

# My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1351 - 1355

The people who were sent to kill Sophia and kidnap Carmen didn't seem to have any connections with each other, but Theo knew that they were accomplices. After consecutively settling two groups of people, Theo figured that the matter wasn't as simple as it seemed. With his sharp intuition, he quickly discovered that they were part of a gang that had resided in Bayside City for many years. But, there was no evidence to prove that this matter was related to Jordan, nor was there any proof that these people were connected to him.

In the past, no one knew about the relationship between these two parties, but now that they were aware, they could use the excuse of cracking down on these criminals to end them once and for all. Theo personally led the team, and after a whole day's work of uncovering one crime after another, they managed to remove them completely from Bayside City, making sure to leave no trace behind. It affected nearly half the city, but from then on, that gang became history.

Over the course of this entire day, ordinary citizens seemed to have noticed that something was going on. Riverdale was crawling with soldiers and police, and many companies had let their employees off early.

At midnight, Sophia received an overseas call from Callum. As soon as she picked up, Callum exclaimed, "Wow, Sophia, you're amazing! You've actually managed to get rid of one of Jordan's support systems. That gang is one that he's been secretly operating in Bayside City for many years now! You're awesome!"

After Cooper and Linus were caught, Callum reckoned that they were going to be finished off by Jordan, one by one!

To their surprise, they were informed early in the morning that one of Jordan's support systems had been destroyed. If it wasn't because he was quick to cut ties with them, he would've been implicated by now.

Unsurprisingly, that gang belonged to Jordan, and it was one of his strongest support systems. In fact, in Bayside City, they were considered a part of the Edwards Group.

Hence, he didn't expect that Sophia would manage to find a way to eradicate his biggest support system!

It was incredible!

Upon hearing this, Sophia let out a cold laugh before hanging up.

In her mind, she was registering the secret information that had just been uncovered.

Since Jordan and that secret society were related and they were one of his support systems, they must have been operating for many years. His support system would be like his limbs—attached to him in some way. As bones were attached to the tendons, it would be impossible to perform a clean break in just one day.

Early the next day, Taylor made a post on his Twitter. There were only two videos with no text captioning them.

The first video was footage taken from the highway's surveillance camera of Sophia nearly being crushed by the two trucks. Four vehicles could be seen trying to enclose a small sports car, potentially crushing it at any moment. In the end, the tiny Dragon Eye sports car managed to escape.

The second video was of Carmen nearly being taken away at the kindergarten entrance.

As soon as the videos were posted, they became a hot topic, and it evoked a sense of panic in the public.

They never expected that there were people in Bayside City who would try to nab a child and murder someone in broad daylight!

Did the law even exist anymore?

The relevant authorities made official announcements stating that they had eliminated the gang behind this and that the case was currently under investigation.

At noon, a massive group of police and soldiers surrounded Edwards Group Tower, blocking off all the passages and entryways. Edwards Group was having a board meeting, so every director was present as well as certain shareholders. They rushed in and arrested several of

Edwards Groups' people based on the leads they had received, whisking them away without any questioning.

By the time Jordan arrived at the scene, numerous Edwards Group employees had already been handcuffed and were being stuffed into the cars.

Jordan had arrived with a lawyer. All along, he had been calm and collected as if he was the head of the Edwards Family that had everything in the palm of his hands. But today, he was unexpectedly anxious.

Only he knew the pain of losing an entire support system. To make matters worse, the Fletchers were going after the Edwards Group as well!

At first, he figured that although the situation had gotten awry, they would not be able to place the blame on him. But, he had to admit that this time, he had truly underestimated his opponents.

However, it was no use for them to go after him as they didn't have any evidence.

When he took notice of Jordan's arrival, Joel said, "Mr. Edwards, I know what you want to say, but your subordinates are suspected of being involved in gang matters, murder, and child abduction. You and your lawyer should follow us to the station."

Jordan shot Joel a fierce glare before getting into the police car.

This time, he was truly faced with a huge setback.

Concerned, Lucy said from outside the car, "Dad, be careful."

Jordan chuckled coldly. "Don't worry. I'll be back soon."

The car left, and many of Edwards Group's employees were carted away for investigation, grumbling, and swearing along the way.

Eventually, news channels began to report about the Edwards Group being involved with gangs, and how a number of their senior executives were captured.

