

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1341 - 1345

In the end, they failed to convince Cooper to stay.

During this whole time, Maddie did not dare look up once. She figured these thoughts must have gone through Cooper's mind: How can Joel's father-in-law be this crude? Why did Joel marry a woman of such a background? Was this how the matriarch of the Fletcher Family was brought up? The Fletchers are such a disgrace!

Sophia announced, "We're leaving now!"

There was nothing much she could do in this situation either, but the damage had been done. She did not plan on apologizing or paying for his medical bills; not even for a rabies shot.

Just then, Joel walked through the door. He had already heard of what happened. Seeing the somber look on Cooper's face, he gave a sincere apology. "I'm so sorry you had to see this."

Cooper did not answer him and simply stormed off.

The situation left Joel feeling both frustrated and embarrassed.

Inside the conference room, Maddie felt even more ashamed to face Joel and the Fletcher Family. She kept her head down and let her tears continue to fall.

Before she had a chance to speak, a fiery slap landed on her cheek, making half of her face go numb.

A voice exploded like thunder by her ear. "Maddie Evans! The nerve you have to show up here!"

Seeing how she let the 'Linus Family' slip away with just a few words, and how she ruined Clive and Tawny's marriage once again, Mr. Evans pointed at her and bellowed, "Get down on your knees! Now!"

But, she remained where she was and only continued to weep in silence. She was not crying because she had gotten reprimanded, but because she brought shame onto Joel.

When Mr. Evans saw that she did not budge, he raised his hand to slap her again. This time, however, another hand stretched out from beside Maddie and caught Mr. Evans' arm with strength so exceptional that it sent a sharp pain through his bones.

"Ow! That hurts!"

At some point, a man dressed in military uniform had walked up right behind Mr. Evans. He had a chilling gaze that carried no emotions.

Mr. Evans' eyes widened as soon as he recognized the man. "Joel! It's you. Let go of my hand! I'm your father-in-law. How dare you treat me this way?"

As it turned out, it was Maddie's husband who was in the military!

The Evans filled with rage and went to surround him. "So, you're Joel Fletcher!"

Byron came up to Joel with his fist clenched tightly. Just as he was about to punch him, Joel pulled out a gun at the speed of light and pointed it at Byron's head.

A gun!

At the same time, the sound of neat footsteps came from outside. A group of armed soldiers in green military uniform shuffled in immediately with countless guns pointed at the Evans and Bishops.

Joel pulled back his hand from Mr. Evans' arm and retracted his gun. He directed his ruthless gaze at everyone. "The guest house has made arrangements for everyone to leave on a flight tomorrow morning. They will take you to Fischer Municipal Airport."

The two families were rather frightened to see the military troops, but Mr. Evans put up a strong front when he realized that Joel was trying to send them away. "What's so great about being a soldier? Kill me if you can! Go ahead and kill me!"

It's not like we've never seen soldiers before! The Minister of the County Armed Forces is my relative!

Joel looked at Mr. Evans who was fuming with anger and spoke to him with a straight face. "I sent the county magistrate and mayor to await all of you at the airport."

The mention of the mayor did not scare them, but hearing that Joel was able to call out the county magistrate made them scared out of their wits.

Even though they often ridiculed the county magistrate's daughter among themselves for marrying a construction worker, the county magistrate was equivalent to a god in their small county. They were like mice stumbling upon a cat when they encountered the county magistrate.

Mr. Evans still did not believe him. "Are you saying you gave orders to the county magistrate? Who do you think you are?"

Joel had taken Maddie by the hand and turned to leave the conference room. With his back toward Mr. Evans, he said, "Because we're family, I pulled some strings this time to stop charges from being brought against Clive for raping Sophia and the rest of you for extortion. From now on, don't come to Bayside City anymore."

Mr. Evans was upset. "Stop right there. I'm going to call the reporters right now and expose you. I'll make sure you face disciplinary action. You won't even get to be a paratrooper!"

While he said that, he even brought out his phone to show that he was going to make the call.

