

My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1086

Because of how handsome he was, as well as because men aged slower, Cooper didn't actually need a lot of makeup as he looked young. He didn't have a lot of wrinkles on his face, so all he needed was to trim his eyebrows and style his hair.

"Here you go, Grandpa. Put on some baby cream." Carmen presented him with some of her precious baby cream. Now, she was also dolled up, as not only would she be tagging along to experience the cultural scene, but Louis had even named her as one of the people that he wanted to meet. After putting on some baby cream, Cooper looked at himself in the mirror, feeling quite young.

Meanwhile, Sophia had put on a white tight fitting dress with blue embroideries. The tailor-made outfit hugged her figure tightly, all the while accentuating her fair features. After their skincare and makeup routine, both Sophia and Michael began taking selfies. They even tweaked the photos before posting them on social media.

"Come on, this is too much. Your brother is waiting." Holding onto Carmen, Cooper looked rather impatient when Sophia and Michael were taking selfies. He was feeling indignant about the situation as it was equivalent to witnessing someone stealing his precious daughter away from him, but he couldn't even stop the thief from doing so.

When Sophia finally made her way out of the mansion, Linus was also coming out from Villa No. 2. Apparently, they didn't go back after coming over last night. After Linus settled down in Villa No. 2, Cooper went to Sophia's home, as he was worried about his only daughter.

The exhibition was held in a convention center. Upon showing their invitation cards, they entered the venue, only to realize that not a lot of people were present for the occasion.

Louis' personal collection was already on display. As they looked around, Sophia could only appreciate its beauty on the surface as she didn't know much about calligraphy, but both Cooper and Linus seemed to be absolutely enamored by them.

Amateurs could only appreciate something superficially, whereas experts would be equipped with the necessary knowledge to delve deeper into it. Calligraphic works were a direct reflection of the artist's character, as evident in Cooper's own calligraphic works, which showed his steadfast and meticulous personality. Although Linus had the appearance of a foreigner, he was in fact a merry man with a Cethosian vibe to him, so the works he produced had an elegant and carefree feel to them. Meanwhile, Michael's works seemed garish at first glance, but every stroke indicated his deep and thoughtful personality, whereas Sophia's showed strength of character under its grace and delicacy.

On the other hand, Louis' works were carefree yet peculiarly grandiose, with heavy strokes that spanned across the paper, establishing a domineering presence that captured everybody's attention. His paintings were even more ingenious. With the use of only two colors, he was able to create a magnificent painting through his workmanship, which was an incredible feat. His works were a true demonstration of his profound character, and he did live up to his name as one of the top Cethosian artists in the world.

In the meantime, both Linus and Cooper were so engrossed in the works that they didn't notice the rest of the guests gossiping about them. It was their first time showing up together at an event. As Cooper never frequented such gatherings, it was somewhat of a sensational news.

Just a month ago, Linus publicly acknowledged his relationship with the Mitchells, which caused a fluctuation in Michel Group's shares. Everybody was observing from afar, assuming that Linus would be deemed as an outcast of the Michel Family and its company, but nothing happened even after a month's time.

They figured it might be because they needed time to ensure that tasks in the company were handed over smoothly. After all, Linus had been entrusted with the company's tasks since way back when he was younger. Now that more than ten years had passed, and that Linus had played an important part in a lot of the company's operations, if he were to quit his job, it would mean a shake up at the core foundations of the company that would play out across a certain period of time.

Rumors had it that Linus might cut ties with his biological father for the sake of power and wealth. However, judging from his seemingly harmonious relationship with Cooper, it sure seemed that he had chosen to be a Mitchell instead of a Michel, which sounded like a foolish decision to many. In short, both of them were the center of attention due to the incident.

Meanwhile, Michael introduced both Sophia and Carmen to Louis, as well as mentioning Cooper in passing. Louis was Michael's fan, while Cooper was Louis' fan, which made for a somewhat odd trio.

On the other hand, it was also Carmen's first public appearance alongside her parents, so she also garnered quite some attention. "Carmen, are you scared?" Michael asked.

Carmen stood up straight while holding a firm gaze. "I'm not afraid!"

With a gentle smile on his face, Michael led her toward Louis while holding her hand. Meanwhile, there were quite a few acquaintances present for the occasion. Sophia spotted Lucy Edwards chatting amicably with the Yard twins soon after she entered the venue.

