency.

Everyone returned to work the next day, and the company was busy preparing the materials needed for them to secure this agreement to become the agency to sell the phones. Sophia’s company, Pournl, was going through a rebranding as well. They figured that

luxurious goods targeting humans would earn more than those targeting animals, so Poul was looking to release a new range of luxury goods that came in a set—one for the owner and one for the pet. They planned to remain as a pet's luxury business while gradually edging themselves into the luxury industry.

However, Sophia also wanted to pick up on the workload at Plum Technology, and she desperately wanted to become the sole agency for Dragon Eye's low-end phones. She didn't want this just to impress the shareholders of Plum Technology; she also wanted to prove her abilities to the Michel Family. If she succeeded in doing so, it'd be her first step that would create further opportunities for her to slowly work her way into the Michel Group.

Like Alice, she didn't want to be recognized as some princess of the Michel Family. Terms such as 'the star' or 'the princess' were all titles that no one would want for themselves. No one had ever called Alice any title other than 'vice president'! Sophia no longer wanted to feed off her parents' funds; she wanted to prove her worth!

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Michael and the 'Light of Cethos' ceremony remained as the trending topic for a while, but with all the ongoing news and scandals in the entertainment industry, the hype around the awards quickly died down. One of the news reports that immediately caught everyone's attention was the news of Nicholas getting the endorsement rights for Dragon Eye. The low-end Dragon Eye phones weren't sold on the market yet as they were still in the stage of seeking for agents. As of then, the only contract they made was with the spokesperson—they hadn't taken any further action beyond that. However, the phone began to capture global attention the moment they uploaded a picture of it along with its specifications. It was famous before it even got released.

Initially, Alice wanted to handle the sales for the low-end phones. However, since Michel Group had always dealt with high-end products, they realized that the marketing strategies used for low-end products were completely different. After considering multiple factors and aspects of the situation, Alice finally decided to approach an agency instead.

As of then, the low-end version of Dragon Eye phones weren't on the market, and there were only a few people in the whole world who owned a Dragon Eye device themselves. Nicholas was the only one in the whole of Cethos to own one of them, and he shamelessly promoted this wherever he went. He even considered sticking the phone right onto his forehead just to show it off to whomever he met. On average, he would upload 1 selfie every 2 days, where he flaunted his delicate, flawless face while also highlighting the quality of Dragon Eye's camera. He would then post about something silly or embarrassing, like how he dropped his

phone into a large, boiling pot of water, and how it was still functioning after he fished it out. 'It's all because it's a Dragon Eye phone! If it were any other brand, I would've had to cook the phone along with my meal.'

Of course, this was all part of his job. As the spokesperson of Dragon Eye, he was required to promote the phone and start the hype around it. But how would he miss the chance to also rub salt into Michael's wounds? Every time Nicholas showed his phone off, he had to follow it with some news about Michael's failure to get endorsement rights for the phone, and how he used a fake version of the phone instead!

I'm sick and tired of seeing this! Is there any purpose in repetitively bringing these gossips up? Sophia thought as she read the comments. 'You're trash if you get the 'Light of Cethos' award but not the endorsement rights to Dragon Eye. So what if you are the 'Light of Cethos'? You're still using a fake phone!' There was even more gossip recently, such as how Taylor's wife no longer gave him allowances after he failed to become the spokesperson; how he was so broke that he not only had a fake phone, but he even had to bring his 4-year-old daughter out to earn some money.

Sophia was too busy to even go home some days, and she had no time to trouble herself with all the groundless rumors. Michael, on the other hand, was immune to all these comments, and he simply allowed them to go on. After all, the comments would disappear once the ghostwriters got their salary. He continued to bring his 'fake' phone out wherever he went.

Cooper heard about Michael's recent life through all the gossip and news reports online. He heard that Michael's rich wife was too busy for him, that she didn't pay him any allowance, that he had a child to care for and tens of thousands to be paid to the 7 or 8 caretakers at home, that Nathan's yearly fees in university cost a good sum of money, that Michael's sister was retarded and couldn't take care of herself, that his brother-in-law lazed around while feeding off the family's money, that Michael had no choice but to act young and lively even though he was past his forties, just to snatch a few jobs over from his juniors... Cooper felt bad for Michael. He felt so bad for his son-in-law that he nearly donated some money to him.

