

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1361 - 1366

Mr. Bishop decided to go for blood and took out a fruit knife. "Scram! Otherwise, I'm going to slice you open!"

Stanley did not budge. "Come at me if you dare!"

At this point, Mr. Bishop was completely seeing red. He believed that Stanley was acting in this manner to snatch his 15 million away. "Don't think I don't dare!"

It looked like a fight was about to break out. Both parties were extremely furious, and bloodshed could happen at any time. As usual, Henry and Ryan were watching the exciting development from afar. How could Stanley marry such a small-time celebrity? What a joke! As if the Fletcher Family would agree to the marriage! Still, it will be even more fun if they really start fighting!

Fortunately, Stanley was agitated but he had not lost his reasoning. He knew that now was not the time to start a fight.

While the Fletcher Family and the Edwards Family were facing off against each other, many cars arrived outside the hospital. A tidy series of footsteps approached like the roaring tide, and the hospital was a sea of military green in the blink of an eye. Among the overlapping sea of military green, Joel walked out from the crowd. He looked cold and ruthless in his military uniform. However, a hint of tenderness flashed across his face when he saw Maddie.

"Joel." Maddie wiped away her tears and threw herself into his arms when she saw him.

Joel glanced at the Edwards Family and the Bishop Family, who were here to snatch Christine away. Then, he glanced at Henry and Ryan before looking at Christine, who was lying weakly on the hospital bed. "Christine is part of the Fletcher Family. The Fletcher Family will not stand idly by in this matter."

Mr. Bishop jumped up in anger. "Joel, why is it you again?! I'm telling you; if you dare to have any ideas about Christine, I'm going to kill you!" He gestured about wildly with his knife.

Contrary to his expectations, he was knocked to the ground and his knife was taken away after he waved it about several times. He screamed, "Help! Murder! Save me!"

Joel didn't even bother looking at the Bishop Family, who were squealing like pigs, or the Yard twins, who were cursing at him. He walked over to the hospital bed and saw that Christine's eyes were open. She was struggling to survive. Therefore, he solemnly said to her, "The Fletcher Family will not abandon you."

Christine nodded, tears sliding out of the corner of her eyes.

Sophia took the opportunity to speak up. "Christine, take a good look around. Where are the people who tried to harm you? Point them out; we will avenge you!"

Christine choked back a sob, raised a trembling finger, and pointed at the Yard twins. "It's them!" It's them!

She remembered the events of that day clearly. Tawny called her up claiming that her mother was trying to commit suicide in the hotel. Thus, she rushed over to the hotel. However, she did not see her mother anywhere. Instead, she came face to face with the twins. They locked her in the room and got handsy with her. At first, she sought Stanley for help but it was to no avail. In her desperation, she was forced to jump out of the building!

The reporters were frantically snapping away with their cameras. Joel had brought the police with him. When he saw Christine giving her testimony, he shot a glance at the police. Although the police were hesitant, they went straight to the twins and said, "You are suspected of intentionally causing harm to a person. Please cooperate with our investigation."

When the Yard twins saw that the police dared to detain them, they fearlessly said, "F*ck off! Who do you think you are?!"

The police had no choice but to use force as the Yard twins were not being cooperative. However, the Yard twins brought their men with them too. Showing complete disregard for the law, their men subdued the police in the blink of an eye. The Yard twins were so conceited that they dared to attack the police! The reporters, who were invited there by the Bishop Family, were dumbfounded by the sight. They had never met anybody so fearlessly cocky before!

Since the men from the Yard Family and the Edwards Family had attacked the police, the police were forced to draw their guns in a warning. They were undaunted even when the police took out their guns. After all, they themselves had guns too. By the time both sides took out their guns, the situation had escalated beyond control. Therefore, Sophia hurriedly hid somewhere while Christine was quickly wheeled back to the hospital ward for treatment.

Several gunshots rang out and everybody in the hospital fled in all directions. The Yard Family, the Edwards Family, the police, and the military were mixed among each other as gunfire broke out. Sophia was in hiding and didn't know what was going on. However, she heard gunfire coming from the lobby downstairs, followed by police sirens. Since they were at a hospital, no ambulance came.

After the scuffle, the men from the Edwards Family and the Yard Family were lying on the ground. A bloodbath had occurred in the lobby of the hospital. Meanwhile, Joel was standing in the middle of the lobby with a cold expression, counting the casualties.

The arrogance displayed by the Yard twins exceeded his expectations—they actually dared to openly bring out their guns and go head-to-head with the military and the police, in the middle of Bayside City. It was the first time in more than ten years since something like that happened. Moreover, the outcome was terrible. All their men had been annihilated, and the Yard twins were captured alive when they tried to escape by car.

