

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 997

Michael felt both embarrassed and speechless upon hearing this. The company's current situation reminded him of how things were when Plum Technology first started—back when they were rejected by the entire Harper Family and everything was a chaotic mess.

While Michael visited the company to see how things were going, all the workers seemed more interested to see him, the boss' 'wife'. As usual, the workers from other departments on other floors quickly rushed up to see Michael once they heard that the boss' 'wife' had arrived. It's the award-winning actor in person! It's really the boss' 'wife'! That's amazing! The legendary little princess is here as well!

Michael finally managed to find Sophia in her office. She was swamped with work, and his arrival caught her by surprise. "What are you guys doing here? Weren't you guys overseas?" she asked.

"We came back yesterday," Michael replied in a mildly annoyed tone as he placed the lunch box he had prepared on the table. Sophia simply scratched her messy hair. She was so busy that she had lost track of time and thought that Carmen wasn't back yet. Right as she reached forward to pull Carmen in for a kiss, the young girl flinched and moved away. "Yucks! You're stinky, Mommy!"

Sophia sniffed herself to find that her daughter was right. They had meetings every day, and all the workers smoked and ate cup noodles in the meeting room, so the stench was extremely strong. Although Sophia smelled bad, Carmen thoughtfully stepped forward to plant a large kiss on her mother's cheek. Michael then lifted Carmen into his arms as he shoved the lunch box toward Sophia. "I purposely prepared this for you because Shae said that you hadn't had a chance to eat."

It was then that Sophia realized how hungry she actually was, so she began to gobble up her meal. Meanwhile, Carmen ran out of the office to put on a show for all of the workers. Everyone came from their respective floors and gathered around just to watch Carmen perform. This was the only public performance Carmen had, apart from the one she did at her kindergarten's celebration. The young girl performed a fairy dance that she had learned while she was overseas, and the crowd erupted into applause after it ended. Carmen was indeed an angel—she managed to put a smile on everyone's faces when they had been tense and anxious for days.

Sophia was eating in her office when she watched Michael pull a Serpent phone out of his bag; it was still wrapped in plastic. He then took one of the brand-new Dragon Eye phones before placing both of them next to each other.

“What are you doing?” Sophia asked as she munched on a drumstick made with Michael’s special recipe. Michael flashed her a mysterious grin. “Their spokesperson belittled our handphone, so I was wondering what I could do as Dragon Eye’s spokesperson.” He then turned to Shae. “I want you to record me, Shae. I want a high-quality recording.”

Shae moved out from a corner and started recording Michael. Sophia watched as Michael calmly unboxed the brand new Serpent phone before moving on to the new, low-end Dragon Eye phone. He held both phones in his hands and turned them on at the same time. Both of the screens lit up at the same time; their systems and functions were equally efficient. The logo for both phones appeared on the screen at the same time, and Michael then turned around and howled at the office door. “Hey, stupid dog!”

“Woof?” A husky pushed the door open and stuck its head into the office. With both the phones in his hands, Michael then threw them out at the same time. “Get it!” he yelled. The phones flew out with great speed before they both struck against the wall with loud clunks. They then fell into the indoor fountain in Sophia’s office.

Sophia was completely speechless as she watched the entire scene play out in front of her eyes.

“Woof!” Judge charged into the fountain at the speed of light before picking both the phones up and returning them to its owner. One of the phones barely looked like a phone—it fell apart after the impact it sustained upon being hurled against the wall, coupled with the water that seeped into its parts and the force of Judge’s teeth against its surface. All that was left now was the back of the phone that had a logo printed on it. There were teeth marks that belonged to the dog right on top of Serpent’s logo, and the phone was utterly destroyed.

On the other hand, the Dragon Eye phone came back with just a few scratches on its screen, but it could still be turned on. The shining ‘Dragon Eye’ logo remained well-preserved at the back of the phone.