Eventually, Michael managed to get Carmen into an audition for 'Doctor Invincible 2' to play the role of a superhero who was stuck in a child's body forever. The role was a sidekick for the Justice League in the movie, and there were only a few scenes in which the hero would appear. They didn't plan to have a stand-alone movie for this superhero either. They were hosting global auditions for child actors and actresses—anyone between ages 3 to 10 were welcome to join. They accepted both genders and both black and white-skinned

participants initially. With a little urging from both Michael and Harry, the production team finally decided to take in Cethosians as well. This particular superhero film had been ongoing for more than 10 years and had released more than 20 blockbuster films. It practically created a cinematic universe of its own, bringing in all the most famous celebrities from across the globe. The competition was strong even for a tiny role like this.

All of the child celebrities across the world were excited about the news. Michael personally brought Carmen for the auditions. He tried his best to secure her a slot in the auditions, but whether she could outshine the other hundreds of famous child celebrities that were competing against her would depend on her own abilities. Cooper eagerly tagged along with them, while Sophia only kept herself updated on the audition through her phone as she was simply too busy with her work at Bayside City.

Currently, the most important project she had on her plate was to claim the rights to be the only licensed agent for Dragon Eye in the whole of Cethos. However, Alice was a fair and just individual—she wouldn't just hand the rights over simply because Sophia had some influential background. It ultimately depended on Sophia's own skills. There were probably a large number of competitors fighting to be the licensed agent since it was such a great financial opportunity. There were a number of competitors that Sophia was aware of, namely Sandra, Ian, and Lucy...

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In the fight to be the licensed agency, Sophia led the team in Plum Technology with great care and hard work. They put a lot of effort into their materials, and they always showed up as a group for negotiations. Apart from all the work they put in as a righteous business competitor, they even pulled the family card by getting Linus and Cooper to put in a few good words about them. As Casper was staying in the Edwards Residence, Sophia even asked him to throw in a few praises about them in front of Alice. They were all doing their best to get the agreement.

Meanwhile, there was some renovation going on at home, and Daniel frequently showed up at the Edwards Residence to guide the process with the use of his divination techniques.

Sophia therefore urged him to use his methods to convince Alice. She figured that if he could use his tricks on Cooper, Alice would definitely fall for it. Daniel was clearly troubled by her request, and he finally struck her with a series of harsh truths. "Well... can't you tell by the current situation? How would Alice possibly allow you to be the sole agency? Do you think she can't see how wild and ambitious you are? If anything, you'd probably be the first that she'd kick out in comparison to your other competitors. Don't even think about it. You've definitely been eliminated," he uttered.

Both Alice and Linus were the top competitors to be the next family head. Sophia, on the other hand, couldn't even be considered a participant in this competition as she wasn't involved in any of Michel Group's business yet. However, if she managed to get the position as the licensed agent, it'd mean that she was starting to involve herself in Michel Group's business. Once her career in Michel Group started budding, she would surely turn more greedy with time; she'd definitely find ways to climb up the hierarchy and would ultimately end up as one of Alice's competitors.

Wouldn't Alice be an idiot if she chose Sophia's team? Alice would clearly be helping her competitor to climb the ranks, then! Even an outsider like Daniel could tell that it would be impossible for Sophia to succeed in becoming the appointed agency. However, Sophia tirelessly insisted on fighting for her opportunity. "I'm working especially hard because I know how slim my chances are. It's a huge opportunity for me; my dad and my uncle are helping me, but I really need your help too!" she cried.

Daniel waved her off. "What for?! I'm not your dad!"

"You sold me off for 80,000 in the past!" Sophia reminded him.

"Well, uhh... It's not that I don't want to help you. I'm not close to Alice, and things are a little awkward between us," Daniel explained.

"You sold me off for 80,000 in the past!" Sophia repeated once again.

"I'm sure you know how independent and strong of a woman Alice is. She's definitely going to smother an enemy like you while you're still in your crib. I can't do much about it." Daniel ignored Sophia's protests.

"80,000! 80,000!" she cried stubbornly. Daniel simply kept his mouth shut. Eventually, Sophia succeeded in convincing Daniel to get out of the house. Hence, he had no choice but to

bring Casper along to visit his mother at the company, while also acting as an advocate for Sophia. This time, Daniel felt more emotionally conflicted than ever. He'd rather attempt to fool Cooper—he'd be scared, but he'd force himself to do it. On the other hand, he didn't feel scared to fool Alice, instead, he felt an extremely complicated mess of emotions within him. He didn't know what to feel about Alice. Had he once been attracted to her? Of course he had felt that way at some point.