Why are the twins here though? Michael was curious about it, as it indicated that the Yards must've had some connections with Louis. Thus, he scanned his surroundings, but Anna Yard was nowhere to be seen. Although feeling relieved, he couldn't help but feel a little sorry when he turned around to look at Cooper, his young father-in-law who was still appreciating the works of art.

Because it was a private event, the host only invited a small group of people that consisted of either literati, art enthusiasts or people who were related to Louis, such as Michael. In a subdued voice, the guests were chatting or exchanging tips on calligraphy. The atmosphere in the venue was purely intellectual, and there was music playing in the background, which Sophia quickly identified as being produced by a harp that Anne Osborne was playing.

Anne was playing a melodious tune on another one of the few Phoenix Harps in the world. Upon noticing that Sophia was looking her way, she shot Sophia a glare in return, as she knew Sophia as the woman who ruined both of her blind dates. She could even remember when Stanley commented on how she wasn't as pretty as Sophia. *That old woman! She is nothing but an old housewife!* Anne thought to herself. She saw herself as a woman of status with a long line of suitors, so she didn't think Sophia could possibly be on her level.

Sophia quickly averted her gaze, as she didn't want to get into any trouble with Anne. Soon, she found Louis in a crowd. As the host of the exhibition, he was of course the center of attention. When she saw him, he was creating a new piece of work while a bunch of famous calligraphers cheered for him.

Upon noticing that Sophia was moving toward him, Anne immediately stopped playing to hurry toward Louis. She called out to him in a sweet voice before Sophia could even reach him. "Grandpa!"

Louis seemed delighted to see her, as he had a loving gaze in his eyes when he put his brush down. "Why did you stop playing? After all, I hosted this event just for you! Did you see anyone you like?" Truth be told, Louis was getting a little anxious after her two consecutive failed blind dates, but he was feeling better when he saw that there were some handsome young men among the crowd present at the exhibition.

As soon as he said so, Anne blushed while tugging on his sleeve. "Grandpa, how could I just do this in public?"

Having heard what she said, Louis scanned his surroundings to see an outstanding-looking young man in the crowd, who had a fair complexion and pretty sky-blue eyes. Although he seemed to be a foreigner, he looked like he was interested in Louis' work, as he was engrossed in them. The serious expression he wore added an attractive quality to his already striking profile. "What about that young man? He seems nice." Louis pointed at the foreigner who was examining a piece of work closely.

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Anne glanced at the young man shyly, deeming him to be quite handsome indeed. Blushing, she told Louis, "Grandpa, I'm still too young for this."

Although Louis was well-known within Bayside City, not a lot of people had had the good fortune to meet him as he lived abroad and rarely came to Bayside City. Therefore, a lot of people never met his granddaughter, so people began inquiring about her. "Is she your granddaughter? She sure looks outstanding!"

Upon receiving the compliment, Louis announced proudly while stroking his beard, "Yeah, her name is Anne Osborne! She took on my surname as my daughter only gave birth to her! She is marvelous with the harp!"

The crowd began giving praise. "She looks like someone with a bright future ahead of her! She might even get to uphold your legacy, Master Osborne!"

Meanwhile, Anne was a little light-headed from all the praise, but she still put on a humble front. "Oh no, you all flatter me. I'm still young, so there's still a long way to go compared to

my grandfather." At that moment, her honorable status as Louis' granddaughter made her shine. Taking in the admiration of the crowd, she was feeling elated.

However, the glory didn't last for too long, as it was soon disrupted by a teensy voice. "Mr. Louis, I'm here!"

Overjoyed upon hearing Carmen's voice, Louis hastily took a few steps forward, whereas the crowd parted to let him through. Michael had Carmen in his arms, who was wearing a pink dress and pink bow, looking all delicate and outrageously adorable.

"Hiya! You're finally here! I've been waiting so long for you!" Louis carried Carmen in his arms after carefully taking her from Michael. Laying eyes on her cute appearance lifted his spirits, and both Sophia and Michael's presence further enraptured him. As soon as he began talking to Michael and Sophia, the people who were flattering Anne just moments ago turned to focus on Carmen.

"Mr. Fletcher, fancy seeing you here! So I figure this little girl is your daughter?"