“You can upload this video onto my Twitter whenever you think the time’s right,” Michael said. Sophia was still speechless after what she just saw. Shae quickly tidied the mess and dried the dog before sending the video over to both Michael and Sophia’s phones.

Sophia began to hesitate a little when she saw the notification by Shae. Isn't it a little too much since the logo there is so obvious? "Is this... really okay? Aren't we just blatantly criticizing their brand?" She felt a little guilty and a little worried that Serpent might confront them for their acts.

Michael simply sat himself down in front of her before staring into her eyes. He then reached out and pinched her cheeks, which had a lot less meat as she had lost weight. "Is this criticism, though? I just happen to enjoy using my phones to play fetch with my dog; what's wrong with that? I'm rich, after all! I like using my phones as sticks for my dog, and I can use a new phone each day! Did Serpent ever restrict their customers from using their phones as dog toys?"

That's true. They've never said that... Sophia thought. "But what if they cause you trouble after they see this video?"

"What can they do to me? Eat me up?" He didn't seem bothered by it at all. But Serpent is an international company after all; they have their own network and connections. What if they come up with a plot to harm Michael after seeing him in the video? Sophia's concerns were written all over her face, so Michael reached forward to pinch her cheeks once again. "They were the ones who asked for it. They used the power of a celebrity's fans and turned them against our brand, so why can't we respond with the same tactics? They were the ones that attacked us first, and we can't just sit around and do nothing, can we?"

Sophia quickly placed her hand over his before pressing it against her cheek, greedily taking in the warmth of his palm against her skin. It felt good to have someone fighting alongside her during her toughest periods. "You're the best, darling!" she uttered. He leaned forward to plant a kiss on her cheek before pulling her in for a hug. Her body felt even thinner than before, probably because she had been straining herself in the past few months.

After the two of them spent a little more time cuddling with one another, Sophia finally sat herself on Michael's legs before wrapping her arms around his neck. She told him about everything that had been going on. She told him about how Serpent and Lucy's consecutive attacks overwhelmed them, leaving them with no time to clear their heads and think properly. It was evident that they were trying to infuriate Sophia, but their acts didn't change the fact that the Dragon Eye phones were a good financial opportunity. Throughout this period, there were a number of investors that had approached their company to offer them support to go against Lucy's team. Those investors wanted some benefits in return, of course, but Sophia rejected all of them. Linus and Cooper also visited to check on the situation, but Sophia didn't want them to get too involved. After all, how could she have the

nerve to return to the Michel Group in the future if she couldn't even handle the job of a cell phone agent by herself?

With his arms tight around Sophia's waist, Michael patiently listened to all her stories. He had never interfered with her work, but he always offered his opinions whenever necessary. "The cheapest Dragon Eye phone costs about 6,000, which makes it a relatively expensive phone when compared to the average phone price. However, we can't underestimate the purchasing power of our consumers in Cethos. We shouldn't limit our users to those in the city; the larger townships, the countryside areas, villages, pastoral, and desert areas all have great potential as well. This phone is suited for extreme weather, so those in the field of research may prefer it. We should find ways to promote these features to all the special organizations. As for expanding our sales into rural areas and villages, I have a rather silly idea..."

The two of them continued talking in the office for a long time. Michael stayed around with Sophia until she finished work at 6.00PM. He then drove her home. Meanwhile, everyone else left work on time that day. "Goodbye, misters and misses!" Carmen waved to the workers before she slipped her hands into her parents'. All of the workers felt like they had been blessed by an angel to have Carmen visiting them, so they worked especially hard throughout the day.

Finally, all three of them returned to the Edwards Residence. Michael had already treated the place as his own house. He didn't just move in himself—he even shamelessly brought a bunch of others along with him. Nathan, Celine, Justin, and a bunch of cats, dogs and robots all lived in the Edwards Residence now.

They all received great news recently: Justin, the old but vigorous guy, just got Celine pregnant!

