

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1181

Slap! Sandra slammed her palm hard across Derek's cheek, leaving behind a scarlet mark.

Instead of fighting back, Derek only touched his face and let out a sigh. "Huh. That was harsh." Not only was it harsh, but Sandra probably wanted to hit him to death.

Both of them were illegitimate children, but she was being restrained and was struggling with her life right now. Yet, Derek had gone up in the world!

On what grounds? A slap was not enough to express the wrath in Sandra's heart. Pointing at Derek's nose, she cursed, "Don't forget your identity, Derek. Your father is Alex, not Cooper. How can you betray your own father for a traitor? Aren't you afraid you'd be struck by lightning?"

However, Derek did not want to talk about that with Sandra. After all these years, all that should be said had been said. Whether he was Derek Oak or Derek Mitchell, he had nothing to do with Sandra and Alex.

He turned around and wanted to leave the scene. But, Sandra caught up and stopped him from leaving. Taking out a flash drive from nowhere, she handed it to Derek. Arrogantly, she said, "I'm giving you a chance to redeem yourself. Make a copy of all the confidential info of Dragon Technology. I want all the personal information of the customers, the marketing strategies, and the systems. After you've done that, I'll make sure you're inside the Mitchell Family's genealogy record book! I'll also ask Dad to acknowledge you in public so that you can return to the family."

Derek took the flash drive and smiled. "Sure."

Instantly, Sandra was thrilled. As she had expected, no one would be able to resist the temptation of being added into the genealogy record book of the family. Derek was her biological brother, and they were both illegitimate children. Naturally, she knew what Derek wanted. She would wait for Derek to give her a copy of all the information she requested. However, there was no way he would be added to the genealogy record book!

The Mitchell Family belonged to her. If Derek returned to them, there would be one more competitor. His existence was like a reminder to her that she was just an illegitimate child. No matter how hard she tried, she would never be able to get rid of that pathetic status!

However, at this point, Derek, an illegitimate child like herself, was actually becoming more and more successful. Although he only graduated from university not long ago, he was already sitting in the executive position of Dragon Technology. Who gave him the right?

Just like how she had gotten rid of her uncle and mother, she would get rid of Derek sooner or later. Now that he was still somewhat useful to her, she would not do anything to him yet. To make sure that Derek was appeased, Sandra even patted his shoulder and whispered, "Don't worry. When we finally take over Dragon Technology, I won't mistreat you."

Staring at the flash drive in his palm, Derek turned it over and over again as he observed it. He then noticed the logo of Mitchell's Technology on it, realizing that it was the new product of the company. Feeling its texture with his palm, he frowned and said, "The core technology of this flash drive was left by Uncle Cooper thirty years ago. It has been so many years since then, and you guys never thought of improving it? I'm starting to wonder how Mitchell's Technology survived with such old technology."

"Huh?" Sandra did not understand what he was trying to say.

Derek continued, "Is this flash drive waterproof?"

Not knowing why he asked that, Sandra answered, "Not yet—"

Derek hummed in response before she could finish and threw the flash drive into the water.

When it fell into the water, it only made a small splash because it was so small. Staring at the flash drive that sank into the hot spring pool, Derek laughed heartlessly. "How dare you fool around with technology created thirty years ago? It seems like the Mitchell Family is only basking on Uncle Cooper's past glory and did nothing to improve at all!"

No, in fact, Mitchell's Technology did improve themselves, but compared to Cooper's extraordinary insight and business acumen, the Mitchells were nothing. Although they did have some talents, they did not know how to appreciate them. Instead of their employees' capabilities, the Mitchells focused on their connections. That was why they could not make their talents stay.

At this very moment, Sandra finally realized that she had been fooled by Derek. How dare a petty bastard like him provoke me? "Don't forget who you are, Derek! You're just an illegitimate child. Do you think Cooper will ever appreciate you? You're as petty as a dog in front of him!"

Yet, as if he did not hear her, Derek walked away casually.

“You’re just an illegitimate child! A bastard! You’ll only succeed in life when Dad acknowledges you. Do you hear me?” Sandra was like a repeater repeating those few words, reminding Derek of his identity over and over again. “Cooper and Alex are at odds, and you’re Dad’s illegitimate son. It’s a matter of time before Cooper gets rid of you!” cursed Sandra viciously.