As she watched the line of cars drive off, Lucy had a look of worry plastered on her face, but it was just an act, as her eyes seemed to gleam with an evil light.

Behind her, Ian asked worriedly, "What do we do about those few executives that held high positions?"

Lucy hid away her false look of concern and smiled. "The company has to continue operating as usual. We won't stop because of the departure of those few people. It seems that those directors won't be able to come back to the office for the time being, so I reckon we let our people take their places."

Lucy turned and walked into the Edwards Group, satisfied with the situation.

She didn't expect that Jordan would find himself in such a mishap this time. It seemed that the man was failing miserably at every turn. He wanted to mess with Cooper by tackling Sophia and Carmen but faced a counter-attack instead.

Jordan had ways to free himself, but the case was different for the other employees of Edwards Group. After all, the Fletchers had to kill a few people to get revenge.

The Fletchers couldn't lay a finger on Jordan for the time being, but they could undoubtedly finish off a few of his lackeys. Besides, Michael was a well-known public figure, so the effect that the attempted murder on his wife had on the public was not something to be ignored. Ultimately, they had to get rid of several people to set things straight in the eyes of the public.

Naturally, the name list was given by Lucy. On it were the names of Jordan's most trusted subordinates in Edwards Group. After getting rid of them, the chance to unravel Edwards Group would be just around the corner.

This time, Jordan had formed a flawless plan: kill Sophia in an accident and if the higher-ups tried to investigate, it would just appear as a normal car accident; at the same time, someone would kidnap Carmen at the kindergarten. The consequence for killing a child was severe, so he originally planned to keep her for twelve hours before letting the police find her.

These twelve hours would be enough to let Cooper lose his head. It would certainly be a critical blow to him.

However, he didn't expect that Sophia would survive and that they would use the kidnapers as a means of getting to the root of the situation. The most aggravating thing was that they

had even gotten the Edwards Group involved, and plenty of his most trusted subordinates had been arrested.

It seemed that those people were destined to become pawns to quell the wrath of the Fletchers and the public.

This was a delicate moment for Jordan. One wrong move would lead to another, and everything would be screwed up.

At the same time, Jordan received word that something had happened in Europe, so he went there in a hurry.

Before he got on the plane, he learned that Cooper and Linus had been acquitted.

With the dramatic growth of Cooper and his son's reputations over this time, as well as the pressure from multiple parties, the authorities gave up on the notion of tormenting Cooper and allowed them to return home.

## Chapter 1352

After being taken away for a week to be investigated, Cooper and Linus finally returned home.

"Dad! Linus!" Sophia gleefully went to welcome the two of them.

Upon seeing Sophia sprinting toward him, Cooper opened his arms to catch her.

At this moment, Cooper was filled with a lingering sense of fear.

He had watched the video and had seen his darling daughter stuck in that tiny car, nearly getting crushed by those two trucks.

"All right. It's okay. I'm back," Cooper said softly, hugging Sophia before scooping Carmen up.

For the past week, he had appeared to be at a disadvantage on the surface, but he and Linus had actually been using this opportunity to lay out their plans. Jordan had invested all of his energy in Bayside City, so it had caught him by surprise when conflict arose in his territories in Europe. It seemed that the pawn that Cooper had placed there finally proved themselves useful.

So, at this very moment, Jordan was in Europe trying to settle the issue.

When he returned home, Cooper saw Theo spread out on the sofa watching 'The Bright Sword'.

Although Cooper didn't like it when Theo lay on the sofa all day drinking liquor while watching action films, this time, Theo had done the unexpected by throwing Jordan into the gutter. He had certainly done well.

Cooper commended him. "Theo, you've really outdone yourself this time."

Concentrating on watching Landon McNeil fight against Peace County, Theo answered, "It was nothing. We should support each other after all."

It was worth mentioning that the young, dashing man before Cooper was none other than Theo Fletcher! Thirty years ago, Theo had taken out the drug lord's base that had been entrenched in the southwest border for decades!

When he and Tanya got married, he had invited two-thirds of the world's greatest drug lords to his wedding, and he had annihilated all of them.

He was the one who had turned the Golden Triangle from a poppy farm into a fragrant tea farm.