Daniel wasn't one to fool around with girls. There were a countless number of rich ladies in Bayside City who had begged him to tell their fortune by grabbing their boobs, but he barely ever looked these women in the eye. It wasn't that he didn't enjoy the idea of fortune telling through grabbing their boobs; he simply didn't find a pair of boobs that he liked...

This was only true until he first met Alice, a unique and attractive Westerner that made his heart flutter with excitement. However... Daniel wasn't prepared to settle down and start a family then, so he chose to avoid it. In the end, he couldn't escape his own fate, and he ended up bumping into Alice once again. They even had a child together.

"Casper." Daniel turned to look at Casper while they were on their way to Michel Group. Casper had attempted to imitate Daniel's style of dressing, and he wore a pure white cotton sweater that was especially thick as it was made for winter. He looked like a chubby little penguin.

"Master!" Casper didn't know that Daniel was actually his father, so he addressed the older man the way he learned from the movies. Daniel didn't know what to say as he looked at the child. Casper looked mostly like a Caucasian; apart from the black hair he inherited from Daniel, most of his features were dominated by the Michel Family's powerful genes. Daniel took Casper's tiny hand into his as they stepped into the Cethosian branch of Michel Group. Linus had opened this branch in Cethos a few years ago when he acquired a building specially to handle all the Cethosian affairs that the Michel Family had to deal with. Alice ended up working in this building.

They took an elevator up to the 18th floor in search of Alice's office. Daniel felt his insides twisting and turning as they made their way there. He didn't know how to act in front of Alice, and he didn't know how to bring up anything about what Sophia had asked him to mention. When they arrived at Alice's office, he saw her standing alone as she glanced out of the floor-to-ceiling window in her office to see the entire view of Bayside City from 18 floors above. As she stood facing the sun, her figure darkened into nothing more than a shadow, which made her seem lonelier than ever. No—loneliness was what the regular individual experienced; someone as independent as Alice was probably used to being alone.

What she experienced was probably a loneliness that only the most successful people understood—regular people would never go through such a sensation.

“Mommy!” Casper shouted affectionately. Daniel followed behind Casper as the young child tottered toward Alice. Joy spread across Alice’s face as she turned around to see Casper behind her. She had been extremely busy for the past few days, and she hadn’t managed to be with her son throughout that period of time. Daniel was the one who had been taking care of him. Alice rubbed her face against Casper’s lovingly before she pulled her son into her arms and asked him about his day.

Although Casper had recently found himself obsessed with religion, fortune telling and divination techniques, he didn’t fall back on his homework. Since Carmen was overseas for an audition, Casper took her spot and attended her private tutor’s classes. Alice’s gaze lit up with a mother’s pride as she looked at her smart and quick-witted son. Although she often portrayed herself as a strong, independent woman that was even more aggressive than some men, she allowed herself to turn gentle and soft in front of her son.

After a short meeting with Casper, Alice got him to play in a corner while she sat herself down in front of her office table and began to work. Her secretary and her assistant came in every now and then to update her on work-related stuff, while Daniel found himself totally neglected by her. As he didn’t know how he could bring up the favor that Sophia had asked from him, he had no other option but to sit by a corner while acting calm and natural. He spent the entire afternoon watching Alice do her work.

She was surely exhausted from having to handle so much work, but she didn’t have much of a choice because of the position that she was in. If she didn’t put all of her blood and sweat into her work—if she didn’t demonstrate her true capabilities—she could easily be replaced by someone else any day. Daniel laid his gaze on her for the whole afternoon. He gradually forgot the initial reason for his visit and instead found himself mesmerized by Alice.

He realized that she unconsciously pressed her hand against her waist from time to time—it was the exact spot where she injured herself in the mountains. It had been more than a month since she got injured, but her wound didn’t seem to be healing well, probably because she didn’t get enough rest. Daniel finally gave in to the urge to speak up. “You should take a break, Alice. Your wound isn’t fully recovered yet.”

She didn’t even glance at him as her focus remained on the work she was doing. “I don’t need your concern, Master Levine. I’m fine, and I have a professional medical team taking care of me.” Daniel felt uneasy to see her wearing herself out with work, but he didn’t think he was in any position to comment on it.

Right as he was contemplating how he could convince Alice to take a break, she abruptly halted the work that she had been doing before looking up at Daniel with a stern expression on her face. "I'm guessing that you're here today to lobby for Lucile, right? Well, I can tell you with certainty that Lucile and her team aren't even shortlisted for the role. I'm sure you know why."