Joel, however, did not waste another second there and took Maddie out of the room by the hand.

Maddie did not know how she left the place. All she could hear were the insults the Evans and Bishops had thrown at her.

By the time she came back to her senses, she was already in the car with Joel beside her.

It was then that she let out a sorrowful wail and began sobbing in his embrace.

Holding her in his arms, Joel comforted, "It's okay. It's over now. He has ordered all of them to return. They won't dare to step foot here again."

That was Maddie's family. Joel was also as torn as she was, but if they wanted to punish them, there was still a way—they were sent back to their county town and the locals would keep watch on them.

People who came from rural areas were not afraid of anything except for their local government.

In a small county, the county magistrate was like God. They could block the resettlement quota, get rid of some jobs, and create a false impression that this family had wronged a big figure, then family and friends would distance themselves from them. The people's judgment in that sealed-off society would be the same as giving them the death penalty. It was enough to make them live in anxiety and suffer each day.

Currently, Maddie was still crying. Joel knew that she was not going to get over this any time soon. Although he had already told her repeatedly, she still felt inferior and sensitive.

Since being together, he had never thought of them as being unequal. They were equal human beings who loved each other equally. They stood on the same ground in their relationship and neither was above the other.

After thinking about it for a while, he decided to bring up the 'relative' that had always been hard to talk about. "There, there. Did you see my relative who was there earlier? He killed so many people before, but he is still able to live brazenly now. Don't take it too hard. Cooper doesn't hold on to petty grudges. I know him. He won't hold this against you. If it makes you feel better, we can bring some gifts to him and apologize when we get back."

She wiped off her tears and managed to give him a nod.

The Bishops and Evans would probably be too afraid to come again this time around. Since Maddie had grown up in that place, she knew the survival rules and social conduct there.

Someone once wronged one of the chiefs in the county. Later, all the buildings, except for that family's house, in the neighborhood got torn down. To that family, it was practically putting them in exile.

Because the place was only so big, news that they had wronged the chief quickly spread. Soon, they were no longer able to live in their hometown and were forced to relocate.

Hopefully, this will serve as a reminder for the Evans and the Bishops!

Christine was worried sick all day as she watched the Bishops and the Evans get escorted to the guest house to await their flight the next day.

Inside the guest house, people were infuriated and were urging Christine to call the newspaper office. They wanted to send in a report that Joel had beaten up his father-in-law so that he would be removed from the army for good!

Chapter 1342

While Christine was left baffled by that family, Tawny's father received a call from a prestigious elderly from the Bishop Family. He had prestige because he held a public office position in their county. Despite it being a small role, to them, he was equivalent to a high-ranking official to whom they had to bow down.

Without warning, the small-time public officer started to shout over the phone. "What on earth did you guys do in Bayside City? The county magistrate came to ask me personally today. He said you've offended a high-ranking official. You're all done for!"

After that, several more phone calls came.

"Your son's admittance into the top class was nullified. There's not enough space. We've reached the maximum quota."

"Mr. Bishop, can you find some time to move out of the public housing? The authorities found a house under your name. You don't qualify to live in public housing anymore!"

"I'm sorry to inform you, Mr. Evans, but your son's performance at work is very poor, so the company has fired him."

It was at that moment that the Bishops and the Evans felt afraid. The series of events was enough to make them see their world crumble before their eyes. One after the other, they were urging Christine to call Maddie and have her remedy the situation.

Upon returning to The Imperial, Cooper was still in a sullen mood. "That's enough, Dad. Don't brood over this. Those people don't know much about the world. They don't understand how it works!" Sophia appeased.

Once she was done with Cooper, she was busy trying to placate Linus. She was worried that they might act rashly. At this crucial point when Jordan was watching over them like a hawk, they could not afford a slip-up.

If it were up to Cooper, he would have made mincemeat out of the Bishops by now.

When Michael came to know about the situation, he quickly rushed home from his filming site. The matter was settled; Joel was going to bring some gifts over to apologize to Cooper the next day.