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Mark, who was excited to hear the news, had offered to help care for Celine if she returned to the Fletcher Residence, but she preferred to live at Sophia's—her house was spacious, had clean air, and there were more people around. Celine therefore decided to move in with Michael. Sophia's house had practically turned into a mini version of the Edwards Residence. A number of individuals who depended on Cooper had moved in, including Derek, Vincent, Justin, Dimon, and a few others. Cooper, as the leader of this branch of the Edwards Family, was therefore excited to hear about Celine's pregnancy. Her baby belonged to the Edwards, after all. They had even discussed the child's surname—Celine's first child would be a Fletcher, while her second child would be an Edwards.

Now that Celine was in her forties, it was hard for her to get pregnant. Both Justin and Michael acted as if they were preparing for a war as they hurriedly increased the number of helpers that surrounded Celine. However, Celine was still as energetic as a child—she ran all over the place with the level of excitement that was equivalent to three huskies'. Cooper couldn't help but recall the past whenever he glanced at Celine. The Celine that he had met when Mark first introduced them to one another was a totally different person from the woman she was right now!

Although both Sophia and Celine had lost their memories after Phantom Wolf used their brainwashing techniques on them, Celine was still as innocent as a young baby even after being in recovery for nearly a year. Sophia, on the contrary, was maturing at a rapid pace. Cooper knew that Phantom Wolf had brought Sophia along when they were trying to avoid getting caught by the Fletchers. He knew that Sophia had been brought to dark, illegal places that were hidden deep within society... Celine was protected the entire time, but Sophia didn't have the chance to remain innocent. Cooper now felt a pang of guilt when he looked at Sophia. He sometimes wondered how much his own daughter had to suffer before she turned into the cold-blooded, vicious woman she was right then. How I wish she could just be a protected little baby forever!

A while after Celine found out that she was pregnant, Sarah abruptly fainted at work one day. After Sarah got herself checked, it was revealed that she was pregnant for 4 weeks. She got a Caesarean for her previous childbirth, so she was supposed to wait for 4 years before she could get pregnant again. Fortunately, it had been 4 years when she found out about her second pregnancy. Due to all the stress she experienced at work, she had been a little more sexually active at home as a way of relieving her stress. They forgot to use protection one night, which then led to her unexpected pregnancy. Harry was overjoyed; he happily prepared a closetful of tiny clothes for the baby, and he kept pestering Daniel for him to use his divination techniques in altering his fate—Harry wanted a chubby little daughter!

Just a few days after Sarah found out about her pregnancy, Nicole called to pass the good news. She was pregnant as well! They only chose to reveal it after she was 3 months into her pregnancy, and Sam was excited to flaunt about it when he visited the Edwards Residence. Soon after that, Snowball, Bubbles, Garfield, and even the alpaca, got pregnant...

Everyone's gaze fell on Sophia's flat stomach. Unfortunately, the doctor didn't sound too optimistic about her situation. Back when Phantom Wolf kidnapped her, Sophia had given birth in a dirty, chaotic environment; she was then forced to walk for long hours in order to escape immediately after she gave birth. She never got the chance to go through postpartum confinement, and her body was too damaged for her to get pregnant. The chances were simply too low.

Carmen 2.0, or a Carmen 3.0, was nothing more than a dream to them. Sophia didn't seem to recognize how hopeful everyone else was for a Carmen 2.0 in their lives, as all she could think of was her own work. After they got rid of Nicholas as their spokesperson, Sophia quickly found a replacement. Since the job of being Dragon Eye's spokesperson was an amazing opportunity, she chose to benefit her own people. Hence, she got Drake to sign the agreement as their new spokesperson.