When the chaos ended, Stanley strode over in large strides and kicked Henry. "Weren't you acting all cocky just now? Huh? You b*stard!"

Henry still seemed unaware of his situation as he shouted, "Just you wait! I'm going to get the world's best lawyer and bring the Fletcher Family to ruins!"

Sean hurriedly dragged Stanley away. They could not afford to let their enemy grab hold of any weaknesses at this point. Even after being dragged away, Stanley continued cursing and swearing at the Yard twins.

Meanwhile, Henry and Ryan still believed that they were untouchable. Despite becoming dizzy after being kicked by Stanley or being subdued to the ground and handcuffed, they still shouted at Joel arrogantly. "What do you think the Fletcher Family can do to us?! Come at us if you're so amazing! Go on; kill me!"

Naturally, Joel would never hit him.

On the other hand, Sophia, who was passing by, kindly reminded them, "You might be sentenced to death for your crimes! Cethos has not abolished the death penalty!"

Henry glared at her fiercely. He was about to say something but he was taken away by the police. Their crimes this time were greater than intentionally causing harm.

The battle was over, and Christine's condition was under control. She was in good condition after regaining consciousness. Joel arranged for her to be transferred to a military nursing home to continue with her treatment. On the other hand, Maddie rushed back to her workplace, calling up the editors and reporters and dragging them back to work in the middle of the night. She was going to use her own methods to make the Yard twins pay for what they did.

That day, the entire press industry in Bayside City worked overtime all night. The news of Henry and Ryan attacking the police with guns swiftly spread across Bayside City. It was the first incident of this sort in decades.

Maddie obtained a live video of the incident as soon as possible and released it online. Many reporters were present during the incident. Since it was the first armed attack on the police in decades, the reporters went crazy after obtaining on-scene photos and videos. They immediately started writing their articles as soon as they got back. In the span of a night, news of Henry and Ryan attacking the police with guns caused a sensation across the entire Bayside City.

Moreover, Christine had regained consciousness and personally identified the Yard twins as her attacker. Coupled with the involvement of a famous celebrity, Bethany, the incident started trending like never before. Afterward, Bethany, Tawny, and the others were detained by the police for questioning.

The Bishop Family had received half of the 10 million in compensation money promised by the Yard twins. They were supposed to receive the other half once they removed Christine. When they saw that the Yard twins were detained by the police, they realized that they couldn't get the rest of their money anymore. Hence, they fled back to their hometown with the 5 million they obtained.

Cade also called to express his sympathies. "Wow; I can't believe you sent my little brother to jail, Sophia. Still, I have to tell you that you will never keep them in jail with just this crime alone."

Sophia said nothing in response. Although this incident was a huge affair, Jordan would not compromise easily. After all, those were his sons. With the power he held in Cethos, it was easy for him to get them out of the country—even if the ruckus his sons caused this time was no different from a direct provocation toward the police and the public security of Bayside City, as well as the entire country of Cethos.

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Jordan quickly took action and his lawyers rushed over. At the same time, he commenced public relations activities, removing the articles and suppressing the popularity of the news. He secretly exerted pressure on the media, and many media outlets were forced to delete all news involving the Edwards Group. Even so, some media outlets refused to succumb to the power of the Yard Family. They continued to monitor the situation every day and resolutely refused to delete their articles.

The third day after the incident, the situation changed. The Edwards Group used their public relations authority and asked all media outlets to remove their posts, citing preventing panic from spreading among the citizens of Bayside City as a reason. Simultaneously, they obscured the main topic by throwing Bethany under the bus instead. That way, they reduced the attention to the Yard Family to a minimum.

Maddie's workplace was the only exception that withstood the pressure from the top. They were not afraid of the secret threats and public requests from various departments and continued to report on the incident. That was because the Fletcher Family was supporting Maddie from behind.

Meanwhile, Stanley obtained his marriage certificate with Christine.

That was something Joel specially sent his men to formally obtain after the incident. With this marriage certificate in hand, the Fletcher Family had a justifiable reason to meddle in Christine's affairs. Joel's main purpose was to use this matter to confront the Yard twins. However, he also wanted to take care of the matter between Stanley and Christine while he was at it.

Christine lay on the hospital bed without waking up. Although she was out of danger, she continued to sleep through most of the day. She was unable to move and had to rely on the medical equipment to keep her alive, but she was slowly recovering.