"Oh gosh, she seems like an outstanding girl gifted with both good looks and talent! I bet she will rise to prominence in the future!"

Standing at the side, Anne was feeling vexed for being left out by the crowd. She was glaring at Carmen, who was in Louis' arms. As far as she could remember, she was the only one who ever received such exclusive treatment from him, so she didn't understand why Louis would dote on Carmen so much when the latter wasn't even related to him.

Clenching her fists while feelings of jealousy burned within her, Anne scrunched up the paper that was pressed under her palm, ruining the calligraphy work that Louis had just completed. Luckily, everybody's attention was on Carmen, so she left hastily before anyone noticed her.

Anne left the scene in absolute frustration, but she bumped into a blonde man unexpectedly right after taking a few steps. The tall man had his back to her, and the sight of him gave her butterflies in her stomach while her heart fluttered. Since Louis seemed to like this man, she figured she should approach him. Seeing that he was admiring a piece that was titled 'Wondrous Land', she cleared her throat while walking up to him. "Although seemingly flawless, this piece in fact contains a few imperfections."

Upon hearing Anne's words, the man turned around to regard her curiously. His blue eyes were as mysterious as the bright stars above, while his sharp features looked exquisite. Although Anne had emigrated to a foreign country a long time ago, she only ever dated people who were of the same ethnicity as her, as she didn't like foreigners. From her point of view, foreigners looked too rugged for her taste, but the man in front of her seemed quite delicate. Although he had the appearance of a foreigner, he had an air of scholarly elegance that was unique to men in Cethos, which was mesmerizing.

The man asked, "Miss, how did you know about that?"

Stepping forward, Anne stood beside him. "Because my Grandpa was the one who created this piece!"

Sure enough, the young man seemed impressed. "So you are Master Osborne's granddaughter! No wonder I find you otherworldly!"

His words satisfied her vanity, so she chuckled bashfully. "You should drop the formalities. My name is Anne Osborne. You may address me as Anne!"

The young man replied to her, "Miss Anne, I am a member of the Edwards Family. It's a pleasure to meet you."

After some pleasing conversation, Anne explained while pointing at a certain area on the painting, "I touched the painting by accident when my Grandpa just completed it, which nearly ruined it for good, but he salvaged it using his extraordinary skills. However, you can see a few traces left behind from the incident. Take a look at this spot, and here, and there..."

On the other hand, Louis put Carmen down on the table, absolutely enchanted by her. Carmen didn't seem flustered by the attention at all as she called out to Louis repeatedly, which seemed to please him. Picking up his brush, he offered, "Come, I'll present you with a piece of my calligraphic work!"

The crowd was astonished by his decision, as Carmen was extremely fortunate to have been presented with a masterpiece by Louis. Carmen quickly replied, "Thank you, Mr. Louis! I love you!"

Upon seeing Carmen making a heart gesture to him, Louis was absolutely overjoyed. He had his assistant prepare a new piece of paper while he dipped his brush into the ink, planning on what to write for Carmen.

However, just when he was about to start writing, he remembered that Anne was with him just moments ago, so he scanned his surroundings in search of her. That was when he saw her chatting amicably with a handsome young man, and the two of them were exchanging numbers. Then, he did a double take, for that young man was the one he noticed earlier. Now that looked at him again, he figured he still seemed to like the latter, so it would be great if Anne would marry him.

Such thoughts delighted him, so he began writing, moving his hand deftly. After a few vigorous strokes, he completed a calligraphic work that he presented to Carmen. On the piece of paper, the words read, 'To Carmen Sophia Fletcher, study hard, and always work to improve yourself.' The audience gave a round of applause when he stamped his name on it, as his name would ensure that the piece was even more valuable.

After that, Louis put his brush away while telling Carmen, "Carmen, you'll have to work hard to be exemplary people like your parents!"

Accepting the gift from Louis cheerfully, Carmen replied, "Okay, Mr. Louis! Thank you! I love you!"

Louis was so very enchanted by her cuteness that he wanted her to demonstrate her calligraphic skills as well. Standing on a chair, Carmen didn't seem afraid at all while writing. Although young, and her skills weren't even remotely close to reaching his standards, she was still able to write neatly, which surprised Louis greatly.