Later, he had 'sacrificed' himself to prevent people from seeking vengeance against his family. Up until now, he had not revealed his identity, so no one knew about this historical moment and the existence of Theo Fletcher. All they knew was that the central government had sent a general to wipe out the Golden Triangle, which many forces had failed to defeat.

And, it went without saying that no one was aware that this general was being intentionally concealed from the public.

Not to mention, no one would've imagined that Mark's most beloved son, who was once a battle-hardened general, was currently sitting at home and living a leisurely life picking up his grandchild and taking his dog on daily walks.

Now, everything was in the past. Of course, it was unknown whether Quinton had personally killed Clive, or if Cooper had instructed him to do so. Either way, the matter had been dealt with, and the 'murderer'—who was a habitual offender and a serial murder suspect—had been caught.

Sophia didn't know how things ended for the Bishop family as it was handled by the Fletchers.

In any case, Sophia would occasionally see news about the Bishop family. After stirring up trouble so often, the public's initial sympathy for them had started to wane.

Word of them exploiting their daughter to support their son had gotten out. Their son had died, but the Bishops' nasty nature had made the public lose their compassion for them.

After the return of Cooper and his son, the part of Europe that had been constantly giving them trouble had quietened down. The African headquarters were under control, and Dragon Technology Corporation continued to operate as usual. Even the officials who had come to inspect the company's taxes, fire protection system, and boiler room had stopped coming. They were finally clear of suspicion.

As for Jordan, not only did he lose an entire support system, Lucy had also gotten rid of many of his most trusted subordinates, further eliminating his influence in the Edwards Group.

However, Jordan was the person who had caused Sam to lose his chance at the presidency. The power he held was unthinkable. Even Anna had failed to succeed at the plan that she had worked on for two decades. Getting rid of him was not something that could be accomplished overnight, but Lucy was confident that she would witness Jordan's death someday.

Upon returning, Cooper accompanied Carmen to shoot a reality show, but the script of the next few episodes had been changed from a parent-child science class to a parent-child national defense class. The shooting location had been switched to a military camp, and it was still being broadcasted on the military channel.

Michael continued to film his new movie at the shooting site while Sophia had begun to work on JNS Group's new products for the next season.

Everyone was kept busy.

Besides going to work, Sophia was also attending graduate school, so her hands were considerably full, but everyone followed suit. They started to work while pursuing a graduate degree on the side, attending classes every week.

This small group of friends had started their respective businesses when they were still in school. On the day they were supposed to take their graduation photo, Sophia had disappeared. Shortly after, Sarah had given birth to Hope. Meanwhile, Stanley and Sean had started a business together. Needless to say, each of them had encountered their fair share of ups and downs in life.

After so many years had passed, all of their businesses had grown stable, so they all decided to go back to school to continue with their education.

"Sophia, you can continue to f\*cking dawdle. I'm not waiting for you!" Walking on the campus of Bayside University, Sophia suddenly heard Stanley's voice. Then, she saw him whizzing past on a rented ofo—a yellow bicycle that was part of a bicycle-sharing system—as he flew into the depths of the university.

Sean rode behind him, the two of them speeding off in tandem. Having traded their business suits with student uniforms, they seemed to appear several years younger.

"Hmph, fine! Don't wait up!" Sarah muttered beside Sophia.

When Sophia first made the decision to sit for the graduate entrance examination, she had gotten a vast number of positive responses from her fellow friends. Now that everyone was getting together to continue their education, Sarah too had decided to pursue a master's degree in management.

Dressed in plain student uniforms and walking around in flats, they were no different from the other students. It was as if they had gone back to the way they looked in the graduation photo from many years ago.

It was a pity that Sophia had completely lost her memory from that time. She had forgotten how she grew up and how she struggled but refused to give up hope.



Sarah presented herself like how she used to. With round cheeks framing her face, her features were made up of double eyelids, huge eyes, a small mouth, and a tiny nose. Dressed in Lolita fashion, she looked like a comic character in real life. Walking amongst the students, she fit right in.

Sophia, on the other hand, looked nothing like her old self. She was a mixed-race child, and she looked like her mother when she was young. Now, she bore more resemblance to her father; even her temperament had changed drastically. Her big blue eyes were like large cosmetic contact lenses.

Sarah stared at those eyes. "Are you going to stick to the same pair of eyes for your entire life? In the future, do you plan to change to the... cornea made out of human flesh?"