Cooper also suppressed his anger for the sake of Michael and Joel. Since it was not a big issue, he did not want to complicate things further.

Both Joel and Maddie also called to apologize; Cooper accepted it and the problem was resolved. After all, Joel was the head of the Fletcher Family now.

Even though Cooper lost his temper over petty things sometimes, most of the time, he was quite magnanimous.

Thus, the matter was simply going to blow over.

When Sophia arrived at work the next day, however, she saw everyone huddled together to watch the news.

"Oh my god! That's so cruel!"

"I can't watch anymore!"

"How can something so gruesome happen in Bayside City?"

Taking out her phone, Sophia saw that a headline was being circulated in the news media. A 21-year-old foreign man with the last name Bishop was found dead at a guest house. His body was dismembered into twenty to thirty pieces that it was impossible to piece him back together. According to investigations, Bishop was the cousin of the popular young lady, Christine Bishop!

Christine's cousin!

A shadow flashed before Sophia's eyes. This person called Bishop can't be the same person I kicked in the face yesterday, can it?

Unfortunately, all the pictures on the internet were covered with a mosaic so the person was not identifiable.

She hurriedly gave Maddie a call and found out that the deceased person was indeed Clive!

When Sophia arrived at the scene soon after, she saw police officers surrounding the whole guest house with police cordons put up everywhere. The crowd of bystanders that had gathered and reporters who were trying to conduct interviews were all held off.

The forensics team was already in the guest house inspecting the scene.

Meanwhile, members of the Evans and Bishop Family had been taken away by the police. They were so terrified that they did not say a word.

Last night, Joel's people had brought them to the guest house. Because Joel was the one who arranged everything, there were no shortcomings. Everyone got a room to themselves in that extravagant place.

When bad news came to them one after the other, it was like the end of the world for them. They had all gathered in one room to discuss a countermeasure while Clive stayed in his own room to rest.

Early this morning, Christine had called for a car to take them to the airport, but Clive was the only one who did not show up. When they went to knock on his room door, they found that the door was locked. They tried calling his phone but only heard the continuous ringing inside his room. Eventually, a worker went to open the door and revealed the most horrifying sight that they would ever see in their lives.

Christine was sobbing uncontrollably while a pale-faced Maddie tried to console her. Joel also arrived at the scene and had a deep frown on his face when he went inside to look.

He was the one who had sent Clive there, but now Clive was dead. He had to get to the bottom of it!

Additionally, this incident created a huge fear in Bayside City. He had to find out what happened before the situation got out of hand.

Meanwhile, Stanley rushed over to the site with the feeling that this case had something to do with him. When he saw Joel, he inquired, "What happened? Did you find the culprit?"

With his brows knitted together, Joel answered, "There's not much to go on. The culprit did this in a very professional and flawless way. The incisions were made very neatly, and each cut was fatal. It didn't take long for him to finish the task. There are no footprints or useful evidence at the scene. Surveillance footage isn't much help either."

"The culprit is extremely violent. His sole reason for the killing was to vent his anger. He's also a repeated offender who knows how to avoid forensic detection. I wouldn't eliminate the possibility of this being the work of a professional killer."

Suddenly, a thought seemed to have crossed their minds, making them fall into a deep silence.

While they remained silent, Maddie looked around warily then stealthily tugged on Joel's sleeve. "Joel, didn't you say that one of our relatives worked in this field? Maybe you can ask him for help. He might be able to catch something."

When Joel heard what Maddie said, he looked even more troubled.

Sophia froze momentarily, then came to know who the murderer was right away.

Clive might have deserved to die, but killing him was going overboard. Nonetheless, to that particular person, killing a person was nothing out of the ordinary.

It's Quinton!

The moment she realized that it was Quinton's doing, she felt extremely torn for she knew that he had done it for her.

In a fit of anger, she pulled out her phone to call him when she saw Joel return from answering a call with an even more distraught look on his face than when they realized Quinton was the culprit.

"What's wrong, Joel?"

He turned to Sophia. "Something happened to Mr. Mitchell and Linus."