He figured that Carmen was already more talented than a lot of her peers despite still having a long way to go. Having learned quite a lot of words already, Carmen could write down some of the simpler ones, and her neat handwriting was a show of her latent talents.

"Who taught you to write?" Louis couldn't help but ask.

After writing down another word, she said, "My Uncle Linus taught me."

Michael quickly stepped in to make an introduction. "He is my wife's twin brother. He came along with my father-in-law too. They are both enthusiasts for calligraphic work, as well as fans of yours. They have a large collection of your works, and they have been wanting to meet you in person." For all Michael cared, he saw that as an opening to introduce Cooper and Linus to Louis. In his mind, he figured that Cooper would be grateful toward him, so he would probably give his son-in-law less of an attitude.

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Louis would also like to meet Linus, so he said, "Alright, do invite me over for a visit someday. Your daughter sure is talented!"

Upon hearing him say so, it dawned on Michael that Sophia's family seemed to be talented in calligraphy. Cooper's works were so impressive that it could easily be used as an example while teaching calligraphy. Although Linus grew up in a foreign environment, he liked calligraphy and was somewhat good at it.

On the other hand, Sophia's calligraphy was also stunning. Despite having lost her memory, she quickly picked up the skills once again. Carmen wasn't half bad at it, seeing that she could already hold a brush. Michael knew Annabel's writing was more of a scrawl, so he figured Sophia and her family must've inherited their skills from Cooper.

Upon hearing that Louis wanted to meet Cooper and Linus, Sophia offered immediately, "I'll go get them!" Parting the crowd, she set off to find Linus and Cooper. After going around the venue, she didn't find Cooper, but she did see Linus standing beside Anne, who he seemed to be engaged in a pleasant conversation with.

Is she trying to court my brother? How dare she! How dare she do that right after she tried courting my nephew! Sophia was absolutely against their matrimony, so she hurried toward them in an attempt to stop them. However, someone else seemed to be unsettled by the idea as well, and had taken it upon themselves to step in before Sophia could.

In the meantime, Linus was listening intently to Anne's explanation of the piece of work. True to her identity as Louis' granddaughter, she was accomplished in her own right when it came to art. However, a mocking voice interrupted them when Linus was still engrossed in her explanation.

"Anne, who might you be talking to?"

Linus turned to see Sandra, whom he hadn't met for some time, standing behind him. While she was in a gorgeous outfit, her attitude was somewhat aggressive.

Anne seemed to have known Sandra as she waved her hand at the latter with much zest. "Sandra, come over here!" She proceeded with introducing Sandra to Linus. "I came to know Sandra recently. She is the heir to the Mitchell Family, who are one of the most prominent

families in Bayside City. She is also the swimming champion in the Universal Games, so you must've heard of her."

Upon mentioning Sandra, Anne seemed to feel delighted as if showing off a precious object of hers. It was as if knowing someone as prestigious as Sandra was the most natural thing for someone of her status, but Linus seemed to feel a little awkward about it.

Meanwhile, she went on to introduce him to Sandra. "This is a friend I just met. His name is Sophus Edwards." She figured that Sandra might know him, as anyone who received an invitation for the exhibition had to be someone prestigious, so that had to be the case with Sophus too.

Sophus Edwards? Relentless, Sandra jeered after pointing out Linus's true identity. "Who the hell is Sophus Edwards? Are you sure you're not being deceived, Anne? He should be one of the Mitchells!"

Anne was stunned for a second when she noticed Sandra's tone of voice, suggesting as if Sophus was someone whom she should shun.

Mockingly, Sandra stared at Linus while heartbrokenly telling Anne, "Anne, someone of your status shouldn't be associating yourself with a scoundrel like him! He is but an illegitimate child of the Mitchells! His father is a liar who tried to swindle us, only to be chased away before he succeeded."

Crying out in surprise, Anne was dumbfounded by the revelation. Seeing that Linus, or as he called himself, Sophus, didn't refute Sandra's claims, her face fell, and she distanced herself from him unconsciously. Besides, since she didn't know about the distribution of power in Bayside City, and all she knew was that the Mitchells were one of the most prestigious families, as well as that Sandra was a world champion, she decided to believe in Sandra. Thus, her opinion of Linus shifted drastically.