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"I'm sure you also know, Master Levine, that I'm not about to give my competitor a chance to defeat me." Alice went straight to her point. This was a huge financial opportunity for anyone who would succeed in becoming the sole agent—why would Alice hand it over to someone who was her potential enemy? She'd make a fool out of herself if she accidentally nurtured someone who would later turn into a strong competitor of hers. "Furthermore, there're more than 10 teams who are competing for this. There are loads of other teams who are stronger than her, so why would I pick her?"

Daniel was left speechless after what Alice said. He realized how his methods of tricking and convincing Cooper would never work with Alice. The last time he tried his methods of deception on Alice, she ended up with her virginity lost and her heart broken. She woke up that morning to find that the other side of the bed had gone cold, that the man who had pledged his love and loyalty for her the night before had ended up running away. Daniel no longer had the nerve to deceive Alice once again. The words he had intended to use were at the tip of his tongue, but he swallowed them before he could say it.

However, since he had promised Sophia to help her, he still tried his best to fulfil his promise. "You're being unreasonable, Alice. Sophia was the one who helped you when your request for Taylor to be your spokesperson got rejected in the past," he said.

With her golden-framed glasses perched on her nose, Alice looked both wise and heartless as she spoke. "That endorsement job benefited both parties. We came to a fair and square agreement. But this time, I'm the one who gets to decide who I want as the agent for Dragon Eye. If I see a team that outshines her, it will only make sense that I pick them as they would provide me with the greatest benefit."

Daniel fell silent once again. He knew that there was no point in him talking anymore; he might even make things worse if he continued. He therefore kept quiet until Alice got off work. The three of them stayed in the office without disrupting each other, with Casper absorbed in his book, Daniel seated on the couch, and Alice focused on her work. That night, Alice brought Casper out for a meal while Daniel went along with them. At the restaurant, Daniel brought up the topic of the agency selection again, and Alice revealed a little more information this time.

“The selection process isn’t just based on my personal preference. We’re also looking at a variety of other factors. I’ve shortlisted both the Mitchells and the Edwards as I need someone who can boost the sales of the product. I’ll give the exclusive rights to the team that does a better job. I’m a businesswoman, Master Levine. There’s a saying in Cethos that goes, ‘the only thing that businesswomen chase are profits’! It’s all about who can benefit me the most,” Alice explained.

In the end, Daniel headed home dejectedly as he had failed to be of any help to Sophia. He didn’t feel any burden or guilt after deceiving Cooper—if anything, he only felt the fear of being chopped into pieces if he was exposed. However, he simply couldn’t bring himself to deceive Alice. He was tongue-tied whenever he was in front of that woman.

Sophia later heard about the news of Daniel’s failure. Although it was surprising to hear that the all-powerful, brilliant master of deception, Daniel, had finally met with failure, Sophia somehow felt like she had expected this to be the outcome. Fortunately, Daniel managed to give her some information. She now knew more about the competitors that she had.

In the Mitchell Family, both Sandra and Vincent were fighting to be the agent. Although they were from the same family, they each ran their own businesses, and they approached Alice as two separate teams that represented their own companies instead of the Mitchell Family. Despite Sandra, Alex, and Vincent being on different sides as Cooper, Cooper had always perceived the Michel and Mitchell Families as two separate things. If Alice really wanted to pick the Mitchells as their agent, Cooper probably wouldn’t object to it.

Next, both Ian and Lucy from the Edwards Family had also been split into two separate groups that were competing to be the agent. Apart from them, there was another team led by the Winston Family. There were also a few other companies who were about as qualified as Plum Technology was, while Sophia simply ignored the rest of the teams and companies as they didn’t seem to pose much of a threat to her. After the conversation with Daniel, Sophia hurriedly drew a table with all the information that she had retained with perfect precision. She then analyzed each of her opponent’s strengths and the current situation.

As Sophia ran through the information, she realized how it made sense for Alice to dismiss her team as an option. Both Linus and Cooper told Sophia the same thing after they spoke to Alice about it. Although Alice trusted Sophia enough to leave her son with her, she was a whole different person when it came to work. Even when Linus and Cooper went over to advocate for Sophia's team, Alice immediately stated that she would never choose Sophia.

But Sophia wasn't ready to give up just yet. She did her research on Alice, and she knew that Alice was someone who made choices based on the amount of benefit she could obtain from anyone. If I manage to defeat all of the other teams and prove that I'm the most capable one, she will definitely pick my team.