A cornea made out of human flesh...

Sophia blinked several times. Her eyes were artificial, as her original ones had long been destroyed. If not for this pair of artificial corneas, she would be blind now.

"I'll change if there's a suitable replacement."

Over the years, she seemed to have gotten accustomed to the artificial corneas in her eyes. It would feel strange to suddenly change to the 'cornea made out of human flesh'.

The two walked around the campus, slowly heading toward their classes. Just the act of roaming around the campus lifted their spirits.

Suddenly, Harry pulled up next to them on an ofo. He was wearing a mask, but they could still tell that it was him.

"Hey, Old Wolf, what are you doing here?" Sarah hopped onto the bicycle, clearly pleased to see him.

Harry responded, "I'm here to see if you're cutting classes."

As he spoke, he turned back to see if Sarah was properly seated before riding off.

"We'll see you in class, Sofie!" Sitting on the back seat of the bicycle, Sarah waved happily at Sophia.

Sophia shook her head. They're so affectionate, even at this age!

## Chapter 1353

Sophia strolled around the campus on her own. It was still early, so she decided to walk around and explore the place. Her meal card had just been topped up with cash, so she was about to go to the cafeteria to grab a bite when a bicycle suddenly came to a halt beside her. Its rider had the Fletchers' signature crew cut.

Without turning back, he parked the bike to one side and said, "Get on."

Delighted to see him, Sophia mounted the bike while asking, "Nate, are you here for your classes too?"

Focused on riding his bike, Nathan answered, "Yeah."

He had been raised in the manor since he was young and was taught by the best private tutors who provided him with the finest education. But, because Michael didn't have time to look after him, he was distant and cold. Having refused to go to kindergarten, he began his studies at Bayside University when he was five years old after Michael donated a building.

Just like that, he had already been at Bayside University for ten years.

A few years ago, Sophia had brought him from the East Entrance to the South Entrance on her Yamaha bike. She had brought him to the cafeteria to grab a meal, held him while he performed a slam dunk, and even brought him to the cybercafé to play games. She had even brought him to eat kebabs and to the night market to play ring toss.

Those memories were filled with a riot of colors.

After all these years, he was now the one carrying her on his bicycle.

Sitting in the back seat, Sophia was smiling as brightly as the sun. As she enjoyed the early summer breeze, she caught a whiff of the fresh smell that had appeared in her dreams. Perhaps it was from one of the memories that she had lost.

Eyes, a shade of green, and the smell of books. No, something seems to be missing...

All of a sudden, she saw a bicycle catching up to them on the tree-lined path that was covered by overlapping greenery.

Warm sunlight shone down on the man, making him appear radiant. He seemed to emit a faint milky white halo and was as ethereal as a light feather. Every pore on his body was exuding the fresh aura of sunlight as if he was a God who had just descended into the mortal world from the heavens.

He looked like he was once clad in golden armor and divine clothing but was now dressed in a white shirt. The colorful clouds he used to step on had transformed into a rented ofo.

In Sophia's eyes, he would always be the unparalleled deity who arrived on colorful clouds. He was her hero, and he belonged to her alone.

Michael chased them from behind, closing the distance between him and Sophia. She seemed to be able to glimpse the layer of sweat on his head rising, forming a faint fog.

"Michael!" Sophia called out.

Michael grinned, his eternally young face still full of vigor.

Sitting in front, Nathan glanced at Michael, who was catching up on his ofo, and scoffed. Oh, you old man.

He didn't know what Sophia saw in this old man back then.

How nice would it have been if she had gotten with Claude instead!

With this thought in mind, Nathan pedaled harder. His bike was far ahead, and the gap between them widened.

Michael frowned. Brat! Now that your wings have hardened, not only do you want to fly, but you're even trying to swat me away.

He exerted more strength and the two bicycles advanced together. Soon, they caught up to Harry, who was up front, as well as Stanley and Sean who were at the concession stand buying water and snacks.

“Hey, wait for us!” Stanley quickly threw the snacks and water into his basket before rushing to catch up.

Sophia waved at them. “Come on, stupid dog!”

They were no longer teenagers, but the lot of them laughed and joked around as they sped off toward the warm sunlight.