Going on, Sandra said, "They wanted to be officially recognized as a part of the family, but my father didn't agree with it, so now, their family is nothing but an unsightly bunch struggling for survival. I don't know how they managed to sneak in, but I bet they're trying to get their hands on rich people like you, so you should stay away from them."

On the other hand, Linus cleared his throat awkwardly, but said nothing otherwise. His aim for visiting the exhibition was merely to appreciate the works of art, while Anne was a great

tour guide as she seemed to know a lot about the works. Truth be told, he had no plans whatsoever to even date her.

Seeing that Linus wasn't refuting Sandra, all the while wearing an awkward expression, Anne believed in Sandra's words of slander, and was soon overcome with feelings of disgust. So he was aiming for my status after all! He was trying to marry into riches by charming me! Pfft! What a disgusting man!

In the meantime, Linus didn't react when both Sandra and Anne regarded him with disgust, but Sophia was furious upon seeing him being bullied, so she hurried over to them.

"Brother!"

Brother? Anne stared at the both of them in disbelief, as they looked nothing like each other. "He's your brother? Are you sure he isn't your boyfriend?" Utterly disgusted, Anne thought to herself, This b*tch sure is cheating on a lot of people! This is so sickening!

Meanwhile, Sophia was about to drag Linus away as she already got a grasp on the situation, but as soon as she laid eyes on the look of disgust on Anne's face, she twirled her eyes before deliberately announcing, "Your grandfather would like me to introduce Linus to him! You're done for! Your grandfather likes my brother a lot, so he's going to marry you to him!"

Anne was dumbfounded by what Sophia said. What? My grandfather is trying to marry me to this scoundrel from a degenerate family? How could he possibly match my noble status?

Thinking that Linus was indulging in his own fantasies, Sandra scoffed at him. "You should pluck your head out of the clouds! Miss Anne Osborne is of noble birth, so you can't possibly match her status!"

Immediately, Sophia bit back. "At least my brother is a direct descendant of the Mitchells, so he is of course on her level!"

The status of a direct descendant was a sore spot of Sandra's, as she only managed to secure her position as heir after putting in tremendous effort, so she would never allow anyone to uproot her position as the lady of the house. Pointing a finger at Sophia and Linus, she yelled, "That is all wishful thinking! You guys will never be acknowledged as a Mitchell!"

Glaring at Sandra, Sophia almost got into a fight with her when a hand gently dragged her away. Linus gave her a pat on the shoulder before saying, "Come on, let's go meet Master Osborne."

Sophia shot Sandra a glare, deciding to ignore her for the time being. Although she wanted Sandra dead, that day wasn't the day. Anxiety kicked in when Anne saw that Sophia was indeed going to introduce Linus to Louis. "Shoot, don't tell me my grandfather is going to marry me to that degenerate man!"

While checking on Anne, Sandra probed, "Miss Anne, how did you come to know them?"

Anne told her everything. Back then, Louis met up with Michael in passing when he returned to Cethos to prepare for his private exhibition. She also told Sandra of Louis' plans to introduce her to Michael, as well as when she had a blind date with Stanley.

After listening to her story, Sandra cried out in surprise. "Those two degenerate families are targeting you as they want to elevate their status through marital ties! You shouldn't give them the chance!"

Then, Sandra spoke to Anne of Cooper and Linus' birth. She spoke of Cooper having ran away from home twenty years ago, only to return penniless, whereas both Linus and Sophia were his b*stard children, depicting the Fletchers as a degenerate family at the same time. Those were all being instilled to Anne as substantial information.

She even reminded her, "You need to tell your grandfather about this! With your status, you should be marrying either a prince or a billionaire, so you shouldn't be settling for these cheapskates!"

Although the Osbornes weren't the wealthiest, they were famous, so Sandra came up with her own agenda upon gaining knowledge of who they were. It sure seemed that both the Fletchers and Mitchells already knew Louis Osborne and Anne Osborne's true identity, which was why they were trying to make the first move! Well, they can keep dreaming!

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Anne figured that they weren't on her level. While she made her way toward her grandfather due to Sandra's provocation, she bore in mind that she would never marry Linus. Despite his good looks, the knowledge of him being a lowly b*stard son made her sick.