However, it was hard to defeat all the teams as the Edwards, Mitchell, and Winston Families were all in the picture. Sophia was familiar with the Edwards and the Mitchells, but she found the Winstons to be the most challenging one to deal with. The inner structure of the Winston Family wasn't very stable and established, and all the members of the family were extremely devilish and vicious individuals. In the past, after Harry killed his father and siblings to overtake the Winston Family at the young age of 19, there were many family members who expressed dissatisfaction toward the situation. They would step forward to create trouble every now and then, and Sophia's opponent was precisely the group of people who were always going against Harry.

Regardless, they didn't have much time yet. Sophia decided that she would defeat as many of the teams as she could. If she were to start off from the weakest team, it'd be Sandra's team. Sophia had been wanting to defeat Sandra for a long while now, and her desire only grew stronger lately, after Sandra spent a fortune to hire ghostwriters to create gossip and rumors about Taylor. They were the ones that kept posting about Taylor using a 'fake' phone after he failed to become the spokesperson for Dragon Eye. Sophia couldn't be bothered to confront Sandra since it was just some negative rumors and comments on the Internet. Sandra's just wasting her own money, after all, Sophia thought.

Taylor wasn't using an imitation model of the phone—in fact, it couldn't be any more original. It was an unreleased model of Dragon Eye, so all of these rumors would end up as a joke once the model was released. When that happened, all of Sandra's money would go to waste. Now, Sandra is stepping on Taylor's reputation in order to build Nicholas' fame, but when her plan backfires, she wouldn't only be losing money; Nicholas' reputation might also be tarnished! I can't wait for that to happen. Sophia hadn't bothered to make a move on Sandra in the past, but now that Sandra was blocking her way to success, Sophia decided to deal with her first!

Meanwhile, Sandra had been feeling really good about herself recently. She felt like she was at the peak of her job since everything was going as she planned. Nicholas, the artist under her wing, won two awards at the 'Light of Cethos' award ceremony. Although this was outshined by that final 'Light of Cethos' award, Sandra had made sure to destroy Taylor's reputation and public image after that. Now, he was nothing more than a poor old man who used a fake phone. The news of him being an outworn, old-time celebrity spread like wildfire.

Most of the male artists under Sandra were trained according to the example that Taylor and Harry had set. She was patiently waiting for Taylor and Harry to fade out in the industry; the artists that she trained would then take over their spot and claim all the opportunities that had once belonged to them. Recently, Sandra even signed a Hollywood agreement that had Nicholas as one of the key figures. He would appear for a total of 2 minutes! 2 minutes! The entire movie was 120 minutes, and her artist would get 2 minutes of screen-time! Tons of celebrities would never even dream of achieving this! He definitely isn't far from getting an Oscar!

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Recently, Nicole had come in contact with a production crew that was looking for a child celebrity to fill the role, so Nicholas brought his son for the audition. Since Sandra had already pulled a few strings here and there, she wouldn't be surprised if Nicholas' son got the role. After spending a huge chunk of money, Sandra finally secured her role as Lucile's best friend. Now, they were close enough to sleep on the same bed! Although Lucile hadn't offered to put in a word for Sandra, Sandra was certain that she would become the agent for Dragon Eye. All she needed now was for Lucile to say the magic words.

Alice was simply one of Lucile's employees, after all.

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Sandra's car had been parked outside the Michel Group's building for a long while before she finally saw Lucile and Abbie walking out of the building. Sandra threw in another fortune just to convince Lucile and Abbie to pay the Michel Group a visit, so that Lucile could put in a good word for her. As they walked out, Sandra saw that the four of them—Lucile, Abbie,

Alice, and Linus—were walking in a group while they laughed and giggled. They seemed pretty close. Perfect! It looks like I'm definitely going to become the agent this time!

If it weren't for the fact that Lucile had prohibited Sandra from telling Alice that they had met, Sandra might've just walked over right then to talk to Alice about the agreement. Instead, she patiently waited and watched as Alice and Linus left the company in different cars. She then went up to Lucile and Abbie once the other two left. "Well? Did Alice agree to it?" Sandra asked anxiously.

Lucile flashed her a rather disappointed glance. "Although we're all part of the Michel Family, Alice has always been the one to handle anything related to the phone business. I can't secure a solid confirmation for you, but I heard that there's a piece of jewelry that Alice took a liking to recently. Perhaps you can find a way from there," she hinted.

Sandra immediately understood what Lucile meant, and she drove Lucile and Abbie to the jewelry store to purchase the piece of jewelry that Alice had shown interest in. She then got Lucile and Abbie to pass the gift to Alice. After taking the jewelry with them, Lucile and Abbie informed Sandra that they would be meeting Alice for coffee the next day.