Stanley stared at Christine, who was sleeping deeply, then glanced at the marriage certificate in his hand. For a moment, he couldn't understand what was going on. At the time, I just wanted a reason to protect her. But, everybody seems to have taken it seriously. Maddie, Joel, and even Christine believe that it's real. Just like that, I became Christine's husband... He felt like he was in a dream; he was completely unprepared for it.

"Stan, you should take care of Christine at the hospital. I'll take care of matters at the company for you."

He couldn't recover from the shock and befuddlement that he was actually married. When he heard Sean's voice, he blankly made a non-committal sound in response while staring at the marriage certificate in a daze.

Sean glanced at Christine, who was lying on the hospital bed, then he glanced at Stanley, who was in a daze. After that, he walked out silently. When he left the nursing home, Sophia was waiting for him outside.

His eyes were red as if he had cried. However, he hid his tears and prevented anybody from seeing them. He was wearing the same outfit as Stanley, had the same buzzcut as Stanley, and used the same phone model as Stanley. All his clothes, shoes, and bags were the exact same as Stanley's.

He lived like he was Stanley's shadow. For more than 20 years, he stuck by Stanley's side and spent all his time together with Stanley. Unfortunately, Stanley got married in the end. And, it was not with him.

"Sean!" Sophia called out to him. Smiling, he followed her into her car, and the car soon left the hospital. He said nothing throughout the journey and simply sat in a daze as if he had lost his soul. She didn't know how to comfort him. Thus, she concentrated on her driving. She was going to help him move out today...

Stanley remained at the hospital, taking care of Christine. He had not returned to the company nor went home for several days. He finally returned home today, as he planned to pack some clothes. However, he noticed that something seemed to be missing as soon as he stepped into the house.

At the entranceway, the slippers belonging to Sean and Maisie were gone. On the TV cabinet in the living room, the photos they had taken together were gone. On the coffee table in the living room, Sean's favorite potted plant was gone. Maisie, the cats, and the dogs were gone. The entire house was empty and lifeless—everything belonging to Sean was gone.

He seemed to realize something and hurried to the second floor. Pushing open the door to Sean's bedroom, he saw that it was empty inside. The mattress and the blankets remained, but the bedsheets and the blanket covers had been taken away. Moreover, Sean's clothes, books, work material, daily necessities, and everything else were completely gone—not a single thing was left.

Stanley stared at the room blankly, feeling like there was a huge hole in his heart. He suddenly realized that he was married. In the future, he would be living a married life with Christine. Therefore, Sean took Maisie and left...

He knew that it was something that was bound to happen, sooner or later. After all, he couldn't live with Sean forever. It was simply a matter of time before they had to build their own families separately. Now that the day had arrived, he realized that he was unable to accept it. When he left, he took my heart with him...

Sean knew that this day would come, but he did not expect it to come so suddenly—thus, he had yet to find another place to stay. He had no plans of marrying for the rest of his life. So, he adopted Maisie a long time ago. Both father and daughter were now dependent on each other. They couldn't continue renting a house all the time, so he left Maisie at Sophia's house for several days.

After spending several days searching for a house, he decided to return to the Mitchells' ancestral home. There were many other children there, and Maisie would have more friends. Thus, he came to pick up Maisie upon deciding on where to stay. When Maisie saw that Sean was alone, she knew that Stanley would not be coming anymore and felt extremely disappointed.

Even so, Maisie was a considerate child. She understood that her papa was marrying somebody else. In the future, Daddy and I will only have each other. I cannot be sad, because Daddy is already sad enough. I need to be a good girl and make him happy.

Sean took Maisie and the cats with him. However, he left the dog behind. Judge probably knew that Sean and Stanley had broken up. It would be living alone with Stanley again and it might have to spend its days eating instant noodles for every meal again. Judge would have a cold and lonely life with no cat and no girl—life was going to be dull and bland. Judge was

already eleven years old. In husky years, it was over a hundred years old. It could not withstand the suffering of living alone with Stanley. Thus, it was determined to stay at Michael's house to live out its elderly years.

Sophia watched as Sean left with Maisie. She felt unspeakably sad for them. They have known each other since they were young—from the time they were in their diapers, to their school years, to their adult life. In the end, they still had to separate. It seems like their separation was predetermined...

Lucy secretly came out to meet with Sophia again inside a small bar at midnight. Unfortunately, Sophia no longer saw Dana's car parked outside the small bar again. After the incident, Dana vanished without a trace. Harry probably knows where Dana went, but he refuses to say.

On the other hand, Lucy didn't seem all that different from before following her return. Her career was reaching greater heights. Seizing the opportunity created by the fight between Cooper and Jordan, she got rid of a group of Jordan's subordinates and replaced them with her own loyal subordinates. As a result, she quietly weakened Jordan's influence and authority within the Edwards Family.