'The Winter Breakthrough' premiered just a while before the Dragon Eye phones were released on the market. Everything came together perfectly—they could promote Drake and boast about the movie, while Drake could promote the phone to the public. Michael was the one who recognized Drake's talents. In the past, Drake was merely a bodyguard at Mitchell International Energy and Technology, but he was immediately invited to sign a contract with a reality show after he finished filming for 'The Winter Breakthrough'. He then formed a duo with Ashton to go on the second season of 'Where Are We Going, Bro?' as siblings. He quickly rose to fame after that, showing great potential and chance of surpassing Nicholas' fame while also providing Ashton with greater exposure. Sophia was pleased with her choice to use Drake as their spokesperson—she didn't want such a great opportunity to be left to the hands of a stranger. Furthermore, Sophia thought that Drake was a lot more suited than Nicholas as their spokesperson. At least Drake's actually talented. He never had plastic surgery, and his acting skills are recognized! This fits well with the image of our phone—we're classy, skilful, and high in quality!

After selecting the new spokesperson, Sophia quickly began on her plan for revenge! Since Nicholas was the one who started all of this, she chose to target him first. She didn't have anything against him; she knew that he was nothing more than a pawn in the game of chess they were playing. Unfortunately, since the person who guided this piece had steered him to create chaos on Sophia's land, she would have no mercy for him! It was an easy job to

tarnish the reputation of a celebrity. All she had to do was move a few of her fingers around. Sophia had done this a number of times, and she was very familiar with it.

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Serpent held their celebratory dinner at the Majestic Hotel on their scheduled date. Under Lucy's guidance, Serpent had managed to achieve never-before-seen numbers on their mobile phone sales in Cethos; they'd even successfully defeated one of their largest enemies, Dragon Eye. The Serpent's headquarters expressed their appreciation toward Lucy, and they even arranged for gifts to be presented to her during the celebratory dinner. Lastly, Serpent invited Alice to join them for their celebratory dinner as they claimed that it was their manner of expressing how apologetic they felt toward her.

Since Alice was still in Cethos, she attended the dinner after receiving the invitation. Daniel tagged along with her as he was rather concerned. The atmosphere in the room showed subtle changes the minute Alice appeared at Serpent's celebratory dinner. She was the developer of Dragon Eye, their arch-enemy, after all. But Alice didn't seem to be bothered as she casually sauntered in. She was dressed in an eye-catching backless evening gown that was bright red in color. She was like a bed of Higan flowers that had just bloomed all around Dragon Eye, which, although smelled good, carried the threat of death and terror. It made her seem both dangerous and mesmerizing.

Alice didn't bring any attention to herself after she walked into the hall. Instead, she found herself a seat and sat down quietly. There were many individuals who were interested in building connections with her, but they were all reluctant to approach her there and then due to the rather awkward role that she played in such a setting. Daniel was the only one that remained by her side. He had let his hair grow out for a while now, and it went just beyond his shoulders. He held it up against the back of his head with a plain, black wooden hairpin, and he was dressed in an equally plain-colored robe. After using the 5-step rejuvenating skincare products that Michael had recommended to him, he didn't look old despite his age. In fact, he looked fresh and youthful, as if he was a mythical creature who had just come out from the mountains.

The alcohol was the main highlight of the entire dinner. One of the waiters quickly approached Daniel and asked, "What would you like to drink, Mr. Levine?"

Daniel pulled out a packet of Cloud Mist Tea, a specialty product obtained from Reverie Mountain. "Make me a pot of this," he ordered.

The waiter was left speechless by this. Even Alice chuckled a little. “Why did you choose to come if you don’t enjoy being in such environments, Master Levine?” she asked.

Daniel fiddled with his bracelet as he replied, “Casper wanted me to come because he was afraid you’d get bullied.”

Alice simply laughed without saying anything else. Soon enough, Daniel’s pot of tea was brought to him, and he lifted it up to pour himself a cup.

Soon, Lucy walked over to greet Alice. She brought one of Serpent’s executives along with her. Serpent had always treated Dragon Eye as one of their imaginary enemies, but they had always been troubled by how Dragon Eye never seemed to have categorized themselves under the same group as Serpent, and therefore never seemed threatened by the latter. Now that Dragon Eye had finally entered the mid to low-end market with their new phones—now that Serpent’s performance had surpassed their standards—Serpent was overjoyed. They felt like they had finally achieved victory.