However, Derek had not heard all those words. He was already enjoying the ice cream he bought from the convenience store.

Illegitimate son? He had never forgotten that he was an illegitimate son, and he had never forgotten who his parents were. No one could choose their own birth. Yet, everyone could choose their own future. He used to surrender to his destiny as an illegitimate son who was invisible and who would be useless for the rest of his life.

But, someone told him that there was nothing wrong with being an illegitimate son. He was not born with one limb less than others, and neither was he dumber than the others. He was perfectly fine!

Sophia encouraged him to go back to school and even helped enroll him into Bayside University, where he had learned a great deal alongside Stanley and Sean. By the time he graduated, he was packed with knowledge and skills. His outstanding ability had been acknowledged by everyone, and he had been directly appointed as a senior executive when Dragon Technology was established.

Even Cooper valued him a lot by entrusting him with important responsibilities; he said that he saw his past self in Derek, who had the talent and drive to do things. Sophia was fond of him, and everyone else liked him too. He served in Dragon Technology, and everyone in the company saw what he was capable of; nobody cared who his parents were. It was too bad that Sandra would never understand that. Since young, she worked hard just to make sure that Alex would notice her and acknowledge her.

Staring in the direction where Derek left, Sandra was so infuriated that her fingertips had gone pale. Very well. Since you’re useless to me, then there’s no reason you should stay alive!

While Derek was enjoying his ice cream, Sophia came. They looked content and there was a lot of physical interaction between them as they were talking. Unbeknownst to them, a camera lens was filming them from afar in secret...

When Derek and Sophia were playing around, they felt like high school students again. Back then, they would study together all afternoon after school.

Derek recalled the days when Sophia wanted to practice speaking with real foreigners. He found a high-end restaurant for Sophia to work part-time serving dishes because most of the customers were foreigners. When Sophia found out, she was overjoyed and went to work several weekends in a row. Apart from that, he bought some textbooks on purpose and gave them to Sophia, and even pretended that those were scraps he collected from back home.

As Sophia was eating her ice cream, she let out a sigh. "I wish we could go back to that time!" Unfortunately, she had forgotten all of it.

When Derek remembered what Sandra said to him earlier, he was worried. "I have a hunch that Sandra might lay a hand on me soon. Dragon Technology is like a thorn in the flesh for the Mitchells. They must be trying to find a way to tear us up from within. I'm probably the pawn they want to use."

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Derek was Alex's illegitimate son, so this matter would certainly create a huge impact if it was brought to light. Moreover, this identity of his would have miraculous effects if it was used well.

To his surprise, Sophia didn't care about it at all. She said, "That's not a big deal. I'll find you a super invincible bodyguard!"

A super invincible bodyguard! Derek was a little hopeful. Could the bodyguard be the secretive Hale or the two-meter-tall Roger?

Sophia told Michael that she would like to find a bodyguard for Derek. A while after that, Michael took Derek to meet the latter's bodyguard.

Derek was incredibly excited, for he was finally going to have a bodyguard. But much to his dismay, when he arrived at the place, he saw Quinton, who was playing cards.

Derek was totally speechless. Michael then pointed at Quinton, saying, "This is your bodyguard, and he's super formidable. Are you moved?"

No, I dare not move, thought Derek to himself.

Michael said seriously to Quinton, "This is Sophia's younger brother, whom I shall leave in your care. You'll be alive as long as he stays alive, but if he dies, you'll die as well."

Quinton rolled his eyes, but he reluctantly complied since Michael had agreed to give him freedom for the time being.

Michael liked Derek very much because Sophia often mentioned him in the past. Derek had helped Sophia quite a lot, so Michael treated him like a younger brother during the years she was missing. Luckily, Derek didn't disappoint him; he could now handle things by himself.

The pleasant hot spring vacation ended in pleasure. Everyone went back to their respective homes since they had to go to work as usual on Monday. Just two days after their return, several online media and newspapers suddenly published a news story that shocked the financial circles and show business of Bayside City: Sophia was having an affair with Derek!

The news story was written in a well-presented manner, and it even had the photo sticker that Sophia and Derek had taken together during high school attached as proof that they had known each other for many years and were on intimate terms. There was even a video showing them going to a hot spring lately. In the video, they were shown wearing swimsuits while behaving intimately toward each other.