However, she recalled something that made her stop in her tracks before she got to Louis. In front of her, Louis was enamored of Linus, seeing the latter as a cut above the rest. "Come, consider this a competition!" Louis invited Linus to join him.

On the other hand, Linus was also honored to be given the chance to compete against someone of Louis' magnitude, so he replied politely, "If that's the case, please bear with me." Dipping his brush in ink, he wrote down a few words on the paper in a flurry of movement that said: 'The supreme good is like water, which benefits all of creation without trying to compete with it.'

Upon laying eyes on what he wrote, Louis was both shocked and astonished as he clapped his hands. "This is incredible!" He never expected a foreigner like Linus to be able to produce such exquisite calligraphic work. Besides, Linus' brush work was a direct portrayal of how extraordinary he was. Not only was he a noble person, but his calligraphic work also looked gorgeous.

The crowd gave Linus a round of applause too, as it was rare for a foreigner to be able to speak so fluidly in their language, say less of being able to produce such exquisite calligraphic work. Meanwhile, Louis was nodding his head while checking out the work Linus produced. This is great! I must try to get him to marry Anne!

From afar, Anne was watching begrudgingly as Sophia and her family were having a nice time with Louis. Those bunch of degenerates are just crazy for riches! They are being delusional for thinking that they might be able to enjoy the riches of the Osbornes just by getting on my grandfather's good side!

"Look! That scumbag is so eagerly showing off his skills to your grandfather! You should hurry up and tell your grandfather the truth!" Sandra was relentless in her provocation, as she was afraid that the senile fool might end up accepting Linus as one of the Osbornes. Xena was Louis' only daughter, who gave birth to Anne, who was also an only daughter.

Marrying Anne meant that one would be able to get their hands on all of Louis' riches, as well as all that he represented, so Sandra wanted to prevent Linus from marrying Anne at all costs. She already sent out a few men in an attempt to seduce Anne as she didn't want to hand her over to Linus and Sophia.

Meanwhile, Louis was scanning his surroundings in search of Anne. He needed Anne in order to secure Linus' hand, as he liked the man a lot. He managed to uncover a lot of information regarding Linus. Not only was he the uncle of Michael Fletcher, who happened to be Louis' idol, but from the looks of him, Louis determined he was also a noble and compassionate man. If Anne was too late to the game, someone else might snatch him away for good. Besides, judging from the delighted expression on both of their faces when they conversed, Louis surmised that there had to be something going on between them.

However, Anne was hiding from him in the meantime, which confused Sandra. Although Sandra tried to urge Anne to expose Linus, Anne refused. "Now isn't the time as I need to hide. I will have my mother and aunt do it instead when they come over later. My grandfather is on cloud nine now, so he might prohibit me from reclaiming my surname in the future if I disobey him in public."

Sandra figured she was right, as Louis was a calligrapher after all. Even if he got to dine with the president, and the president hung one of his paintings in his office, Louis still didn't hold much power, nor was he rich. The nobility of the Osbornes lay with their original family name, as Osborne was the name that they took on later in time. If Anne was able to reclaim her original surname, she would be able to rise to the top of the ranks of society, but she had to have Louis' consent to be able to do so.

In the meantime, Louis was absolutely enamored for both Sophia and Linus, which far exceeded his love for Michael, whereas Carmen was on another level of her own. What an outstanding pigeon pair! He liked all of them, so much so that he had the urge to forge marital ties with their family right on the spot.

Meanwhile, Sophia was searching for Cooper while Linus and Louis were talking about one of Louis' artwork. However, Cooper was nowhere to be found. Last seen admiring Louis' works alongside Linus, she didn't know where he went after that. Having been a fan of Louis' for years, the exhibition was a prime occasion to introduce Cooper to Louis. Knowing that Cooper wouldn't get a second chance like that, Sophia excused herself to go on a search for him.

Although the venue wasn't huge by any measure, Cooper was nowhere in sight, so Sophia figured he might've gone to the lounge next door. However, Sophia was intercepted by Anne while on her way to the lounge area after exiting the venue.

Anne was practically shrieking in her face. "You and your brother should stop being delusional! I will never marry your brother! Scum like him doesn't deserve me, so tell him to give up on his tricks! Even if my grandfather likes him, marriage won't be possible if he

doesn't have my parents' consent! We're free to love anybody we choose to, so don't assume that you guys have a chance by getting on my grandfather's good side! I have a long line of suitors, and your brother is but a lowly scum that I won't even spare a glance at!"