Quinton was riding an ofo as well, but he didn’t join them for classes. Instead, he rode toward the concession stand. After returning the bike, he went in to buy a coffee, then realized that he could only pay with a meal card, not cash.

He opened his wallet to search for it, then found the teacher’s meal card he had used years ago, which still happened to have several thousand in it.

He bought a cup of coffee, then walked into the school. He got to the university’s alumni corridor where photos and information of the most decorated students that Bayside University had for the past century since their establishment was posted.

There was Michael, Harry, Sophia, Cooper, Linus, and of course, himself.

Unfortunately, his was a black-and-white portrait. A few years ago, his identity was exposed, and he was ready to capture Sophia, but everything ended up in smoke. Afterward, he disappeared from the world.

According to the news, he had volunteered to be taken hostage in order to save the students that had been kidnapped by a terrorist group. After getting them out, he had sacrificed himself.

Bayside University had hung his picture in the alumni corridor where freshmen would get to know him at the start of every school year.

Every student knew that there used to be a handsome and charming teacher at Bayside University who taught economic law and financial accounting. He was the second son of the distinguished Clark Family and Bayside University’s youngest teacher. Every year during summer break, he would go to Africa to do volunteer work, as his biggest dream was to leave everything behind and go teach in the remote mountainous areas.

He was supposedly buried in the cemetery outside the city, and every year during Ancestors' Day, the students of Bayside University would visit his grave and pay their respects.

Tilting his head, Quinton looked up at his former face smiling back at him in the black and white frame.

When the photo was taken, his smile had been serious and genuine.

Looking back on the past thirty years, he was happiest when he was studying and working at Bayside University.

Following Tanya's advice, he married into the Clark Family. All they knew was that he came from abroad, his grades were excellent, and that he had successfully gotten into Bayside University. He continued his studies abroad after graduating, then upon returning, he went back to Bayside University to be a teacher. He would go overseas from time to time to participate in academic seminars as well as travel during the holidays.

His stepfather treated him well and regarded Quinton as his own. He was proud of him, and would often boast about how outstanding his second son was.

Quinton would call him 'Dad', and their relationship was genuine.

Everything was obviously splendid, but he still managed to ruin everything with his own hands.

No one knew that at the age of fourteen, he was already the leader of the Phantom Wolf and he had countless blood debts on his hands.

His past had been filled with lies and illusions. Tanya had helped him remarry so that he could have a new identity that would facilitate his movements in Bayside City. However, their ultimate goal was to take revenge on the Fletchers.

Nevertheless, even in that illusion, everyone had been sincerely good to him, but he had pushed them all away, tearing up this perfect but real illusion with his bare hands.

The thought of living in this fantasy forever had, in fact, crossed his mind often. Oh, how great it would've been!

Looking at his former self, Quinton took a sip of coffee and a faint smile played on his lips. He exhaled a cocoa-infused breath, then turned around to throw away the cup. Unknowingly, his eyes had gotten moist with tears.

Sophia was in class, so Michael wandered around to enjoy a breath of fresh air. At some point, he saw Quinton sitting on the grass, basking in the sun. Surrounded by several students, he held a book as he explained a topic to a student.

“The answer to this question is not complete. This question covers four main points, and according to the case materials, there is a trap here...”

In a serious manner, he explained the question with ease. Michael waited for the group of students to leave before walking up to him and asking, “How about you come back to continue teaching?”

## Chapter 1354

Since Michael was rarely home, he was constantly worried about leaving someone who had once shown interest in his wife in his house. But Quinton stayed home every day, seemingly not wanting to go anywhere. The last time he was asked to come back and teach, he had refused, so he would probably refuse this time as well.

However, Michael felt that he needed to be ‘kicked’ out of the house.

As if he understood where Michael’s pettiness was coming from, Quinton drank the yogurt that the student had given while agreeing. “Okay.”

That was fast...

If it weren’t because Michael could provide him with biologically engineered spare organs, he didn’t want to live in Michael’s house all the time either. He had long wanted to move out to be a teacher at Bayside University.

Michael was taken aback by Quinton’s quick agreement. Patting him on the shoulder, Michael said, “Get ready then. I’ll go speak to the vice-chancellor; you can register as a teacher under the Fletcher name.”

He made a mental note to assign him the best apartment unit that was preferably fully furnished so that he could move in immediately.