Some fans immediately argued that they belonged to the same family. However, the haters immediately refuted this argument, claiming that their blood relationship was distant despite them belonging to the same family. The Mitchells were a huge family with many inter-family marriages. The law only prohibited marriages between lineal blood relatives within three generations, but they were separated by more than three generations of descent.

Furthermore, Carmen was currently popular after her appearance in 'Where Are We Going, Dad?', so there were even suspicions about who her biological father was. Some even pointed out her looks, spreading slanderous rumors that Carmen was actually Sophia and Derek's daughter, thus making Michael a cuckold.

Michael saw the news story as well, and he quickly found something that bothered him. "How could they say that my daughter doesn't look like me?!"

Holding Carmen in his arms, he stood in front of the mirror while comparing her looks with his. In fact, Carmen looked more like her mother, but her eyes and the shape of her face resembled her father's. He had thoughtfully had a DNA paternity test performed back when Carmen was brought back to prevent Quinton from coming up with another wicked idea of using somebody else's child to mislead him.

Actually, Michael was certain that Carmen was his daughter even without performing the DNA paternity test, for he cried on the spot the first time he held her in his arms. How could they slander Carmen by alleging that she isn't my daughter! It seems that the Mitchells are tired of living!

Derek came hurriedly in the middle of the night when he saw the news. Quinton, who was appointed to be his personal bodyguard, had been following him these days, so he came on this day as well.

"This must be Sandra's doing! Look! These photo stickers were taken while I was in junior high. They were pasted in my room, but my relatives occupied the house by force when my dad and uncle died afterward. I never went back there since then, but I never expected them to be able to find these photo stickers."

A photo studio opened near his school back then, and there was a photo sticker booth at its entrance. The booth was hugely popular among the students, so many had taken photo stickers there.

Sophia wanted to take photo stickers too, but she didn't have the money to do so. She hadn't started dating Richard back then, so Derek took her to take photo stickers. Therefore, the photo stickers became the only photos she had taken during her sophomore year in high school. She never expected these photo stickers to be dug up and used as dirt against her. The news story even used them as proof to hit out at her looks and suspect her of having cosmetic surgeries.

Quinton took a glance at the photo stickers, in which Sophia looked dark and ugly. She wore her hair banded, but her bangs were too long. She couldn't afford to go to a barbershop for a haircut, so she cut the bangs herself with a pair of scissors, causing it to look very choppy. She indeed looked very different then compared to now. Moreover, her later facial disfigurement forced her to have constant cosmetic surgeries to restore her original appearance.

This tabloid news had caused an uproar. These news stories could only fool the outsiders, but they couldn't fool those who were close to them. If this was a trick to sow discord among them, wouldn't it be a little too lousy?

Sophia didn't work in show business, so it seemed pointless to play up this kind of scandal. "Let's not take action first. We shall wait and see what they want to do." They must have some other tricks up their sleeves!

Michael didn't think the same, though. When they alleged that he was a transsexual, he could turn a blind eye, ignore them, and treat their allegations as nonsense. But now, they claimed that Sophia was having an affair with Derek. This was simply an insult to his charm and masculinity!

Moreover, these news stories even dared to gossip about Carmen's looks. They must be banned!

Half a day later, all the news stories vanished without a trace. Michael had personally dealt with the offline media, and all the news stories published online were also deleted. Also, he directly sent demand letters to the several media that spread the rumors, demanding them to issue a public apology and pay compensation!

There was also a great fuss on Michael's side. He publicly reported many tabloid social media accounts to the authorities, resulting in them being banned. It seemed that he wanted to spare no one, for many tabloid magazines were even forced to close down because of the news story.

Sandra, who had been watching their moves the whole time, was immensely pleased upon learning what Michael had done. "Great! This is great," she mumbled before dialing a number. Then, she said to the person on the other end of the line, "You may take action now."

She was brimming with confidence when she hung up. Just wait for my strike, Sophia and Cooper! I want you to fall from power with no possibility of turning the tables!

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A certain floor of Dragon Technology's office building was still brightly lit one night. It was already 10.00PM, but Derek was still working in his office.