Upon noticing Anne's confrontational and grim attitude, Sophia was startled, as she remembered it was Anne who initiated contact with Linus. Following that, she examined Anne from head to toe, taking in the eye-catching style of her clothing. It consisted of a tailor-made flax dress that gave off an artistic air, while her waist-length hair and fair complexion made her look almost otherworldly.

Glancing at Sandra, who was watching expectantly from the sidelines, Sophia quickly figured out that Sandra must've badmouthed Linus in front of Anne. It had its own merits, as it would prevent Anne from getting any closer to Linus. Therefore, Sophia put on her brightest smile while agreeing to everything that Anne said. "Yes, that is true. My brother is not only a scum, but a bisexual too. He likes men, so you're way out of his league. Yes, you have a long line of suitors, so he wouldn't have a chance even if he wants to date you, as he'll never get his turn. My family is neither rich nor famous, and my husband's career is dwindling, so we wouldn't even dream of getting our hands onto your family's riches."

However, Anne didn't seem to appreciate Sophia's words, as she snorted before lashing out. "Did you think I have no idea what you have in mind? Don't even think about it, you sinner! I am of noble birth, so your brother can't even remotely compare to me!" Mention of her nobility caused her to stand proud while exuding an air of superiority. "I'll tell you that I am—"

As if being reminded of something, Anne hurriedly covered her mouth, but she maintained her prideful smile. "I can't tell you now, but you'll know when the time comes." Having said that, she turned to leave, feeling all ostentatious while calling out to Sandra. "Sandra, let's go! I'll introduce you to my cousin!"

That was the moment Sandra was waiting for, so she went after Anne delightfully. Left behind in confusion, Sophia thought, That nutjob! Even Sean would look better than her if he wore a wig! What the heck is she so proud of? Linus wouldn't even spare her a glance!

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Sophia trusted that her brother had better sense than to court someone as childish as Anne, so she figured she should prioritize finding Cooper. There were a few lounge rooms beside the exhibition venue, but she wasn't sure if Cooper was in any of them. She gave him a call, but he wasn't picking up, so she wondered where he went.

Just when she tucked her phone away while muttering to herself, she felt someone, or rather, something, hit her on her calf. Turning around, she saw an angry Norwegian Forest cat behind her, which leaped up to hit her on her calf again once she turned around, damaging her silk dress in the process.

"Hey, it's you, General!" Sophia immediately recognized the cat as Anna's. Leaping toward Sophia, the cat gave her another slap on her calf, which Sophia surmised as being a revenge of sorts. After spending a single night at her house, General was slapped multiple times on the face by Chrysanthemum, so much so that its face was swollen. At seven years of age, General never suffered such a humiliation, so the cat was determined to seek revenge.

"You petty cat! Stand right there! I'm gonna rub you so hard that all your fur falls off!" Sophia began chasing after the cat, all the while wondering if the cat's presence meant that Anna was around.

Truth be told, Sophia liked Anna quite a lot despite the latter's snobbishness. Not only could Sophia not bring herself to hate her, but on the contrary, she respected Anna. They spoke about their respective work when they met last night, during which Anna gave her a few pointers regarding her own business. It served as an eye-opener to Sophia, so she figured she might as well meet up with her.

On the other hand, walking behind Anne, Sandra was on the way to meet Anne's family, which was something she had been dreaming of. She was elated when Anne opened the door that led to one of the lounges to reveal the few people sitting on the sofa in it, with the first of them being Lucy Edwards.

Lucy was surprised by their arrival. She dropped by the exhibition venue to attend a business negotiation with the Yard twins, but she wasn't expecting Sandra. To her credit, Sandra isn't half bad. She is a sweet-talker, as well as a social butterfly, whereas her identity as a former world champion allowed her to get in touch with a few noble ladies. I just didn't

expect her to get in touch with Anne so quickly... It seems like the relationship between the Osbornes and the Yards is now an open secret.

Meanwhile, sitting beside Lucy were the Yard twins, who were savoring the tea in their royal sweetheart cups while sitting on the sofa in identical poses. Upon seeing the twins, Anne smiled before saying amicably, "Hey, Callum, Cade, why do you never invite me for anything fun?"