In the classroom, the lecturer was full of energy, delivering his lesson while the students listened intently. All of a sudden, a high-pitched chime resounded through the room. Awooooo—

After the wolf's howling ended, the classroom fell silent for a second, then a flurry of snickers erupted.

Flustered, Stanley hurriedly fished out his mobile phone, only to find that Christine was calling him. His ringtone was a wolf's howl, and the volume had been set too high, which was why the entire classroom had just been filled with a sad, high-pitched cry.

"I'm sorry!" He quickly hung up the phone, then set it to vibrate. He sent a message to Christine saying that he would return her call later before putting his phone to one side.

Sophia, who was sitting next to him, felt embarrassed.

This stupid dog is always doing stupid things.

After class was dismissed, everyone talked and laughed as they left the school. Harry came to pick Sarah up on his bicycle while Sophia waited for Michael, who had gone to speak with the vice-chancellor. Stanley tried to return Christine's call, but no one picked up.

"What happened? She's not picking up, and she's not replying on Messenger," he muttered, looking like a lovesick teenager who was being snubbed by his girlfriend.

Sean laughed and reasoned, "Perhaps she's at work!"

Stanley simply looked down at his phone and said nothing.

Accompanied by Stanley and Sean, Sophia sat next to the Teaching Building while she waited for Michael. In a rather dissatisfied tone, she said, "What are you guys waiting for? Go home by yourselves!"

Stanley exclaimed, "Don't think that we don't know that your family is preparing a delicious meal tonight. You want to get rid of us? In your dreams! Grand-uncle Theo has already picked Maisie up. Tonight, the three of us will go and exploit your hospitality!"

Sean chimed in, "We'll exploit you!"

Sophia pursed her lips. "Oh, I'm so terrified!"

After a while, Nathan was also done with his classes. As his bicycle came to a stop in front of Sophia, he said coldly, "Get on."

Sophia was about to speak when she saw Michael and Quinton riding over on their ofos. Michael parked his bicycle between Nathan and Sophia, then said, "Get on."

Sophia smiled at Nathan before jumping onto the back seat of Michael's bicycle. He rode away as Nathan chased after them in a huff.

When they arrived home, Sarah and Harry were already waiting. Theo had also returned from picking up the children, and they were chattering like a flock of sparrows.

Rumors about Hope getting himself a girlfriend at the kindergarten had gotten to Sarah, and once Sarah knew something, everyone else would too.

"Hope, what's your girlfriend's name? Is she pretty? Why don't you bring her back and show Mommy? Is it Bella? Lily? It's Little Marsha, isn't it?"

No matter how many questions she peppered him with, Hope refused to say anything. The expression on his face showed that he was truly living up to his nickname—Sour Face.

Since she couldn't get an answer out of Hope, Sarah tried to ask Carmen, but she claimed not to know anything.

Afterward, Sarah had a chat with Sophia. "Why aren't you concerned about Carmen? Maybe she's also gotten herself a boyfriend in kindergarten. Kids nowadays grow up so fast!"

Watching Carmen, Sophia felt completely at ease. She knew that Carmen would not start dating in kindergarten. Supposedly, she had had plenty of 'experience' with dating. Her ex-boyfriend had saved up enough money for a pet shop, so it was obvious that she wouldn't settle for just any ordinary boy.

As they waited for dinner to be served, everyone happily chatted away. Theo watched the news broadcast as usual, and Cooper was forced to watch it with him. Michael and Quinton



talked about Quinton returning to school as a teacher, but Stanley kept his head low and his eyes peeled on his phone.

He felt agitated—as if he sensed that something was about to happen.

After Christine called him, she hadn't picked up his calls, nor did she reply to his messages. This behavior was very unlike her.

Sophia moved closer to him with a nosy look on her face. "Stupid dog, are you really in a relationship?"

But Stanley continued to frown, not answering her. His heart was heavy; even the joy of scrounging a free meal had disappeared.

Sophia took his silence as tacit admission.

Soon, the food was served, and the large family gathered together. There was the Western food that Cooper and Linus liked as well as the salamander soup that everyone knew and loved. Stanley, who would usually pounce on food like a predator attacking its prey and would want to have a sip or two of everything including medicine, was acting out of character today; he was constantly stuck in a daze. Sean had taken several pieces of tofu for him, but he didn't eat much and was just playing with his food instead.