He started working as an intern in Plum Technology during his first year at university. After his graduation, he started working full-time, so he could be considered a senior staff member now. Now that Dragon Technology was founded, he devoted his heart and soul to his work. He was determined to make achievements as soon as possible to live up to Cooper and Sophia's expectations.

He stood up to get some coffee. Holding his cup of coffee, he glanced out of the French window at the neon lights of Bayside City when he suddenly said to Quinton, who was crouching in a corner, "I heard that you used to be a lecturer at Bayside University. Are you really not going back to Bayside University to work as a lecturer?"

Several years ago, Quinton Clark, a lecturer at Bayside University, sacrificed himself to save the captured students from the hands of terrorists, causing a great sensation back then. Who would have thought that he was still alive?

Quinton couldn't be bothered to respond to Derek since he was playing games using one of the computers in the office. As Derek's inconspicuous bodyguard, he usually had almost nothing to do except to follow Derek around.

Since Quinton didn't speak, Derek continued attending to his work. Unexpectedly, right after Derek sat down, Quinton—who was playing games with the speakers muted—pricked up his ears.

There were noises outside the door.

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"Someone's here," stated Quinton.

Derek was still switching on his computer since he was about to carry on with his work. Not taking Quinton's words seriously, he replied, "It could be the security guards who are keeping watch at night."

However, Quinton's professional instinct told him that the people outside weren't security guards.

Security guards wouldn't walk so carefully.

He quietly got up and burrowed himself into a corner without making a sound, cautiously blending in with the night, like a cat lurking in the dark.

Then, the lights were silently switched off.

Even Derek noticed that something was strange.

He figured that Sandra would certainly lay a hand on him these days. Is she going to do so in the office building? Isn't this a little too bold of her?

Upon that thought, Derek stood up as well. To his surprise, the door to his office was suddenly banged open before three burly men barged in from the outside; all of them had scars on their faces and were holding machetes.

Derek's heart skipped a beat, but he put up a brave front by yelling, "Who are you guys?!"

He knew that these men came for him. As expected, Sandra made a move.

The strong desire to survive caused Derek's physical strength and reflexes to reach their peak. He subconsciously picked up the chair on the floor to fight off the machete-wielding men, yelling, "What are you waiting for? Save me!"

Unfortunately, Quinton had disappeared without a trace amid the chaos.

As expected, this guy isn't reliable at all!

These burly men had come well-prepared; their attacks were ruthless and by no means sloppy, for they never spoke from the moment they showed up until the moment they struck.

One could tell at a glance from their expressionless faces and the chillingly frosty looks in their eyes that they were a bunch of desperadoes.

After fighting against them a few times, Derek was forced to step back to the front of the French window that was dozens of stories high above the ground.

Dragon Technology's office building was very tall and good-looking. It had a unique architecture, for several floors at the top level were designed to shape like a mushroom.

Stanley had complained more than once that their office building looked like a cock, with Derek's office located at its 'tip'.

The window had been smashed using the chair during the fight just now, creating a hole where cold air gusted through from a high altitude. As a result, the temperature in the office dropped drastically to below zero degrees Celsius. Derek trembled all over, knowing that there was no escape for him.

No, I won't be resigned to this! I'm about to realize my ambition, and my ideal life is about to come true. My wonderful life has just started, so I can't die!

But with the three machete-wielding men closing in on him, he would either be slashed to death or fall to his death on this day.

He refused to resign himself to such a fate!

Unfortunately, he already had no time left, for the three men suddenly closed in on him simultaneously. He backed away step by step until he was in front of the holed French window. Cold air gusted in through the hole, making Derek feel as if his blood was frozen.

Suddenly, someone pushed his shoulders forcefully, causing him to lose his footing, and he fell into the darkness at high altitude.

"Aaaaah—" Derek let out a blood-curdling scream. Suddenly, he felt his hands being grasped firmly by something.

He thought that he must be dreaming. He must have been as dead as a doornail after falling from a building that was dozens of stories high...

The three outlaws looked everywhere after pushing Derek off the building. Someone else seemed to have been in this room just now, but they went missing in the blink of an eye. They hurried to the first floor to avoid unnecessary complications, only to see that the floor was very clean—Derek’s remains were nowhere to be seen.

What’s going on? He couldn’t have survived after falling from such a tall building, so where are his remains?

Perhaps the body landed somewhere else since it’s so dark and windy.