In a private room in one of the cafés in Bayside City, Lucile and Abbie sat on the table with the jewelry placed in front of them, while their bodyguards kept watch outside the room. They had been staying in the Mitchell Residence for a while now, and there were a number of things that they couldn't discuss when they were there. They therefore had to bring their conversations to a café. Abbie picked the jewelry up and tried it on. The more she looked at it, the more she liked it. She happily kept the jewelry into her own bag.

The Mitchells were simply too easy to fool. All Lucile and Abbie had to do was arrange for a meet-up with Alice and Linus; their simple acts were enough to fool all of the Mitchells. They then used the excuse of maintaining privacy in order to get the Mitchells to zip their mouths shut. Just by doing so, Lucile and Abbie had already managed to con a few feasts and presents out of them. Both Lucile and Abbie had successfully conned other families in Bayside City in the past, and those families were still unaware of what had happened. Even if they had realized anything, they probably didn't want to make it a big deal. Although Lucile wasn't the actual Princess Lucile, she was still a part of the Michel Family. Anyone who started a fight against Lucile and Abbie would just be making themselves look bad, and they might even offend the Michel Family.

Abbie was familiar with Bayside City, and the fake Lucile was familiar with the Michel Group; together, they were a perfect match. Abbie went through all the properties, jewelries, yachts, money, and cars that now belonged to her... It wasn't just the Mitchells and the Edwards that they had fooled—there were other families as well. They benefited greatly from these people, and Abbie gradually realized that she had enough to take off to someplace far away now. The fake Lucile took more than she did, and the two of them calculated the amounts that they had scammed before splitting it between the two of them.

Abbie was elated as she looked at all the wealth she had. She wouldn't be able to finish all of it even in a few lifetimes! With the money, she could travel overseas, settle somewhere, and enjoy the rest of her life. She could sleep with a different man every night! After they split the money between them, Abbie spoke in a rather concerned tone. "We've taken quite a lot from these few families in Bayside City. For safety purposes, I think we should leave soon." She felt like she had earned enough from these families; she wanted to leave before they were exposed. They could travel to another country and enjoy their lives for a while before they would target the money of another wealthy family.

Lucy, on the other hand, had bigger plans. She wanted to have a baby with Ian or Vincent, and she wanted to get married to a rich family. She'd then be able to leave the Michel Family and stay in Cethos as the grand wife of a wealthy man. Wouldn't that be better than whatever she had in the past? She had nothing to lose!

Although Lucile was still part of the Michel Family, she was nothing like the actual Lucile. Through a few vague exchanges with Linus and Alice, she had gathered that Fass once had a daughter called Lucile. They were from the same family; they had the same surname and name, yet one lived the life of royalty while the other lived the life of a slave. This conflict left the fake Lucile dissatisfied, so she went out to scam others for money. She initially thought that she would use this money for her own business, but her ego only inflated the more she went around fooling others. She had more than enough capital, but she had never bothered to build her own business. After all, why would she put in the effort to start a business when she was so used to getting money with easier methods?

Abbie, on the other hand, was more aware of what was going on. Lucile hadn't just fooled all the people around her—she even fooled herself. Right after Abbie finished speaking, the doors to their private room unexpectedly flung open. The two ladies stared at the door to see their bodyguard being restrained by someone else, looking as helpless as a baby. A Northern European man with blonde hair and blue eyes stood outside as he shot the two ladies a cold glare.

“Roger? What are you doing here?” Abbie didn’t know who the man was, but Lucile, who had grown up in the Michel Family, quickly recognized him. Isn’t he the leader of the main security team that always follows Fass around?

Roger simply addressed them with an empty look on his face. “Miss Lucile would like to meet you guys.” There was only one ‘Miss Lucile’ that Roger would refer to. Both Abbie and the fake Lucile’s faces went pale as they realized that they had finally been exposed. They had never seen Lucile in their whole lives; they had never interacted with her, and they didn’t even know that Fass had a daughter for the past 20 years. They couldn’t imagine any other reason the real Lucile would wish to meet them apart from the fact that they had been using her name to scam others.

The two ladies shifted over to another private room in the café, their limbs trembling in fear as they moved. There were already a number of Michel Family’s bodyguards located outside the entrance of the room. The fake Lucile recognized all of them, and it only emphasized the identity of the person waiting for them in the room.