He took only a few bites of his food, staring at his phone the whole time.

When dinner was over, Sophia contentedly drank her chicken soup. Suddenly, Stanley's phone rang with the familiar wolf's howl, and he hurriedly picked it up.

They didn't know what the person on the other side had said. All they saw was the abrupt change in Stanley's demeanor after just listening to a few words. He stood up and walked out without saying a word.

"Stan, what's the matter?" Sean asked as he chased after him.

Stanley had already put on his shoes when he answered, "Something happened to Christine."

With that, he opened the door and left.

Sean was stunned for a moment, then he turned around and called out, "Sophia, Maisie will need to stay at your house for a while tonight."

He rushed off without another word. Sophia then set down her bowl to catch up to them, wanting to get a grasp of the situation.

Judging from Stanley's expression, it seemed that something serious had happened, so she had to go and take a look.

The three of them left the neighborhood. Stanley drove his car and peeled down the road as fast as he could, running numerous red lights along the way.

Throughout the entire drive, Stanley's face was gloomy. He didn't say a word and was solely focused on turning the steering wheel non-stop. Seated in the passenger seat, Sean was silent as well. Sophia, who was in the back seat, took out her phone and ran a search on the name 'Christine Bishop'. Many news articles began popping up.

Tonight's headline: 'Christine Bishop Falls to Her Death'.

Upon seeing the words 'fall' and 'death', Sophia's mind went blank. She quickly clicked into the news article and saw that a video was being widely circulated by many media outlets. A girl in a white dress was sitting outside the window of the eighth floor of a hotel, shouting herself hoarse. Unfortunately, no one could understand her, as it seemed to be drunken gibberish. Several seconds later, amidst the shouts of the bystanders, she fell to the ground like a snowflake, splashing blood everywhere.

## Chapter 1355

The video ended there. Sophia's screen was then filled with news of Christine's death.

Soon, the car arrived at the hospital where reporters were crowding the entrance. When they spotted Stanley, they instantly recognized him, and countless microphones were shoved into his face.

"Mr. Fletcher, were you and Miss Bishop in a relationship?"

"Is it true that Miss Bishop had died on the spot?"

“What do you think of Miss Bishop’s death?”

Stanley ignored all their questions. With a somber expression, he walked into the hospital while the security guards blocked the reporters from entering. The signage above the emergency room was still lit. In the corridor, blood-covered doctors and nurses were constantly walking around. Joel had his arms around Maddie as he whispered words of comfort.

“Joel, it’s my fault. I shouldn’t have let her come to Amstead. It’s all my fault—” Maddie sobbed. The look on Joel’s face was extremely unpleasant.

“How’s Christine?” Stanley hurried over. Joel glanced at Sean, who was behind him, then answered, “Still having surgery. She’s not out of danger yet.”

When Stanley heard this, he felt hollowed out for a moment, and his mind turned blank. Something bad had happened to Christine; no wonder he was fidgety all afternoon and evening. He demanded abruptly, “What the hell happened?”

“A few stars were drinking and celebrating in the hotel room. Christine got drunk and jumped down from the window on the eighth floor. The police are investigating it right now,” Joel explained.

Sophia’s heart skipped a beat. Is that really the case?

During midnight, Sophia sat in the hospital corridor, repeatedly watching the video of Christine that was being circulated online. Christine had been sitting on the eighth-floor window, shouting and yelling as if she really had too much to drink.

Sophia looked at the time the video was taken. It was around the time she had given Stanley a call. She then noticed the name of the hotel—Champs-Elysee Hotel. Champs-Elysee Hotel... Where have I heard that name before?

Meanwhile, Joel was pacing up and down the corridor. Sean had bought several bottles of water and was giving one to Stanley. He wordlessly accepted it, then held it in his hands, making no move to drink it. Instead, his eyes were fixed on the emergency room light.

Sean patted Stanley’s shoulder and reassured him, “Don’t worry. Christine’s going to be fine.”

Still, Stanley remained silent. He had a feeling that Christine's jump had something to do with him not picking up her call. Her phone call had come just one minute before her jumping incident.