The outlaws decided to just forget it; they had seen Derek falling off the building with their own eyes, so they thought he couldn’t possibly have survived.

One of them took out his cell phone and made a phone call. “Hello? The deed was done, but we didn’t find the remains. Just rest assured, for our work is surely reliable. I have sent the surveillance footage of the scene to your email, so you may watch it. Make sure to pay the remaining balance after watching the surveillance footage.”

As expected, they received a 7-digit payment in their bank account after a while, then they immediately set out to leave the city without delay. But right after they got on the beltway, an oil tanker rammed into their vehicle, breaking their car into pieces on the spot.

Boom!

The oil tanker then exploded, reducing several human lives to ashes at once.

When Sophia woke up the next day, she learned of a piece of earth-shattering news.

“What? Our company was burglarized? Derek fell off the building and went missing?” Sophia was shocked upon hearing the details told by the person on the other end of the line. She subconsciously uttered, “What about Quinton? What? He went missing as well?”

Michael, who was sleeping next to her, suddenly awoke with a start upon hearing the three names. He sat up and listened to what was being told over the phone.

Dragon Technology was burglarized? Quinton and Derek both went missing, and the surveillance footage showed Derek falling off the building? So they died together? How could that be possible? Quinton couldn’t even be killed with a missile!

Michael and Sophia hurried to Dragon Technology together, and Cooper also hurried there upon learning about the news.

Michael called Quinton on the way; only he and Derek knew Quinton's phone number.

The call was put through. "Where are you?" he asked.

Quinton answered, "Reverie Mountain."

"What are you doing there?!"

Quinton replied, "Enjoying the hot spring."

He actually went to Reverie Mountain! Michael was shocked, but Quinton indeed could come and go like a shadow. Michael hurriedly asked, "Where's the other one?"

Quinton replied, "He was a little in shock, so he went to sleep the moment we arrived."

Since Quinton said so, Michael was naturally relieved. As expected, Derek wouldn't die when Quinton is present.

When they reached the company, they found that the door to the building was indeed forced open. The police had even come to cordon off the scene.

Originally built by Michael, the mushroom-shaped building where Dragon Technology Corporation was located overlooked the buildings around it with its height of tens of stories. Its lower levels had been rented out to a six-star hotel, whereas the higher levels were where Dragon Technology Corporation was located. The company was very large in size since it occupied dozens of floors in the building. However, it was founded very recently, so many of its subsidiaries hadn't moved in. There were still some imperfections in its internal management, resulting in many loopholes.

Sophia went to the scene of the incident to take a look. The security guards in charge of keeping watch at night had been sent to the hospital after being knocked unconscious. The police were watching the surveillance footage, and Derek's office had been cordoned off. Many signs of struggle were found at the scene of the incident; the window was smashed into pieces, and a broken chair was even found downstairs. Luckily, no one was near the scene at that time.

The surveillance videos showed three fierce-looking burly men going up using the hotel's elevator and purposefully heading for Derek's office. They fought with Derek in the office for less than one minute before pushing him off the building.

Michael exclaimed with an unctuous sigh, "Oh, my god! Who did this?"

A police officer responded. "There was a car accident on the inner ring expressway early this morning. It was preliminarily determined that the three suspects had died in the car crash, and all three of them were wanted criminals."

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Many companies in the building were closed then, but the surveillance system was still operating normally. The three suspects swaggered their way in and blatantly committed the crime; they even made a copy of the surveillance footage for some unknown reason before leaving.

However, Derek—or his remains—was missing. The surveillance footage showed that he had been pushed off the building, but his remains were never found. No remains were found even after the search area was widened to a few kilometers within the radius.

This incident wasn't as simple as it seemed.

Michael kept watching the surveillance videos. As expected, he couldn't spot Quinton, who was very mindful of surveillance cameras. The first thing he did upon entering a room was always to look for surveillance blind spots.

Suddenly, someone could be heard coming in hurriedly wearing high heels. "Oh, Derek, my brother! What has happened to my brother?"

Sophia looked back to see Sandra, who looked incredibly anxious as she came in and grabbed the arm of one of the police officers. She said, "I'm Sandra Mitchell, and Derek is

my younger brother. I received a call from him last night, and he said someone wanted to kill him. Where is my brother? Has anyone seen my brother?"