The battle between Cooper and Jordan had just begun, and she was already secretly profiting from it. This time around, Henry and Ryan had caused a ruckus again, and it was giving Jordan a headache. Since he was overseas, he couldn't take care of it. Therefore, he handed all authority over to her to handle this matter. Sipping on her tequila, she leisurely said, "Although it looks very serious this time, it's still possible for me to get them out of trouble. You can't stop it. Jordan has a strong influence over various dominant players in Cethos' political, military, and business worlds."

Sophia didn't reply. She had her own thoughts on the issue. Besides, both of them came out just to have a drink and relax. In the meantime, they also talked about some work matters. However, they carefully avoided a certain topic and a certain family. They did not mention what happened on that rainy night ever again.

Before they parted, Lucy took out an invitation from her handbag and placed it in front of Sophia. "You must come." After saying that, she picked up her handbag and left.

Sophia glanced at the invitation. It was an invitation to Lucy's engagement party. Her fiancé was the head of an overseas consortium. He was 52 years old, and it was his second marriage.

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Lucy took over the follow-up matters involving the Yard twins. Sure enough, it was just as Sophia had expected—they were released from custody. In the end, Bethany, Tawny, and the employees of the hotel were charged with the crime of intentionally causing harm to others. Bethany was deemed the mastermind behind the incident while Tawny and the employees of the hotel were accomplices. Consequently, Bethany was given a suspended death sentence, and the rest were sentenced to prison.

Meanwhile, the Yard twins were treated as foreigners since they were not naturalized. Not only were they backed by a powerful force, but their lawyers were also very good at their jobs. In the end, both of them were diagnosed with severe mental illnesses. They were deported and extradited back to their home country. Their case would be heard in their home country.

Ronney City was their territory. As they were diagnosed as mentally ill, the death penalty was quickly rescinded. It was equivalent to letting everything go back to how it was before—nothing happened to them whatsoever. The Fletcher Family could only watch as they escaped without a scratch because the other party was too powerful. It wasn't a simple murder case. Rather, it was a power struggle between two families. It was clear that the authorities did not want the situation to escalate further. Besides, the Yard Family lost many people. Hence, they decided to let this incident slide.

When Maddie heard the news, she was so furious that she cried all night. At present, Christine was still lying in the nursing home. Although her life was no longer in danger, she had a long road ahead of her before she could fully recover. Even so, the real culprit behind the incident was at large! "No! We can't let those two b*stards get away with this!"

Joel seemed to have known that things would turn out in this manner. Accepting the fact that the Yard twins were beyond the reach of the law, he sought compensation of 100 million for Christine's follow-up treatment and rehabilitation costs. Lucy came over to settle the matter and added a detached villa in Bayside City on top of the 100 million.

Later, Christine learned that even the Fletcher Family could do nothing to the other party. Moreover, she might end up in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Thus, she couldn't help feeling that she was a burden on everybody. The Fletcher Family had already spent millions

on her, and she did not want to drag them down anymore. Therefore, she reluctantly accepted the compensation from the other party.

Finally, the focus of the public was turned toward the headline news of 'Popular A-List Female Celebrity Receive a Suspended Death Sentence for Murder'.

With that, the matter came to an end. Afterward, the Ronney Group's Cethosian branch announced that it was completely pulling out of the Cethosian market. It sold all its assets and withdrew from Bayside City. The Fletcher Family was humiliated, and the Yard Family completely withdrew from Cethos. All in all, Lucy handled this matter beautifully. She received Jordan's trust and simultaneously drove the Yard Family out of Cethos. She could be said to be the biggest winner among them.

Stanley no longer needed to come and visit Christine every day. Even so, he dropped by after work every single day to visit her and eat dinner with her, diligently trying to adapt to his status as her husband. The Fletcher Family was starting to prepare for the wedding. Meanwhile, he found a new house and prepared to renovate it into their marital home.

Since he decided to get married, he had to be a responsible husband. However, he was not happy. He was not the slightest bit happy; he felt burdened instead. It felt like a huge rock was weighing down on his heart and crushing him.

Ever since Sean moved out, he felt as if something was wrong. Even when he saw Sean at the company, he felt as if there was an invisible river flowing between them, drawing a line between them and blocking them from each other. Even when they brought Maisie out to play together during the weekends, it was no longer like how it was before. Nonetheless, he understood that some things were utterly different now, and it would never be the same again.