At the entrance of The Imperial, a large crowd of police officers had surrounded the area. A number of police cars were parked along the way while the rest of the neighborhood was infiltrated by reporters and bystanders.

Both Cooper and Linus, the father-and-son pair, had deadpan expressions as they were being escorted out of the neighborhood by the police. Their hands were put together in front of them and covered with some clothing, but everyone knew that they had been handcuffed.

Today, someone reported that the father and son duo were suspected of murder. They claimed that the two had killed the man at the guesthouse and that they had strong motives for carrying out such an act.

Suddenly, the news that Cooper was Fass Michel quickly spread. In a country that was free of guns, the people naturally developed a fear toward an arms dealer like Fass.

Furthermore, the day before the incident, Cooper had a conflict with the deceased. There was the possibility that he had done the killing himself or hired someone to do it.

For a long time, this incident just happened to be a convenient explanation.

Chapter 1343

Cooper remained calm.

He was the one who killed Clive!

He didn't think his actions were unjust.

He wouldn't cover up if he wanted to kill someone, but he was not willing to be arrested so easily!

Neither he nor Linus said a word. They were not afraid of being under everyone's gaze, but they chose not to speak and left all the talking to their lawyer.

All of a sudden, Sophia rushed out from the crowd.

“Dad! Linus!”

Her tearful voice crushed Cooper’s heart.

A sobbing Sophia ran over and held onto him with worry and fear all over her face because he had been handcuffed. He quickly consoled, “Don’t cry, darling. Don’t be scared. I will be fine. It’s just a small problem, but it will be resolved soon.”

“Dad...” She felt the icy handcuffs on his wrist; it was so cold that it pierced through her bones.

Cooper was taken into the police car, but he was still smiling at her. “It’s okay, darling. I’ll be back before you know it.”

Beside him, Linus was even more composed. He reassured, “It’s okay. Dad and I will be back soon.”

However, Sophia only continued to sob.

There was nothing she could do except watch Cooper and Linus get taken away in front of her.

She knew that Cooper’s sudden arrest was not solely because of the recent incident and that many other things were also at play. Lucy had once reminded her.

It looked like Jordan’s plan had been long premeditated. Even if it wasn’t for the incident this time, he would have found something else to frame Cooper for.

Furthermore, he had found and teamed up with a number of forces to oppose Cooper. It was not that simple this time around.

A person had silently gone up to stand beside Sophia and was watching her cry.

She looked so helpless and weak.

It reminded him of himself in the past; he was once that helpless too. During that cold night on Salvador Island, both of them held onto each other for warmth.

He longed to hold her just like he did back then, but it was no longer possible now.

At that moment, a car stopped at the entrance and Michael rushed out of it. When Sophia saw him, she let out a wail and buried herself in his arms.

“It’s okay. It won’t be for long. Dad and Linus will come home soon. The lawyers are already there.”

Michael looked at Quinton who was standing not too far behind Sophia.

While he was working overtime at the filming site last night, no one told him about what had happened. Sophia must have figured that it was a small matter and that it was not worth bothering him with.

Quinton is quite skilled, but I don’t blame him for this. Even if this incident had not happened, Jordan would have thought of other ways to bring Cooper and Linus down. Not to mention, that fella deserved to die.

Nonetheless, things were not looking up for them. The other party was being very aggressive. Michael also knew that this was not going to be that simple.

“We have the best lawyer. Dad and Linus will be out soon.”

As he was comforting Sophia, he also made a call on his phone.

As if Jordan wanted to prove his determination to crush Cooper, bad news continued to pour in in the following days.

Firstly, problems kept coming one after the other at the Michel Group. In Africa, the Michel Industries’ headquarters were ambushed repeatedly and several people in charge were killed. Some projects were left without a leader, causing chaos within the company. Additionally, several of their business partners canceled their partnerships all of a sudden which only complicated things further.

At the Michel Family’s home in Europe, an urgent elders’ council was convened to find various reasons to dismiss Cooper from his post in the family and in the business. The family sent someone to take charge of the business in Africa. It seemed like they wanted to take this chance to remove the father and son duo from the company for good.