The police officer replied regretfully, "Your brother, Derek, has gone missing after falling off the building last night. We're still searching for him right now."

Sandra seemed devastated by the police officer's words. She slumped back against the wall and was in a daze for a moment before suddenly bursting into floods of tears. She wailed so pitifully that even the police officer couldn't stand seeing her like this and gave her a few words of comfort. As the victim's sister, she reluctantly started to have her testimony recorded.

"My brother and I were very close. He was more of a low-key person, so he never made his identity public. He started working from the bottom and was a very down-to-earth and hardworking kid. He was always busy, but we still kept in touch, and we often traveled together. I have no idea what on earth has happened. He usually treated people very nicely, and he never incurred anyone's hatred. Why would someone want to kill him..."

Sophia breathed out through her nostrils as she watched from the sidelines. What she says is so full of high-sounding words, she thought to herself.

Wanting to see what Sandra wanted to do, she continued listening patiently.

Suddenly, Sandra seemed to have recalled something; she jumped and pointed at Sophia, shouting, "She must have been the one who killed my brother!" She seemed to have figured everything out at once, for she spoke sternly. "My brother told me that this woman had designs on him, for she wanted to make him her kept man. After he refused her, she even threatened him, saying that she would give him a hard time if he didn't submit to her. It must be her!"

The assistant quickly grabbed her, but she yelled, as if being possessed, "Sophia, you must have been the one who killed my brother! You're so cruel! Just you wait; I'll definitely avenge my brother! I want you to pay with your life!"

Sophia retorted in a poised manner, "Miss Mitchell, your brother's remains haven't been found yet! How could you assert categorically that he's dead?"

Sandra let out a few sobs while crying with grief. "You all must have hidden my brother's remains away! You all are so cruel! My brother was also a Mitchell, so why would you harm

him like this?" She was devastated. "Just you wait; I must make you all pay the price! I'll definitely avenge Derek!" she growled viciously.

With that, she wiped her tears and left in a hurry.

Sophia let out another sneer.

The sun rose late in winter, so it was just 9.00AM when Sophia came downstairs after she hurried to Dragon Technology Corporation and finished dealing with the matters. It seemed that nothing had happened at Dragon Technology's premises as the office workers hurried in and out of the company. Even though there was a suspected homicide, only the floor where the incident happened was sealed off for rectification. Merely a few people worked on that floor, anyway.

It was labeled a homicide, but the victim was never found, which was truly strange.

It was cold in winter, so Michael and Sophia walked downstairs with their face masks put on to maintain a low profile and keep themselves warm.

Still, Sophia smelled the savory aroma of steamed buns through the face mask.

Seeing that her little nose wiggled, Michael immediately bought a few steamed meat buns and walked over. "Come; have some buns."

Sophia took off her face mask and was about to eat the bun when Michael sank his teeth into it and bit off a huge chunk of it before she did so.

He ate a mouthful of the bun with relish before saying, "I've tested it for poison. It's very tasty."

Sophia smiled shyly and pounded his chest with her small fists. The two then got into the car affectionately. Sophia had been working at the JNS Group these days, so she drove there straight away.

Cooper, who was behind them, looked lonely; it was as if he was transparent. My daughter has grown up, and she doesn't need me anymore...

Sophia then went to the JNS Group. She had her hands full with the approaching fashion week, so she was under a lot of stress. She had drawn several big names in the fashion

world to her side, and Ivan, whom she had trained herself, could now take care of things by himself. Even so, she still felt that she was at her wits' end. After all, this was the first time she held a fashion week event, so everybody was looking forward to it.

Her goal wasn't for Bayside Fashion Week to influence the global fashion world like the four major fashion week events when it debuted on Monday. At the very least, though, she didn't want the event to turn out to be too unsightly.

She had to worry about everything, including the venue, guests, and funds. The fashion week event cost a huge amount of money and would be held on an unprecedented scale. As the founder of this fashion week event, she often felt as if she was going to be out of breath.

When she went home exhausted after a busy day, she saw that everyone was watching TV in the living room.

Alex was shown bursting into tears in front of the interview camera on TV. "Derek was my son even though I never disclosed his existence to the public. He had been rebellious since childhood, so he was unwilling to accept everything that I had arranged for him. He had always been working and living alone outside independently, but I never expected my son to..."