“So it really is you, Alice! I never expected to see you here in Cethos!” Serpent’s executive gave Alice a warm greeting. She replied with a polite smile, “Congratulations on achieving such great results with Serpent!”

“Oh, it’s nothing. It’s all thanks to our competitors, really!” said the Serpent executive.

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All thanks to our competitors? The Serpent executive was a smart man, and his words held a deeper meaning to it. Alice had to go through that sentence a couple of times before she finally got what it meant. “Yeah. Serpent is definitely the dominant brand in the market for mid to low-end phones; there’s no denying that. Newcomers like us will never be a match for you guys.” In the end, Alice pretended that she didn’t get what the executive had meant by his previous sentence.

The executive flashed her a complacent grin. He had always thought of their brand as the leading brand, so he was naturally pleased now that he had managed to defend his own brand's title. However, he clearly forgot how Serpent had once attempted to enter the market for high-end phones and how it had failed terribly. Alice recognized the nasty, conceited look on his face, and she didn't wish to continue the conversation, so they talked for a while more before Alice gave a random excuse to leave.

Just as Alice had picked her bag up and was about to walk out, she heard Lucy's voice from behind her. "Miss Alice! If you could turn back time and make a new decision, I wonder if you'd stick to the judgements you made in the past."

Alice froze for a while before she answered, "There are surely a lot of things that I would like to change if I could turn back time. But I didn't make a mistake in my choice for the Cethosian agent, and I therefore don't see the need to change anything about that." Despite the festive celebratory setting they were in, Alice's voice was just as cold and sharp as ever. There was also a hint of determination in it. The Dragon Eye's phones haven't even been released, and we haven't even started our pre-orders, so no one can tell who the winner is just yet!

A glint of dissatisfaction flashed across Lucy's gaze as she watched Alice walk away. The truth is right in the woman's face; she's just stubbornly insisting on her own views. The Serpent's pre-order for its new phones were a huge success, and the pre-orders in Cethos itself had surpassed the numbers for all of the other regions by a huge margin. This wasn't just due to the fact that Serpent was a brand with over 10 years of a reputation; it was also because Lucy had worked hard for it. Dragon Eye, on the other hand, might not even manage to launch their pre-orders. Lucy was simply waiting for the day when Alice would finally return and beg her to be the agent of her phone!

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A bout of spring rain soaked the entire Bayside City, and a cold moon appeared soon after that. It fitted well with the damp air in the city. Alice got out of the car at the back door of the Edwards Residence before walking toward her own living quarters. There was a short walk she had to take to get to her own room, and she passed through a little garden on the way in. Sophia was the one who had filled it with various plants and flowers—the stems of some plants now curled up around the supporting pillars. Under the guidance of a professional florist, they shaped the growth of the plants so that it formed an archway. There were colourful lights that lit the garden up, which made it seem especially dreamy.

Recently, Daniel had been traveling between Reverie Mountain and Riverdale, but he mostly resided in the Edwards Residence. Right then, he was walking in front of Alice; he was going against the direction of the strong wind as the breeze struck his robe, filling the air with the scent of tea. He gradually took a few steps backward before he spoke to Alice. "What would be the thing that you would want to change the most if you could turn back time?" he asked.

Alice glanced at him, the blue in her eyes more vibrant than ever under the spotlight. "If I could turn back time, the thing that I would like to change the most... I definitely wouldn't have gone to River Seine six years ago on that day." She didn't hesitate much with her answer.

The man's footsteps came to a sudden halt as he felt the gentle smile on his lips slowly withering like a dead flower. If she hadn't visited the Seine River six years ago on that day, she would've never met Daniel. Does that mean her greatest regret is having met me? He froze on his spot, with the light shining on his back as his face was turned away from Alice. Alice simply ignored the disappointment and pain that he felt, and she brushed past him before walking to her own room and shutting the door. Daniel stood outside for a long while before he finally left quietly, disappearing into the dark ends of the colorfully lit garden.