"Stan!" Christine called out to Stanley suddenly. Only then did Stanley come back to his senses and realize that he had been sitting by her bedside blankly.

"Hmm? What's the matter?" he hurriedly asked.

She seemed to be in good condition. Her complexion was starting to become ruddy again, Unfortunately, she was still unable to walk. It was still unknown whether she could ever recover her mobility. Biting on her lower lip, she seemed to make up her mind about something important. She said, "Let's get divorced!"

"Huh?" He was shocked, widening his eyes to stare at her. He had not expected her to bring up divorce.

She embarrassedly said, "You only married me so that the Fletcher Family could intervene and rescue me during that incident. I am aware of that. So, now that things have settled and I received the compensation... it's time for us to get divorced! Besides... there's somebody else that I love..."

After a brief period of surprise, he felt a wave of relief and happiness wash over him. He hurriedly said, "Sure, no problem! We'll go through with the procedures once you're all better. Gosh; why didn't you say so earlier? Look at me; I nearly caused trouble for you!"

She seemed to be very anxious. "Let's do it tomorrow then. The person I love has been wanting to visit me, but I'm scared he might learn that I'm married if he came. So..."

He was anxious too. "Why didn't you say so earlier? I will make an appointment immediately!"

Afterward, he rushed to make an appointment for their divorce, feeling happier than he was when celebrating New Year's.

The next day, Maddie pushed Christine in her wheelchair as they went with Stanley to go through the divorce procedures. The divorce went very smoothly as there were no property disputes. Thus, they received their divorce certificate very quickly. As Stanley had been Christine's husband for a short period, He wanted to give her alimony or something as compensation. However, Christine wanted nothing. Finally, he decided to pull some strings and resolved her contract with her previous agency that required her to sell her body. Then, he helped her sign a contract with Imperial Entertainment. That company was more suitable for her as they trained their employees.

After receiving the certificate, she breathed a sigh of relief. She seemed very happy as she turned to him and said, "Thank you, Stan. You don't need to worry about me anymore. I'm a multi-millionaire now. I even own a villa! I will surely recover well. Once I'm fully recovered, let's play games together again!"

Holding the divorce certificate, he seemed as eager as a husky that escaped from its leash. "Sure. The next time something happens again, you have to call me. I promise I will never hang up on you again!"

Stanley briskly walked out of the Civil Affairs Bureau with a light heart after separating from Christine. Breathing in the smog-filled air outside, it even tasted sweet to him. The heavy weight pressing down on his heart was gone as he hurriedly made a phone call to Sean. "Hey! What are you doing? Come on; why are you working? Come out and play. Let me tell you; I'm divorced! Come and drink with me to celebrate! Tsk. Christine has somebody she loves. I can't hold her back now, can I? Don't worry; I'm not that kind of person. We divorced amicably. She doesn't have feelings for me and asked for the divorce herself. I even got her a brand-new contract! I'll come and pick you up at the company—"

Christine watched as Stanley walked away happily, then she turned her gaze to the thin and green divorce certificate in her hands. At the same time, her tears fell silently. The person I love is none other than Stanley! When they got married, the Fletcher Family tacitly accepted that they got married out of love. In the future, she would be part of the Fletcher Family; she was Stanley's wife. She even met his parents and his brother! I love the Fetters, and I love Stanley even more...

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Stanley himself had tacitly accepted the marriage. He was preparing himself to officially marry Christine—so much so that he was beginning to renovate their marital house. However, Christine knew that he was not happy. He didn't love her; he only saw her as a friend. The truth was that he didn't even want to get married. He simply chose to accept it out of a sense of responsibility. She could have pretended not to know and successfully married him. Even so, she chose to back out of their marriage. She even went so far as to create a reason so that he could divorce her without any guilt.

Maddie wiped Christine's tears away as she said, "Silly girl, why did you do that?"

Christine smiled, but her tears slid down her face. "I don't even know if I can get better. I can't tie him down."

Upon hearing those words, Maddie did not force the topic anymore. She simply pushed Christine into the car and said, "Don't worry. The military's nursing home has a lot of experience in this area. You will surely get better. Have some confidence in yourself."

"Okay. Don't worry, Maddie. I will do my best to recover. After all, I'm a multi-millionaire now!"

Sophia was not surprised to hear that the Yard twins were returning to their home country. Jordan's power was at its peak right now. As long as he stood strong, his two sons would not be punished so easily either. Still, she had her own plans. I'm going to make them wish they were dead.

The weather during the early summer was neither hot nor cold—it was the perfect time to go on a trip.