A surveillance video was inserted in the newscast, and it was none other than the one that showed Derek being forced to jump off the window. The video showed him being hemmed in by three burly men before they pushed him off the building.

The video was the surveillance footage of his office. Due to the camera's limited angle of view, he could only be seen jumping out of the window. It couldn't be seen whether he had fallen off the building, but in general, he would undoubtedly die under such circumstances.

Sandra was then shown weeping pitifully. "My brother and I were on the best terms with each other. We even planned to go to the seaside for a holiday a few days ago, but I never expected him to... Oh, my poor brother! I'll certainly find out who your murderer was!"

This clip was included in every news channel, so Sandra and Alex's faces were shown everywhere during prime time.

The Mitchells made a big fuss by pressuring the police to determine Derek's cause of death as soon as possible.



The police soon found out Derek's cause of death. Unfortunately, the three murderers got into a car crash while escaping in their car after committing the crime, causing them to be burned to death together.

The video of Derek falling off the building was circulated all over the Internet. The three murderers' faces appeared in the video, so it wasn't difficult to find out who they were.

The police issued the announcement and closed the case within two days. The only questionable thing about this case was that Derek's remains were never found.

The Mitchells seized upon this questionable point and played it up, demanding an explanation.

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At the same time, the Internet was in an uproar.

There had been some media hype about Derek and Sophia having an affair before, but Michael had forcefully banned these news reports. Now that both Derek and his murderers had died and the victim's remains were never found, the netizens let their imaginations run wild.

'Taylor Murray must have hired Derek's murderers. Who could stand being cuckolded? He dared not lay a hand on his wife since his father-in-law is very powerful. Hence, he could only get back at Derek!'

'I have a friend who is working at Dragon Technology. He said that Derek and Eddie were on intimate terms, and they seemed to have quarreled on the day of the incident. It must have been Eddie who killed him; she must have been afraid that Taylor found out about her affair with Derek!'

'Where are the remains? The more I think about where the remains have gone, the more scared I get!'

'The remains must have been hidden away to lower the risks of the culprit being found. What a bunch of disgusting capitalists!'

'There were too many inside stories behind the scenes. We can't talk about them; otherwise, what we say will probably be censored. Taylor Murray had forced a bunch of truth-telling newspapers and magazines to close down with a snap of his fingers... We can only say that human lives are too worthless.'

Sophia was really impressed by these netizens' imagination.

It wasn't difficult to figure out Sandra's intentions when one thought back carefully about the whole incident.

She played up scandalous gossip about Derek, making him famous by using Michael's reputation. Then, she killed him when speculations about the gossip reached their peak. Since the murderers were dead, there was no witness testimony to prove Michael and Sophia's innocence. Therefore, everyone would certainly point the finger at Michael, Sophia, and even Cooper.

The kept man was dead, so who killed him? It must have been either Michael or Sophia.

Thanks to Sandra's manipulation, Derek's death was sensationalized on a scale so spectacular that the story couldn't be played down at all. Sandra, the victim's sister, wept out her grief on her social media accounts almost every day, detailing tearfully how miserable the loss of her younger brother had made her, and how close she and Derek used to be.

It was indeed weird that Alex was suddenly revealed to have a son, and the fact that Sandra was his illegitimate daughter could be exposed by accident any time. However, Derek's death was the focus here, and they were very good at obscuring the focus...

Now that Derek had died like that, Cooper couldn't escape the responsibility. Even if the previous scandalous gossip about Derek and Sophia were set aside, Dragon Technology was, after all, Cooper's turf. Now that someone had died on his turf, he couldn't escape the responsibility, of course.

This incident caused a huge stir thanks to Taylor's popularity.

Unfortunately, Derek didn't fall from the sky and ended up being reduced to a pulp like the Yard Family's grandmaster. Otherwise, this incident would have become far more complicated than this.

Perhaps they had purposely attacked Derek in his office to make him die the same way the Yard Family's grandmaster did.

The death of the Yard Family's grandmaster back then caused such a great stir that the entire Ronney Group was closed down for a few days for a reorganization.

The sensation caused by Derek's death this time wasn't as huge as the one caused by the grandmaster's death last time. At the very least, it didn't cause Dragon Technology to be closed down for several days for a reorganization.