After returning to her room, Alice kept her lights off and leaned her back against the door. She stared at the darkness in front of her, the blue in her eyes drowned by the darkness of the room. Of course I'd regret that day... If I hadn't met Daniel that year, I wouldn't have had to spend the past 6 years missing and longing for him endlessly. Alice sincerely hoped that she had met a typical, boring soul that she would easily forget once she left that year. She wished that she had met someone she wouldn't feel attached to or nostalgic for, but instead, she came to know Daniel, who was an interesting soul trapped in a handsome body. She couldn't let go of him even until today, and although she always thought that all Cethosians had the same facial features, she would be able to recognize him anywhere in a crowd.

Sadly, she knew that things would never work out between the two of them. Daniel couldn't possibly alter his surname to enter her family, since he was the one in control of the entire Levine Family. She, on the other hand, simply couldn't give up on all her hardwork and effort just for the sake of Daniel.

When the lights finally came on, Casper was dressed in a blue, fluffy pajamas set as he stood in front of Alice. He looked up at her with his large, bright eyes. "Where's Mr. Psychic, Mommy?" Alice finally felt some warmth and joy taking over her heavy and bitter heart once she saw her own son. She replied to him while taking her shoes off, "It's late, so Mr. Psychic has gone to get some rest."

After Alice changed her shoes, she took a shower and went through her night-time skincare routine before she went to bed at her usual time. Casper wrapped his arms around his little pillow before he tottered over to climb in bed with Alice. She hugged him tightly and lowered her gaze to glance at her son as he slept sweetly. She, however, couldn't seem to fall asleep as all she thought of was how hurt Daniel had seemed earlier. Perhaps he won't come looking for me anymore after this. That would be great, since I'll have to return to Northern Europe soon. It's better if we just never meet again for the rest of our lives.

"Mommy." Casper, whom she assumed was fast asleep, suddenly opened his eyes and called for her softly.

She edged over to plant a soft kiss on his face. "What is it, Casper?" Her emotions were more complicated than ever as she looked at her son, whose features shared a few similarities with Daniel's.

Casper hesitated a little before he finally spoke. "Is Mr. Psychic my Daddy?"

Alice was stunned to hear this. "Who told you that?" she asked with a light laugh.

"Gianna told me," Casper replied honestly.

Gianna... Alice had to think for a while before she recalled that that was Carmen's artist name. When Carmen first went overseas to participate in filming, Michael came up with an artist name for her. That way, she would be known as Carmen in Cethos, and Gianna in other overseas countries.

Eventually, Alice decided not to deny her son the truth. After all, there were a number of independent women in the Michel Group who were single mothers, raising children who were abandoned by their fathers, so it was something that she would have to deal with eventually. "If you like him, then he's your dad. If you don't, then he isn't," she finally uttered.

Casper beamed happily upon hearing this. "Well, then can I come over to visit and play with Daddy more often now?" He switched the way he referred to Daniel so quickly, almost as if he had been practicing it all along! Alice stroked her son's gold hair gently. "You can come over anytime you want to," she said. He was elated to hear this, and he immediately forced himself to sleep so that he could play with Daddy once he was awake! Alice, however, couldn't fall asleep for a long time.

The next morning, when Alice woke up, she saw that Casper had already gone out to play. She checked the clock to see that it was a Saturday. She then lay herself back down on the bed as she reminded herself that she would have to leave for work at the office soon. The quality of her phones had been frequently questioned by others recently, and she had to do something about it as the developer of the phone.

After she napped for a while longer, she heard the sound of Sophia's laughter coming from the garden below. Alice pulled her curtains open to see Sophia and Michael taking pictures in the garden. She had always felt a hint of envy and respect when she saw Sophia and Michael together. How can they love one another so openly and expressively? They truly gave up on everything just to love one another!