Abbie hung her head low as her eyes darted all over her surroundings, trying to find a way to escape. I could shove all of the blame onto Lucile. If anything, I can just return some of the money to them. I’m not part of the Michel Family, so they can’t do anything to me, she thought.

When they stepped into the other private room in the café, there was already a woman waiting for them inside. She had her back turned toward them. Her long, black hair reached down to her waist, concealing her slim waistline. The room was oddly quiet, and the smell of coffee penetrated the air around them. It only made the atmosphere more tense than ever. Both Abbie and Lucile didn’t even dare to lift their heads—they knew the sort of person that they were dealing with.

However, Abbie then began shouting out of nowhere. “It’s all her! It’s all Lucile’s idea. She’s the one that suggested using your identity to scam others. I’m just her partner; she’s the mastermind!”

Lucile glared at Abbie in disbelief. She hadn’t expected Abbie to betray her during a crucial moment like this! But Abbie was now determined to shove all of the blame onto Lucile, so she continued with her speech. “Miss Lucile, she even tried to use your name to get herself married to a rich man! How shameless of her!”

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However, all they got in return was a long period of silence. The two ladies lowered their heads as they heard the sound of high heels walking toward them, and they held their breaths with their heads hung low as the real Lucile stood right in front of them. Amidst the pin-drop silence, they could hear the sound of Lucile sipping on her coffee before placing her cup down onto its saucer. “Why did you stop talking?” she finally asked.

To their surprise, she didn’t speak in English... Instead, she spoke in pure Cethosian and even sounded like a native speaker. Both Abbie and the fake Lucile lifted their heads up at the same time to see a face that they hadn’t been expecting. They both gasped in surprise.

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After dealing with Abbie and the fake Lucile, Sophia stepped out of the café and got into the car before she took her Dragon Eye 7 out to make a call. “Hey, Stan. How are things going at your end?”

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Stanley sounded rather occupied as he spoke. “I’m still trying to get an appointment as the other party keeps saying that their schedule is full. Don’t worry, Aunt Sophia; we won’t give up until the official announcement of the results! Long live Plum Technology!” he chanted.

That cracked Sophia up. “Alright, alright; you’re nearing your thirties! Can you stop acting so childishly?!” she sneered in a joking manner.

“We’re in the online gaming industry, so it’s important that we possess the hearts of a high-schooler! Oh, by the way, how are things going at your end?” Stanley asked.

“I’ve done everything I’m supposed to do. The decision hasn’t been made, but even if it has, I’m not about to give up just yet. I heard some news about the agency’s agreement. Apparently, the Michel Group has the right to end the agreement if the selected agency fails to hit their sales target.” Their conversation surrounded the topic of becoming the chosen agency—it was too amazing of an opportunity to give up on. Furthermore, it was a huge stepping stone in Sophia’s journey to get involved with the Michel Group, so they had to succeed!

Stanley and Sean had been trying their best to arrange for an appointment with Alice. They were trying to request for a second meeting with her, while Sophia used her connections to see if she could pull the family card. While she was at it, she also tried her best to defeat any of the

opponents that came in her way. However, Stanley didn't show any progress in his work, and Sophia found herself mentally drained from all the scheming. Fortunately, the trap that she had set up went just as she hoped, and her competitors from the Mitchell Family were about to go down.

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Right before their conversation ended, Stanley abruptly switched the topic. "By the way, my son's company is hosting a banquet to show their gratitude to all their customers. Alice is going, and a few of our competitors will be there as well. They're probably showing up for the sake of Alice."

"Is it the dinner hosted by L/K? I think I got an invitation myself. See you there," she uttered.

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The L/K banquet happened two nights later. Sophia showed up along with her team from Plum Technology. Alice wasn't anywhere to be seen when they arrived, but they did catch a glimpse of most of their competitors—Sandra and Vincent from the Mitchell Family, Lucy and Ian from the Edwards Family, and Dana, the daughter of the Winston Family's elder. There were a number of other competitors, but they weren't impressive enough to deserve any attention.

Sophia began to delegate tasks to the rest of her team once they got in. "Sarah, you'll handle Dana. Sean and Stanley, I want you guys to hold the Edwards back and distract them. We can ignore the Mitchells as they're about to wreck themselves. I'll focus on dealing with Alice." Everyone gradually approached their own targets once they got their missions.