“Cash Edwards! Spit out my slippers, now!” Michael furiously slapped Cash's butt with a slipper. Then, it ran away after yelping in pain.

Ever since Judge decided to live out his elderly life here, Cereberus had gathered together again, and the three dogs ran wild at home every single day. Putting on the slippers that were covered in dog saliva, Michael packed a bag for Carmen.

Every year, the Fletcher Family held several activities for their children to ‘experience the countryside’. Children from the Fletcher Family were sent to a farming village outside the city to experience life in the countryside. It was a chance for them to experience the hardships of a farmer's life and learn about how precious food was. In other words, the Fletcher Family's farm out in the countryside required manpower. So, the Fletcher Family send some child labor over to help.

However, that was definitely something all the children in the Fletcher Family looked forward to. They could visit the farmland outside the city to harvest vegetables, till the soil, catch worms, feed the pigs, harvest grains, and scatter manure for fertilizer. They were also allowed to catch fish and shrimp in the streams or pick up mineral water bottles from the nearby towns to sell for money.

Michael recalled that when he was younger, he and the other children of the Fletcher Family would go outside the city and challenge each other while harvesting wheat. The group of 10-year-olds would rush through the fields like a bunch of overexcited huskies, working energetically to obtain achievements. Celine would almost always come out on top since she harvested the wheat neatly and swiftly. Meanwhile, Joel and Michael would snatch for the second and third spots. The three of them constantly fought over the top spots until they were red in the face. Ah, what a beautiful memory that is—

“Oh, is Carmen going to the farm outside the city?” Cooper felt quite moved when he heard about it. He could be regarded as part of the Fletcher Family. After all, Mark had specially allowed him to join the other Fletcher children on their trips to the countryside when he was younger. They normally went during the autumn harvest when the farmers were at their

busiest. The older children would be used for physical labor while the younger children got to play or do some simple chores. It was very fun.

Adults were not allowed to tag along, and it was Carmen's first time going there. Therefore, Michael was incredibly worried. After packing Carmen's bag, he saw her out the door while nagging her. "Be a good girl when you're there. You're five years old now. You need to wear your own clothes, shower on your own, and put on your own shoes. Don't run about wildly but be quick during mealtimes. Nobody will wait for you! Mummy and Daddy won't be by your side, so you'll have to learn how to take care of yourself."

He didn't know why he felt so worried. Back then, they followed the older children down to the farmland to play when they were just a bunch of cheeky kids in open-crotch pants. They were very happy, and all the adults left them to their own devices. But now, he couldn't help worrying himself to death when he had to send Carmen there. I wonder how other parents could harden their hearts and send such young children there. Although it's only for two days during the weekend, it feels like two centuries to me.

Unfortunately, Carmen was starting to lose patience with him. "Come on; I'm only going to watch. Besides, it's not my turn to scatter manure yet."

This time, the children were going to harvest wheat, scatter manure for fertilizer, and plant corn. Although mechanized large-scale farming had been implemented a long time ago, the Fletcher Family's farms retained the tradition of scattering manure as fertilizer. The reason was that scattering manure was one of the most laborious tasks that challenged one's courage and endurance. Along with cleaning out the pigsty, it was among the farm work that had a difficulty index of five stars. As a consequence, the children of the Fletcher Family would rush to volunteer for the task of scattering the manure and cleaning out the pigsty to demonstrate how amazing they were. In short, it was a way to prove that they were better than others.

Every year, the one to scatter the most manure in the shortest time would be the king among the children of the same age group. Moreover, they would receive a prize when they got home. Every single child from the Fletcher Family would have to scatter the manure at least once before they reached eighteen years old. Joel, Stanley, Michael, Celine, and the others were no exception. It was a ritual. Since the Fletcher Family was a military family, most of their children would grow up to become part of the army. They did not want weaklings that could not withstand the harsh realities of life. They wanted fighters who went through all sorts of challenges in life, understood the country's citizens, and were able to protect their country from danger!

Michael was unable to imagine his beautiful little baby scattering manure in the future... It was still too early for Carmen right now. She was only five years old. She couldn't even pick up the bucket of manure even if she wanted to. She would only be watching and experiencing the atmosphere at most. Even so, that day would come, sooner or later.

Thus, he specifically instructed Nathan. "Nate, take good care of your sisters."

Nathan nodded before leading Carmen away. He did it last year and wanted to go earlier this year. Otherwise, he would not have the chance to do it again this year. Everybody seemed to be particularly keen on the task of scattering manure. It was the best chance to prove their strength. Hence, the one who grabbed first place in scattering manure was the king in everybody else's eyes.