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After a night of spring rain, all of the flowers bloomed in the garden; the bright petals added a splash of colors to the greenery, and it made the whole garden seem as dreamy as a magical castle. Sophia, who was barely ever home since she usually stayed back for work at the office, was dressed in a meshed long dress with floral prints as she took a stroll in the garden. She had had her hair styled and her makeup done, and Michael tagged along behind her to snap pictures of her with an SLR camera. Carmen dashed around behind them like an excited butterfly, eager to be a part of the photo.

There were a lot of people in the Edwards Residence that day, but Daniel... wasn't there. Casper seemed a little dispirited as Carmen dragged him out to play. Alice kept a blank look on her face as she watched Sophia enjoying herself. Alice knew about the fact that Sophia was going to return to Michel Group soon, but she also knew that Sophia would never be able to be separated from Michael. She was aware that Cooper had been trying to mediate the situation, but it seemed like Michael would have to change his surname sooner or later. Otherwise, the Michel Group would definitely split him and Sophia up. Alice felt a sudden surge of respect toward Sophia—the woman was clearly being so independent and working so hard now because she wanted to develop a stable foundation for herself when she entered the Michel Family. On the contrary, Alice, who grew up surrounded by the culture of

the Michel Family, completely forgot what it felt like to have to fight for something. She couldn't even remember how it felt to passionately desire something...

As Sophia was in a good mood that day, she invited a bunch of them to head over to the farm, where they could ride horses and pick strawberries. She wanted to release some stress before the 'war' began—she was going to have to fight a huge battle after that day! Alice herself was curious to see how Sophia was planning to restore the reputation of Dragon Eye, and how she was going to turn the tables when things looked so bad for Dragon Eye right then. It seemed too ambitious to hope for Dragon Eye's sales to surpass Serpent's when they had been in the Cethosian market for 10 years now. However, Alice wanted Dragon Eye to be second place in the entire Cethosian market.

On Monday, Serpent's pre-orders achieved a new record high, which placed them farther away from all their other competitors. Dragon Eye, who received quite an amount of public attention, also announced their new spokesperson, Drake Mitchell, but they didn't announce any upcoming dates for pre-orders yet.

Previously, Nicholas made a post on his social media account about how his Dragon Eye phone couldn't be used after he dropped it and how the hackers had infiltrated his phone systems. This post denied two of the greatest selling points that Dragon Eye had, and some magazine seemed interested in interviewing him about this. During the interview, Nicholas explained that all his data—his emails, social media accounts, and the private files he had saved in the phone—were lost and may have even been spread after his phone system got hacked. He added that it was a huge loss for Glory Entertainment, especially since he was one of the shareholders of the company. He claimed that he had already made a police report, and that the police were working on the case. Lastly, he declined any apology or after-sales services offered by Dragon Eye, and instead asked for them to repay the hefty sum that he had lost.

After all, the public was largely forgetful—Nicholas' phone issues could have been a hot topic a month ago, but it would definitely die down after 1 month. Nicholas therefore chose to pull this public stunt right as Plum Technology was attempting to rebuild the public's trust and interest toward Dragon Eye. Now that Nicholas had brought up this topic of Dragon Eye's quality once again, the topic began to trend, and the public seemed like they wouldn't let Dragon Eye off the hook until the entire brand disappeared from the market.

This entire act was schemed and directed by Sandra, of course. Sandra was now the top dealer that worked directly under Lucy, the sole agent of Serpent in Cethos. All Sandra could do now was to find ways to attack Sophia with the use of Serpent as an excuse. She continuously highlighted the low quality control in Dragon Eye and repeatedly used it to

generate news and gossip. This didn't just help create exposure for Nicholas and the Serpent phone; it also served to crush both Sophia and Dragon Eye all at once.

However, a fresh piece of news spread across Cethos on Friday. The headline: 'Top Male Celebrity in Cethos Got His Phone Hacked: Pornographic Images and Secret Files Leaked!' At the same time, workers in Mitchell International Energy and Technology, Glory Entertainment, and even Nicholas himself, had pornographic images with their faces on it compressed into a 10GB zip file that was uploaded online and circulated all around Cethos.