In Cethos, both Dragon Technology Corporation and JNS Group fell into the midst of a tax turmoil. Someone had reported them for tax evasion, putting the audit department under investigation.

Furthermore, Asco International was also reported.

The other party wanted to eradicate Cooper and the forces working behind him as well!

Because predicaments in Africa, Europe, and Cethos were all happening at the same time, it was undoubtedly driving Sophia insane.

After attacking them from the economical and legal side of things, the other party began to attack them with public opinion.

The Bishops participated in various interviews as the victim's family. Filled with tears in front of the camera, they lamented over their son's tragic death, how cruel Cooper was, the injustice of their son's death, and the darkness of this world.

It almost seemed as though the media received the same press release at the same time and began attacking Cooper and Linus all over their websites. They described him as a 'war criminal' and a 'warlord with fresh blood on his hands'.

They even went as far as to put him next to truly infamous war criminals in history with the intention of writing him down in history so that future generations would also be aware of his wrongdoings.

The public exploded with rage. Everywhere they looked, be it on their phones or in the newspaper, people were only talking bad about Cooper.

Indeed, Cooper did commit a number of improper acts in the past. For example, he took part in supporting upheavals and took the chance to sell munitions during wartime. In places that were plagued with epidemics, he deliberately sold special drugs at a higher cost.

But, among arms dealers, there was not a person who had truly clean hands as they would have gotten some blood on their hands at some point.

In just a short time, everyone was talking about Cooper. Whenever they did, it also seemed like they wanted to lash out at the sinful and violent arms boss.

Sophia was collapsing under all the work she had to do. Every day, she had to deal with all sorts of inspections. Cooper and Linus had been in there for two days now, and it felt like the whole world was turned upside down.

But, even if they were in there for an hour, the other party would also cause a multitude of disruptions within that hour.

Michael was also buried deep in work that his shadow was nowhere in sight. The sudden turn of events left the both of them at a loss for what to do. They were working around the clock every day.

On the third day since Cooper and Linus were arrested, Sophia hurried over to Maddie's unit.

Using public opinion to attack Cooper was simply a way for the other party to use the pressure from people's opinions as leverage, but Sophia could not just sit by and let that happen.

She also had an idea for dealing with the media, but she had to have a discussion about it with Maddie first.

To her surprise, when she arrived at the entrance of Maddie's unit and got out of the car, she saw several familiar faces walk out of the place.

The two parties happened to run into each other.

Her haggard complexion suddenly turned cold.

But, she quickly flaunted a smile and greeted him politely.

"It's such a coincidence to see you here, Mr. Edwards."

Jordan had seemingly just noticed her and also had the same surprised look on his face. "Oh, look; it's Cooper's daughter. What a coincidence. What brings you here?"

Sophia pushed her glasses up. "I'm here to see a friend."

"Oh! I heard your dad and brother are in a bit of a bind lately. How is that going? Do you need my help?"

Shaking her head, she let out a modest and respectful smile. "It's a minor problem. I don't want to bother you with it, Mr. Edwards."

He nodded and said, "Okay, that's good. I still have somewhere to be, so I will get going now."

After the two rows of people brushed past her, the smile on her face immediately disappeared.

Jordan, don't think you can run away unscathed this time!

Chapter 1344

Henry and Ryan, the identical twins, were also with Jordan. They shot Sophia a smug look as they walked by.

After Lucy's people killed every last one of the twins' people, they were sent back to the Yard Family and put under house arrest on their property in Bayside City. Now that they were back out again, they had been following Jordan around and had even changed their last names.

By changing their last names to Edwards, they were able to succeed their father and also inherit their mother's property. They were not going to give up their right to inherit the Edwards Group either as they were determined to destroy Lucy.

Sophia brushed past their provocation and quickly made her way into the elevator.

When she got to Maddie's office, she saw that Joel and his military troop were also there. They were all dressed in plain clothes to disguise themselves as ordinary people, but the way people in the military walked and talked were clearly different.