Sophia sent Carmen off. Watching as the car drove away, she suddenly turned to Michael and asked, "Did you really scatter manure before?"

Michael nodded. "I did."

Back then, he fought with Joel just to snatch the first bucket of manure. They ended up in a brawl next to the dung pit, fighting from the dung pit to the pigsty to the place they dried the wheat. By the time they returned after determining the winner among them, Celine had taken the first spot. She finished scattering the manure and came back as the king of the year. Back then, Irene had followed along too. However, she refused to lower her pride and scatter manure. Consequently, the seed of discord was planted—from then on, nobody truly considered her as part of the Fletcher Family. Now that I think about it... that's just weird. Why would everybody have such a strange mentality?

Then, she asked Cooper. "Dad, did you do it?"

Cooper shuddered slightly. Lowering his head to read the newspaper, he replied, "Nope."

Theo leisurely said, "The first time your father went there, he was so scared of the pigs that he cried for two days. He begged me to send him home in the middle of the night and refused to do the task of scattering manure."

Cooper said nothing. When he was around Carmen's age, he followed the children of the Fletcher Family down to the farmland. At the time, Theo was still with the Fletcher Family, and he was in charge of taking care of the children. To Cooper, that was something that

happened decades ago. However, it was only something that happened several years ago to Theo.

Then, Theo strongly emphasized, "Among those children, your father was the most squeamish!"

"Hmph." Cooper snorted before walking away in a huff. Sophia stifled her laughter at the sight.

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The farm was located in a relatively remote area far from the city. It was closer to the military farm.

On the first night, several videos were circulated among the Fletcher Family's chat groups. Sophia excitedly clicked on the videos and watched as the Fletcher Family drove the children to the farm in several cars. The children were dressed in the same military green uniform. The eldest was 17 years old while the youngest was 5 years old. Then, the group of young children ran into the farm like a bunch of excited huskies.

They were placed in a dormitory for the duration of the trip. Each of the older children had to watch over a younger child. Moreover, the older children were in charge of cooking while the younger children were in charge of harvesting the vegetables. Although Carmen did her best to run after the older children, her short legs could not keep up with their larger builds. Even Lorelei quickly ran ahead of her. In the end, she was left far behind. As Nathan had to take care of her this year, he failed to snatch the king's position.

In the video, the children of the Fletcher Family ran like the wind to the dung pit to fight for the position of the king. After some struggle, they finally saw the winner happily picking up the bucket of fertilizer and heading toward the cornfield. This year's 'king' wore a triumphant smile as he walked by the camera in his military uniform. A face similar to that of Theo's successfully attracted everybody's attention.

Thus, everybody started discussing inside the family chat group. "Whose kid is that?"

"I don't know. I've never seen him before!"

“Wow! That child looks a little ‘old!’”

Sophia exclaimed in surprise, “Wow! When did Professor Clark sneak inside?!”

Quinton was working as a lecturer at Bayside University and moved into the teacher’s apartment. Nobody expected him to appear at the Fletcher Family’s farm or fight with the children for the king’s position, much less win the fight! Michael rolled his eyes. I don’t know when Quinton sneaked in. But, he can help take care of Carmen while he’s there. Besides, Quinton seemed to be having a lot of fun. Not only did he snatch the king’s position, but he was also the fastest at harvesting the wheat. He also cooked dinner for everybody.

The older children were in charge of cooking in the kitchen and the younger children went out to harvest the vegetables. There were tomatoes, eggplants, and cucumbers on the farm. They were all pesticide-free and could be eaten directly after being harvested. Therefore, the younger children secretly snacked on the vegetables as they harvested them. Carmen picked a large tomato and ate it heartily. Then, she ate a cucumber. She picked the cucumber, briefly rubbed it against her clothes, and bit into it.

“Ah! Worms!” There was a big, fat caterpillar on the leaves of the tomato plant, causing many of the children to cry in fright. Hearing their cries, Lorelei swiftly flew over, kicked the worm away, and stomped on the worm. Similarly, Carmen bravely ran over and stomped on it again for good measure.

Lorelei was the most outstanding child this year. She ran the fastest and climbed the highest. There was no tree she could not climb, and no fruit she could not pick. Moreover, she could ride a horse. She was practically a God in their eyes. Therefore, Carmen simply followed behind her with nothing to worry about. It seemed like Carmen was clinging to Lorelei and fitting in with the other children like a fish in water.

At first, Sophia was worried that Carmen might not adapt well to life over there but she soon changed her mind. After all, Carmen had filmed an entire season of ‘Where Are We Going, Dad?’ before. During the filming process, she followed Michael to various farming villages across the country and had experience living in the countryside.