Still, they could blackmail Cooper by seizing upon the fact that the remains weren't found. They fished for sympathy as much as they could on the media, stirring up public opinion by demanding to have Alex's son's death avenged.

When the public opinion was stirred up, the departments concerned would certainly take action. They would pretend to do some investigations even for the sake of calming down the public outcry.

This kind of thing was the trickiest since nothing could be found out by investigating Sophia. After all, she wasn't the one who killed Derek.

However, everyone was influenced by public opinion, so they all thought that there must have been something fishy behind this incident. They were certain that someone must have been behind the scenes, and the authorities couldn't find out the culprit simply because the culprit was shielded.

There must be something behind the scenes! Oh, my god! God only knows how many inside stories are behind this, for even the injustice of the death of the Mitchell Group's Chairman's son couldn't be redressed!

What everyone saw was perhaps just the tip of the iceberg.

Some people even went to Dragon Technology's premises to stage a protest downstairs.

Derek had made a public appearance during the founding of Dragon Technology, and he attracted many fans with his innocent puppy-like looks and his status as a high-handed company president. Now that their Prince Charming died a mysterious death, the fans certainly could no longer sit still.

In the end, the recently established Dragon Technology was successfully closed down for a few days for a reorganization. Sophia and Michael were frequently taken to the police station to cooperate with the investigation, and Cooper was certainly no exception.

His business was really so strikingly successful that too many people wanted to take a share of the spoils, making this a good opportunity.

It seemed that the Mitchells wanted to seize this opportunity to destroy Cooper for good, for they kept pulling strings behind the scenes. Even the fashion week event for which Sophia was working hard to prepare was forced to be held up for a few days since she was involved in a homicide.

Both Sophia and Michael never commented on Derek's death as well as the slanderous accusations made by Sandra and the others. At this moment, they might bring trouble on themselves if they talked too much.

Just then, a piece of breaking news suddenly came—Lucy publicly joined Ronney Fashion Week!

Ronney Fashion Week immediately took on an entirely new look with Lucy's participation.

Sophia received inside information that Lucy had joined hands with the Yard Family to hold Ronney Fashion Week this time. She also started to cozy up to the local fashion brands in Bayside City that the Yard Family treated with contempt by promising to promote their brands at Ronney Fashion Week.

Many fashion brands and designers dreamed of appearing at Ronney Fashion Week, so it was obviously very cool to receive a letter of invitation to the event!

In comparison, Sophia's Bayside Fashion Week was embarrassingly countrified, resembling a farm produce fair. If it weren't for the pressure from the Yard Family, they wouldn't have chosen to take part in Bayside Fashion Week.

The fact that the Yard Family relented and reached an ice-breaking collaboration with Bayside City's local fashion world came as a piece of great news to some people.

But this wasn't a good thing for Sophia, for Lucy was the last person she wanted to set herself against.

However, since Lucy had shown her hand, she would never show the white feather. It wasn't certain who would win or lose yet!

Meanwhile, at the hot springs resort on Reverie Mountain...

"My younger brother, Derek, and I had always been close. He was rebellious, but he never made me cry..."

"This son of mine resembled me too much, for he was unwilling to give in to anyone since childhood... It really never occurred to me that I'd see my son dying earlier than myself."

...

Derek watched expressionlessly as the news was broadcasted at loud volume.

Ha! Son? Ha! Younger brother?

Had anyone ever acknowledged me as their son and younger brother back when I lived on the streets without a penny after my relatives took my property from me upon my mother and uncle's death?

After the laptop was shut down, the news clip stopped playing, and the entire world fell silent.

Derek's mind was in turmoil as he hung his head and pulled his hair.

He often wondered why life was so unfair to him by having him being born into such a family.

He would rather be born in a family that was a little poorer and more ordinary. At the very least, his parents would love him dearly, and he would live a simple life. Wouldn't that be better?

He was also Alex's biological child; even though he was born illegitimate, he was Alex's own flesh and blood. Could they really kill him without feeling guilty just to make an issue of his death?

Cooper spoiled her daughter so much that everyone in the world knew about it. He was also one of the Mitchells, so why couldn't Alex pay him even the slightest bit of attention?

Did they finally know that I'm their younger brother and son after I 'died'? Ha! Since this is the case...