Christine was still being rescued, but several reporters already had news about her death prepared. Even netizens had started to claim that she was dead. A manager from Christine's agency had come to wait for updates. The Bishops and the Evans were still in Bayside City, but they only showed up in the middle of the night. Upon arriving, they kneeled on the ground and began to weep. "Oh, my darling girl—"

Maddie's usual gentle demeanor disappeared as she coldly reproached them. "Shut up! This is a hospital. Quit making a racket!"

As soon as they caught sight of Maddie, the Bishops and the Evans advanced aggressively on her. "Maddie, you evil creature!"

Before Maddie could speak, Joel was already shooting them a fierce glare, effectively shutting both families up. They were no longer ignorant of his capabilities. They now knew that there was someone out there who could get them kicked out of their public housing with just a phone call. Therefore, they dared not find trouble with Maddie, but they continued to curse her silently.

For the past few days, the Bishops and the Evans had been hit with tremendous changes. They had spent more than a hundred thousand to purchase public housing, but they promptly lost the rights to buy it. They had spent two hundred thousand to acquire a job within the system, but they lost that too. They lost their place in the elite class that they had spent a hundred thousand to obtain, and their relocation plans had also been wrecked.

All of these happenings were a catastrophe to them. It was equivalent to killing their whole family.

Sometime before dawn, a blood-covered doctor approached them and asked, "Is Christine Bishop's family here?"

Mr. Bishop hurried forward. "Me! I'm Christine's father! Doctor, how's my daughter?"

The doctor said gravely, "Mr. Bishop, your daughter has suffered fractures all over her body, as well as severe brain trauma, brain stem injury, and multiple organ damage. She's out of

danger for now, but she will be unconscious for a while. Do be prepared for the possibility of amputation.”

Mr. Bishop’s mind turned blank at once. The doctor continued, “You can go and settle the bill first. My advice is to gather more money, as follow-up treatments, rehabilitation, and other necessities may require more than three million in total.”

At the mention of three million, Mr. Bishop grew anxious. Eventually, he announced ruthlessly, “Then, we won’t go through with the treatment! We don’t have that much money!”

In tears, Mrs. Bishop wailed, “Her brother still needs to start his company, and we just paid for a house in full! Where are we supposed to get so much money?”

The other relatives added, “This hospital is a scam! Just like every other hospital in Bayside City! It’s just a fall! We should bring her home to receive treatment!”

The doctor said nothing, but he understood that in a situation like Christine’s, resuscitation would be a problem. Even if she was successfully brought back to life, she would probably end up in a vegetative state, or suffer from hemiplegia or paraplegia. Saving her would require a huge amount of money, and if she was resuscitated, the cost for her rehabilitation would be enough to cause the collapse of their family in an instant. Hence, many people simply gave up on letting Christine receive treatment.

Gritting her teeth, Maddie darted forward and pushed Mr. Bishop away. To the doctor, she said, “You must treat her! Get her the best doctors and the best ward. No matter how much it costs, I’ll pay!” With that, she hurried off with the nurse to pay the bill.

Joel went with Maddie, and neither the Bishops nor the Evans stopped them. Instead, they remained in the corridor exchanging whispers.

“It’s better not to get her treated. Let the child go in peace!”

“Even if she could be treated, she would suffer. Paraplegia means that she will have to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. Plus, you’ll need to hire someone to clean after her. Not only would she be unable to earn a living, but she would drag the family down. She won’t be able to marry either.”

“That’s right. Charles, you’ve got to think this through. Two of your sons just got married, and their marriage can’t be affected—”

Feeling detached, Sophia took in the scene and she was suddenly overcome with the urge to vomit. These days, the Bishop Family was making frequent appearances on major newspapers and television stations. They wanted to kill Cooper to avenge their son and had sustained financial losses. No one had expected that the media would turn their family upside down, opening the public's eyes to just how shameless the Bishops were. All of Christine's hard-earned money had been used by her family to buy houses, cars, and even to fund her brother's weddings. The betrothal gifts, the bridal chamber, the decorations, and other works were paid for using her money.

They were just exploiting Christine, squeezing her dry as if they were wringing a towel. Now that Christine was in trouble, the first thing on their mind was to give up on her treatment? Obviously, selling off a house in Provincial City alone could save her!

The Bishops had undoubtedly seen Sophia, and they were aware that she was Cooper's daughter. They wanted to mess with her but dared not approach her when they saw the few burly men standing beside her, so they could only silently call her a 'slutty b\*tch'.