The truth was that, apart from Maddie, Sophia had also come here today to see the military troops.

Unrelated staff in the office were kept away. Maddie also went outside to stand guard by the door while a tense discussion took place inside.

Once the two parties exchanged greetings with each other, they sat down on opposite sides of each other. A middle-aged man who was on equal footing with Joel had come from the military. He must have had a strong backing. If Joel hadn't recommended him, Sophia would never have met someone like him.

She had the assistant hand over the relevant documents. "These are the related research information on the camouflage feature. The results we've gotten over the years are all in there."

The other party received the documents with a smile. After the brief meeting, they took the documents with them and left through the secret passageway. Because they left just as discreetly as they had arrived, the people at the newspaper office were completely unaware that several big figures had dropped by.

When Nicholas went to save Sophia after Quinton abducted her a few years ago, he unintentionally exhibited Michel Military Technology's latest camouflage feature. It allowed one to change colors according to their environment in order to stay hidden and avoid radar detectors. It was a feature that the military was very interested in.

At the time, it was still in its early stages and not fully developed yet.

Later on, the Fletcher Family managed to attain the materials and related technical information from Linus for the Cethosian military to begin their own research. Unfortunately, several years had passed and they were still unable to produce any results. The technology in the state-owned arms factories in Cethos was just not up to par with the Michel Group's, which were the second-largest arms dealer in the world.

Since the Michel Group upgraded this technology and started putting it into practical use, the Cethosian military was especially keen. Sophia had willingly contributed to its latest success.

The forces against Cooper this time were terrifyingly powerful and involved too many things. Even if the Fletcher Family stepped in, Sophia felt the need to find more power for protection.

"The Fletcher Family won't just sit back and let this happen," Joel said in a stern voice before leaving.

He felt an inescapable responsibility for this matter. Even if the people attacking Cooper did not take advantage of the current situation, they were going to find another way in the future. The spark that set things off this time, however, was that Clive had raped Sophia. He was from Maddie's maternal side of the family, and the person who killed him was Quinton—one of the Fletchers' people. As the head of the Fletcher Family, Joel was not going to run away from his responsibilities.

"Thank you." Sophia stood up and bade him farewell.

She did not forget to remind him. "Don't startle Old Master."

He nodded then went on his way. He was determined to do this right and not put Mark in shock.

Mark was already over a hundred years old. Joel was not going to trouble him with these things.

Despite knowing that the Fletcher Family was going to take action this time, Sophia did not want to wait for someone to save her.

As the second-leading company in the global arms industry, the Michel Military Enterprise always dominated with the latest technology. Cethos might have banned guns in the country, but several of their state-owned arms factories were the top in the world. Nonetheless, they were also envious of Michel Military that was ahead of them.

Since Sophia had shared some of their resources with them, the Cethos military was very pleased and were not going to let Cooper get destroyed so easily.

After the meeting with Joel ended, Sophia had a talk with Maddie.

"Don't worry; I will take over the media. Let me write the press release!" Maddie reassured.

She also felt a strong sense of responsibility for this issue. Because she couldn't hide from it, she was determined to do her best.

Once the discussion with Maddie ended, Sophia headed to Michel Group's Cethosian branch.

In the past, it used to be Linus' territory. Although Sophia also held a title at Michel Group, she rarely came to the company. But today, she was there as the emergency person-in-charge during that critical time.

Strictly speaking, the Michel Group was a family corporation. People were caught off guard by her sudden arrival, but they did not stop her.

Inside a conference room, Sophia started a video conference with the people in Africa.

They reported the sudden events that had happened over the past two days.

Several of the heads working in the branch in Africa were attacked—some died on the spot while some were sent to the hospital. Their business partners were also pulling out at the last minute. Currently, they were all left without leaders.

There were many people who wanted to take the opportunity to get promoted.

Some of them wanted to step up to save the desperate situation, some probably wanted to make money, and some had other hidden motives.