Sarah's target was Dana, the daughter of an elder in the Winston Family. The elder was the one who was in charge of the elders' council, and he often went against Harry's opinions. The elder also held a lot of power in the Winston Group's Board of Directors, and he often expressed his dissatisfaction toward Harry. However, ever since Harry forged his own path to success at the young age of 19, his position remained secure for the past 20 years. The elder hoped for some issue to surface, but there hadn't been a chance for him to create any trouble in the past 20 years. Now, his daughter, Dana, seemed to share the same goals as his. Sarah was determined not to let Dana become the chosen agent. If Dana were to be chosen, she wouldn't just enjoy all the countless benefits of the agreement; she'd also form a partnership with the Michel Group. In that case, the elder would gain more power in making demands within the Winston Family.

Back then, Harry had truly been a monster who killed his siblings while attending his classes. After his mid-term exams, he killed one of his largest, strongest competitors—his elder brother. In his second year of high school, he killed his sister; he then killed his other brother after he completed his mock exams in his third year of high school. Harry's father had been preparing to

kill Harry while he was studying for his college entrance exams, but he hadn't expected Harry to kill him first. From then on, Harry officially took over the Winston Family. He managed to go for his college entrance exams despite his busy schedule, and he even got 2nd place in his entire school for the results he achieved in his humanities subjects. With his high scores, he enrolled himself into Bayside University. He thought he was invincible back then, but he soon realized that none of his classmates even bothered to glance at him. Furthermore, he even got physically punished by his instructor just three days after he joined the military training program. His instructor began hitting him from the military camp's canteen all the way to the little forest beside the mountains. His instructor was Michael, who was the same age as he was and had fists of steel.

My darling is such an amazing man, so I have to step up my game too! Sarah cheered herself on as she strode toward Dana. I have to make sure she loses this opportunity!

Sophia, on the other hand, laid low as she quietly waited for Alice's arrival. She had brought a helper along with her that night. Daniel had arrived before Alice, and he waved at Sophia cheerily once he saw her. He earned nearly 10 million off of Michael in the past, but after so many years, he had probably given more than that amount in return.

Alice showed up right as the dinner began. She was dressed in a silver gown that revealed the bare skin on her back, and her slim, slender figure made her seem as elegant as a swan. Everyone's gazes were focused on her sexy back, but Daniel was the only one that looked at her waist area instead. I wonder if her injury is any better...

Sandra was the first to approach Alice once the latter arrived. Sandra lifted her glass of wine as she strode toward Alice. "We meet again, Miss Alice." Sandra was more confident than she had ever been. She was pleased to see that Alice was wearing the exact same piece of jewelry that she had asked 'Lucile' to send over as a gift. 'Lucile' finally stopped acting all secretive the night before; she finally revealed that it was confirmed—Alice would most definitely choose Sandra to be the sole agent of Dragon Eye. According to her, they had even drafted the contract. With this confirmation, Sandra was certain that she would become the agent; all that was left was their signatures on the contract. Alice is indeed nothing more than Lucile's employee, huh.

"Miss Mitchell." Alice raised her glass politely toward Sandra.

The night before the dinner, 'Lucile' had also told Sandra a little more about Alice. She claimed that Alice was a greedy, ambitious woman despite being nothing more than an employee. "In the past few years, Alice has been growing increasingly disrespectful toward me. It's a little hard for me to deal with her personally, so it'd be great if you could do a little something to put Alice in her place." 'Lucile' told Sandra about her request.

Right as Sandra was thinking about how she could embarrass Alice a little, Sophia walked toward them. Before Sophia could say anything, Alice addressed her with an icy tone. "You don't

have to even try, Miss Edwards. Like I've said, you were never even shortlisted in my options for Dragon Eye's Cethosian agent." Smack! Her words were like a fierce slap that struck Sophia.

Sandra beamed happily as she waited for Sophia's expression to turn awkward or sour. But to her surprise, Sophia remained pleasant and elegant as she raised her glass. "How can we ever be sure about the way the universe works its wonders? Perhaps you'll change your mind tomorrow, Miss Alice."

Alice simply sipped on her cocktail without responding to Sophia. Sandra, on the other hand, quickly seized the opportunity to mock Sophia. She had already spotted the fake phone in Sophia's hand, and she quickly used it as a means of ridiculing Sophia. "Do forgive my bluntness, Miss Edwards. It's fine that your husband uses an imitation of the Dragon Eye phone, but I'm surprised that you'd intentionally use one yourself when you know that you'd be meeting Alice, the developer of Dragon Eye. You're practically violating the brand. Do you even have any respect for Miss Alice?! How could you possibly have the right to be the agent of the genuine Dragon Eye phone when you're using an imitation yourself?!"

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