The children were carefully and lovingly raised at home. Therefore, most were extremely happy to visit the farm despite being dirty all over. Naturally, some were squeamish too and cried as soon as they arrived. Whenever Theo saw them crying inside the video, he would criticize them. “Tsk. They cry just like Cooper.”

Cooper was speechless.

On the farm, Quinton was happily busying himself with farm work. He had entered Bayside University as a lecturer under his identity as 'Hope Fletcher'. After all, he always dreamed of being part of the Fletcher Family when he was younger. Contrary to his belief, his dream finally came true. Harvesting the winter wheat, eating from the same pot, and fighting for the king's position together with the children of the Fletcher Family, he finally felt as if he had truly become part of the Fletcher Family.

In two days, they finished harvesting all the winter wheat and fertilized the entire cornfield. Quinton was feeling very satisfied with the experience. Coincidentally, he found Carmen picking tomatoes in the tomato field nearby, looking dirty and sweaty. Leaning closer, he sniffed her several times before exclaiming in disgust, "Eek! You stink!"

In response, Carmen sniffed him and looked even more disgusted than him. "Uncle Quinton, you stink too."

Many types of fruit trees were growing on the farm. In this season, the peaches, plums, and cherries were becoming ripe. Thus, Quinton and Lorelei climbed up the trees to pick some cherries while a group of children surrounded the tree to catch the falling cherries. Quinton sat on the tree, shaking the branches and causing the cherries to rain down on the children. The children were extremely excited by the sight, chattering away noisily as they gathered the fallen cherries under the tree.

At the same time, he picked a cherry and put it in his mouth. It was very sweet—it seemed sweeter than all the cherries he had ever eaten before.

Meanwhile, Lorelei's mouth was full of cherries while she simultaneously tossed the cherries she picked to the ground. Carmen was picking up the fallen cherries and stuffing them in her bag. On the other hand, Nathan stood there, glancing between his sister under the tree and his other sister sitting in the tree; he felt emotionally exhausted watching over them.

Quinton was laughing from where he sat in the tree, feeling as if he had never been this relaxed and joyful before. Then, he climbed onto a higher tree branch and saw several cars driving over in the distance. The cars stopped near the gate of the farm, and several people dressed in all black got out of the cars. Looking at them made him uneasy. However, it was broad daylight right now, over a dozen adults were guarding the farm, many towns were located nearby, and a military camp was located less than 5 km away. Nothing could

happen here. As he continued to watch, he saw the group of men in black coming out of the car with guns in their hands...

It happened to be the weekend when Carmen went down to the farm. Sophia suddenly received a phone call from Stanley, inviting her over to celebrate his divorce. He also asked her to bring Judge over. It turned out that he asked Sean and Maisie to come back after his divorce. Therefore, they were living under the same roof again.

When Sophia heard the news, she was tempted to blow up at Stanley through the phone. That stupid dog! She could tell that Sean had been planning to leave Stanley for a long time now. Unfortunately, he could not bring himself to do it. This time around, he finally decided to give up and move on since Stanley was getting married.

Unexpectedly, Stanley got divorced only a few days after he got married. It only took one sentence from him, and Sean, who had finally made up his mind to move out, immediately moved back in again!

When Sophia and Linus arrived at the place they agreed upon, the first thing they saw was Sean and Stanley drinking next to each other as soon as they walked in through the door. Sean generally lived delicately like a princess whenever Stanley was not around. However, he would match his lifestyle to Stanley's and live a rough life like a masculine man whenever Stanley was around.

Sarah and Derek had arrived too. Everybody gathered together cheerfully, eating the buffet that cost Stanley an average of 59 per pax.

After a glass of wine, Stanley began to whine. "Marriage is such a pain! I needed to prepare to have children, prepare the marital house, and the wedding banquet too! It's so much work! Luckily, I managed to escape in the nick of time! Come; drink with me! I'm never getting married again!"

Sophia took a sip of yogurt and rolled her eyes. Go to hell, you stupid dog! All of a sudden, her phone rang and she answered it. Before she could speak, Stanley's phone rang too.

She answered the call and listened to what was being said on the other side of the phone. Midway through the call, she started trembling uncontrollably, and her phone fell to the ground. At the same time, Stanley seemed to have received shocking news too. He seemed completely taken aback for a moment. Hanging up, he stood up and left in a hurry.

When Linus saw Sophia's reaction, he hurriedly supported her. "What's wrong?"

Sophia's hands were trembling faintly. Looking at Linus with tears flowing down her face, she said, "Carmen is gone!"