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In the meantime, Sophia gave General a good rub after catching it, only to realize that the cat had shed a lot of fur. It prompted her to stick some of the fur back on the cat in shock before bringing General with her while searching for Anna. Since I saw the Yard twins earlier, Anna must be around, too.

She was about to give Anna a call to ask where she was, but she changed her mind as she figured it would be more polite of her to bring the cat to Anna directly since they were at the same place. Much like a hotel, the lounge area had a lot of rooms, so she had a hard time finding anybody. While she was searching for the Yard twins, she ended up bumping into Cooper after turning a corner, who was standing behind a wall in stillness. "Dad, what are you doing?"

Raising his hand, Cooper held a stern gaze as he shushed Sophia. She quickly shut her mouth while inching closer to him before asking in a hushed voice, "Dad, what are you looking at?"

Judging from how Cooper was sticking close to the wall, he seemed to either be hiding from someone or setting up an ambush in order to scare someone that would soon pass by. However, he only repeated himself in a low voice. "Don't talk."

Therefore, Sophia obeyed, waiting behind him in silence, as she was curious about his next action. However, General kept on wiggling in her arms while meowing loudly, which soon got them the attention of someone else.

"General? General, is that you? Where are you?" A woman's voice came from afar, which Cooper reacted by coming out from hiding to walk toward the woman, all the while feigning coincidence.

Suddenly, Sophia knew what was going on. It seemed that Cooper was waiting for a woman to pass by in order to create a romantic encounter. Wow, Dad is finally getting to his senses! I will soon have a mother! Sophia was eager to meet her future stepmother, but was also worried that she might not want to date Cooper because he had a dependant. However, General was meowing so loudly that she had to come out from hiding.

When she saw Cooper's target, she startled. Anna Yard?! She remained still when Anna approached them, who seemed to be gladdened by General's presence, as a smile bloomed on her face. "General, here you are! Please don't run away on your own anymore!"

Hold on, she isn't Anna. Sophia soon realized. Although they had a similar appearance, Sophia immediately noticed the difference between Anna and the woman. As Anna was a stoic woman who would give up her own son in exchange for power and influence, she had a more domineering presence and a piercing gaze.

Meanwhile, the woman before Sophia only bore semblance to Anna in terms of appearance, but had a much more gentle temperament, wearing a meek expression on her face. She donned a dress and had a string of pearls around her neck, which added a sense of antiquity and elegance to her.

Looking at the woman, there was a hint of disappointment in Cooper's eyes. When he first saw her, he mistook her as someone else, only to realize she only bore semblance to the woman whom he was searching for when he took a closer look. Alas, she wasn't Anna.

Cooper took the cat from Sophia before returning it to the woman, which she received with both hands while nodding at him appreciatively. "Thank you, sir. This cat of mine really likes to run around. General, you ought not to do that anymore."

On the other hand, Cooper was utterly crestfallen, and his blue eyes no longer harbored any emotion. "It's a piece of cake, so don't sweat it." With that, he turned to leave, whereas Sophia followed suit after glancing at the woman.

Since General belonged to Anna, Sophia wondered if the fact that the woman claimed to own it, as well as her almost identical appearance to Anna, meant that she was Anna's sister. Rumors had it that only twins could become heir to the Yard Family, so the fact that Anna got to take over the family meant that she was a twin, but it was curious that nobody ever heard she had one. Even Michael said Anna was the only direct descendant that the Yards had, who managed to make it to the top by fighting tooth and nail to fend off the members of the branch family.

Back in the private room, Sandra mingled well with the Yard twins, owing to her clever tongue; she even got their phone number and added them on Messenger. They were chatting merrily when Cade suddenly spoke. "We'll have to go now that our mother has arrived."

Both Lucy and Sandra were ready to move when Anna's presence was announced. Lucy wanted to meet in person the legendary woman, whereas Sandra was thinking of forging a connection with Anna, but she backed out as she knew it was impolite of her to do so, seeing that the timing wasn't right.

Elatedly, Anne and the twins left for the room next door. As soon as they opened the door, they saw two identical women sitting in there, with one of them holding a Norwegian Forest cat. Anne launched herself toward both women happily. "Aunt, Mom, you're finally here!"