On the other side of the video call, the executives at the African branch gave a report on their situation. As they were reporting, the meeting started to get heated. They completely disregarded Sophia, the daughter whom Fass had brought out of nowhere.

She had never participated in their company's management before, and she did not even know who was who.

While they were arguing, Sophia looked up from the documents and instructed, "Wilson, I am appointing you as the acting person-in-charge of the Michel Group headquarters in Africa. You must clear everything up within three days. Everyone else must assist Wilson in completing this task. If you do well, you won't just be the acting person-in-charge anymore."

The people who had been arguing were taken aback.

She knows us?

Someone immediately objected, "Miss Lucile, I don't understand why you would pick Wilson."

Looking away, Sophia took a sip of coffee then looked back up at the screen and identified the person who had just raised an objection. "Mr. Watson, I might not have directly participated in Michel Group's internal management, but my father has nurtured me this whole time with the hope that I could return to the company someday. I've been watching all of you and have a good understanding of each person. Of course, I have my own reasons for choosing Wilson."

They had stopped arguing now and were all doubting the capability of the young woman.

Meanwhile, Sophia ended the conference and quickly rushed off to deal with other things.

She was confident in the person she had chosen for this role. Since she kept an eye on them all this time, she was familiar with their day-to-day work. Wilson, the person she picked, was someone that both Cooper and Linus were fond of. He would certainly get the job done.

A successful decision-maker had to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the people working under him, and be able to use them during critical times. He did not use those he had doubts over while those he did use did not give him any doubts.

As for the list of moles in the Michel Group, Anna had already handed that over to Cooper. Cooper wanted to find an opportunity to get rid of those people, but he still had not done so for fear that it might alert the enemy.

Now, Sophia was going to take this chance to get rid of them!

Chapter 1345

Despite not being in Africa, Sophia already had everything set up there.

During this time, Tiffany called countless times to ask about the situation and whether they needed her help. Sophia did not want Cooper to be in Tiffany's debt because of this, so she declined her offer.

Unexpectedly, Anna also called. "Sophia, I heard about what happened with your father and brother. Don't worry. Your father has a plan."

In fact, Sophia already knew that Cooper and Linus were not people who would go down without a fight. She was certain that they had their own plans but simply did not reveal them. "I'm fine. I'm just trying my best to help Linus and Dad as much as I can."

Following that, the two fell silent as if they were each waiting for the other to speak first. Sophia and Anna were once very amicable with each other, but because of their positions, they slowly drifted apart. Nonetheless, they understood each other; neither of them had it easy.

Alas, Sophia murmured, "I'm hanging up now. Take care."

Anna seemed pleasantly surprised. "I will."

After the call ended, Anna found Callum and Cade standing behind her. Callum saw the soft smile she had on her face. It looks like she had a good conversation with Sophia.

"Mom, it looks like your talk with big sis went quite well!" Cade smiled.

Even though no one brought it out into the open, they all knew that Anna was Annabel Johnson, Cooper's wife who was presumed dead all those years ago. Jordan was the one who had taken her and erased her memories. Sophia and Linus were both Anna's children. She had given birth to them. To Anna, they were of immense importance. Altogether, she had four children—a daughter and three sons. Sophia was her only daughter.

Retracting the smile on her face, she looked at her two sons and said in a stern voice, "Jordan is currently putting in all his effort to bring Cooper down. It's a disaster to us but also an opportunity. Are you guys ready?"

Callum loosened his bow tie and raised an eyebrow. "Mom, have you forgotten? We've been preparing for this for over a decade now.

Anna let out another smile, but it was filled with a burning desire. We've been preparing for over a decade!

After Sophia met with the military technology team, she began another meeting with the medical technology team right away. "Email me all the information on projects at the company now," she instructed the person-in-charge from across the screen.

The person hesitated. "Everything?"

She nodded. "Including all the projects that were started in secret. I need to know everything."

The person was still hesitant, but they were at a critical point right now, so it was best to send all the information to Sophia. While the tremendous amount of information was being sent to her, she also made known her strategy. "The successful development of the specialized drug to cure ALS can be released to the public now."