Since Nicholas had just recorded an interview about how his phone had been hacked and how there were a lot of private files and data leaked to the hacker, the public easily believed the contents of this zip file to be genuine. Everyone downloaded it as they were excited to see what could possibly be in a male celebrity's phone. The compressed file was first uploaded by an anonymous account onto some forum, and it trended overseas for a few days before someone in Cethos finally uploaded the file in the country. By the time Sandra and Nicholas received it, it was too late—they were under the international spotlight, and they wouldn't be able to delete it even if they tried to.

The rumors were true—all of the pornographic images were included in the compressed file. Beyond that, there were also a large number of agreement contracts between Glory Entertainment's artists—Nicholas included—and their partnerships with other companies. Furthermore, there were also a surprisingly large amount of illegal, double 'slave contracts' that resulted in unequal treatment of their artists. All of these, along with several confidential business contracts, were all over the Internet. There were a few million downloads just within a day. However, the details of Glory Entertainment's contracts were more shocking than the sight of the pornographic pictures.

Some of the double contracts showed discrepancies between two copies that were supposedly the same contract. One of the contracts stated an artist's appearance fee to be 100,000, and the company paid their taxes in accordance with the law by submitting these files. However, they also made another separate contract that listed 10 million for the artist's appearance fees—they paid taxes for 100,000 but secretly got an income of 10 million! How much tax did they manage to evade that way?! Apart from these contracts, there were also several slave contracts that highlighted the unequal treatment of various artists. One artist was required to spend a specified number of nights drinking and sleeping with others. The contract even specified, in black and white, the number of days that a female artist would get to take a leave during that time of the month! There was even a list of prices for how much each artist received after sleeping with others—all of it was listed on paper! There were clauses that mentioned an increase in rates if the artists performed well

in bed with others! It was shocking, horrifying, and appalling! This wasn't an entertainment company; it was practically a prostitution center!

Soon enough, the tax department received a large number of reports, and they eventually launched an investigation on the issue of tax evasion suspected in both Mitchell International Energy and Technology and Glory Entertainment. The public security department also received reports and finally got themselves involved in the case of Glory Entertainment pricing their artists for illegitimate services and openly using them as prostitutes.

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Sandra and the whole of Glory Entertainment were dumbfounded. There hadn't actually been anything wrong with Nicholas' Dragon Eye phone. The system was extremely secure. However, Nicholas had chosen to lie about the system being hacked as he wanted to exaggerate the situation so that all his fans would give poor reviews to Dragon Eye. He was simply attempting to use his influential power to crush Dragon Eye. Whatever he mentioned about top secret, private files were just a bunch of lies. Furthermore, he was aware of how pornographic images could destroy an artist's entire career—getting your pictures exposed would be equivalent to social suicide, so of course he wouldn't ever be silly enough to leave such images in his phone. Yet all the confidential files and pornographic images of Nicholas that were spreading on the Internet were real!!

He had been over-exaggerating his words when he criticized Dragon Eye's security system; he mentioned that hackers were able to access his information because their security system was weak. He didn't expect someone to actually leak the confidential files; it was almost as if the person was supporting his point and providing him with more concrete evidence when he faced the lawsuit against Dragon Eye! At this point, he'd never be able to clarify himself even if he attempted to!

Oh, my god! There was only one person that surfaced in Sandra's mind when she saw all the leaked files. She was certain that Vincent was the one who stole all the files from her before handing them over to Sophia. Sophia's team must have been the one who leaked it all out!

"I'm going to kill you, Vincent! You traitor! How dare you betray the Mitchells!!" Sandra immediately gave Vincent a call. She greeted him with a loud scream the moment he picked up. "I'm going to erase your name from the Mitchell Family's family tree. You will never be able to be buried in the Mitchell Family's ancestral grave! You'd be too ashamed to see your ancestors, anyway!" she howled.