Sophia did not pay much attention to Michel Medical Technology Company before, but looking at it now, she found that they had developed a special drug to cure ALS.

A few years ago, the Ice Bucket Challenge became a trend in the entertainment circle, wealthy circle, and many others. Famous people called on society to pay more attention to ALS patients who had severe symptoms when their illnesses were triggered. Because profit was low and the cost for research was high, none of the manufacturers were willing to invest in the research and development for a cure. Hence, the Ice Bucket Challenge began.

After all these years, some manufacturers did start to make investments to find a cure for ALS. In the present moment, however, a definite cure still had not surfaced and many were still suffering from ALS.

Cooper only invested in the Michel Medical Technology Company to find a cure for this disease after he found Sophia. It was a project that he started on his own since he found out that Sophia once donated to an ALS research institute under the guise of Michael's number one fan, Eddie Fletcher.

Because his precious daughter's wish was also his wish, he got the project registered and authorized right away. The specialized drug was still undergoing clinical trials, so they did not announce it. But, if they were to announce it now, it would at least redirect some of the pressure from public opinion and help them gain leverage.

After the meeting with the medical technology team ended, she called Alice. Although Alice and Linus competed with each other, Alice knew that someone in the family had an ulterior motive. She also knew that Michel Group needed Cooper and Linus during this time. A while ago, she had already received the list of moles in the company so she could get rid of some of them when the opportunity came.

Hanging up the call, Sophia returned home and spent the whole night looking through all the information in her study. Michael had also been extremely busy these few days and was nowhere in sight.

Jordan extended the battle line a bit further this time; he attacked everything from the Michel Group to Asco International, which Michael was in charge of. However, Cooper and Michael were not going to let him have his way.

Sophia skimmed over the Michel Medical Technology Company's projects that had taken place over the years. They had only undertaken big projects, and the funding for one project easily amounted to tens of billions of Amons. Some of the projects would look like fiction to people now. For example, 'Brain Transplant', 'Cure for AIDS', 'Dental Pulp Stem Cells and Organ Reconstruction', and so on. They were all big projects that pertained to the future of mankind.

Suddenly, she found a project that had no name or a clear indication of the research fund, but it was ranked as the company's most prioritized project over the next ten years. Both Cooper and Linus had signed off for approval, and all resources were first directed toward this project. She clicked to look further into it, but the file was password protected; she was not authorized to look at it.

"What project is this? How mysterious..." she mumbled to herself. Giving up on trying to open the file, she busied herself with the other projects. While she was looking at one project, the door opened slightly and a pair of sparkling eyes peered in to watch Sophia through the crack.

"Carmen Fletcher, I see you! Come out of there."

Dressed in her pajamas, Carmen gently pushed open the door and came in with a puppy in her arms. Sophia felt her heart warm up when she saw her adorable and bright little angel. Spreading her arms, she urged, "Come here, sweetie. Let Mommy give you a hug."

Carmen ran over with quick footsteps and let Sophia carry her up into her arms.

In a blink of an eye, Carmen was already five years old. Sophia remembered the first time she met Carmen—she was only slightly over two. I remember holding her tiny body in my arms; she smelled so sweet and felt so soft. Now that she's five, she's also bigger and heavier.

Sadly, Sophia had forgotten what it felt like when Carmen was in her belly, and how she and Michael awaited the arrival of their little princess. She also forgot how heart-wrenching parting ways was.

Kissing Carmen, she noticed that Carmen seemed a bit sleepy already. After letting out a yawn, Carmen asked in a tired voice, "Mommy, why doesn't Daddy come home anymore?"

Sophia answered warmly, "Daddy has been busy working these past two days. He will come back once he's done."

Carmen was still upset as she lay sprawled out in Sophia's arms. Even though she was sleepy, she kept her eyes wide open like something was bothering her.

"Sweetie, is something bothering you? Can you tell me about it?"

After a moment of hesitation, the little girl murmured, "Risa at kindergarten says Grandpa and Uncle Linus are bad people because they killed someone."