My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 841

"Looks like my ambition back then was indeed rather lofty!" Back then, Sophia was impoverished to the point that Michael had to pay for her living expenses. Meanwhile, Michael was already an Academy Award winner for Best Actor, globally renowned. Where did I get the courage to have Michael Fletcher be my kept man?

The two of them then reached Michael's car, planning to take his car to Bayside University. His car looks much better than mine with the entire body painted noble black. It looks just like a king in the dark night, speeding like the wind anytime. I love this color! It's much more stunning than my sports car!

The Michel Family had a subsidiary in the automotive industry, manufacturing high-tech supreme cars. Thus, Cooper gifted her a fleet of cars from time to time for her to use or play bumper cars with. However, she was always rendered speechless by his tastes, for the cars he gifted her were either pink, rose, green, or red in color. She didn't even dare drive those cars out! Instead, she furtively sent one to the auction house to have it appraised in exchange for cash, saving the money for Carmen's kindergarten fee and debut fund.

Hence, she was very much in love with this car of his. Eager to try it out, she asked, "Can I drive your car?"

"Sure, no problem!" Michael agreed. Going over to the trunk, he took out a pair of flats and handed them to her. "You loved driving my cars, so I have a pair of shoes for you in the trunk of every single car of mine."

Taking the shoes, Sophia looked down at her high heels, a feeling of warmth suffusing her. "Thank you." After changing into the shoes, she then climbed into the car. Gripping the steering wheel, she said to Michael, who was in the passenger seat, "It's not as advanced as mine." Despite being a tad bewildering in terms of color, her small car was great in all other aspects. As soon as she slipped into the car, it'd adjust the air-conditioning according to the temperature outside to ensure the best and most comfortable environment. Besides, it was also voice-activated. Fastening his seat belt, Michael countered, "I'm a kept man, so my car should naturally be inferior to yours."

Chuckling, Sophia then started the car and drove off. Meanwhile, the bodyguards followed in the car behind, maintaining an appropriate distance.

It was a half-hour drive from Crimson House, which was where they had their meal, to Bayside University. Midway, Sophia abruptly accelerated and sped past the pedestrian crossing at the final second the green light flashed, giving Michael such a scare that he gripped his seat belt tightly. As the sports car shot out like an arrow, Sophia glanced at the rear-view mirror. Upon seeing that the bodyguards' car was forced to stop at the traffic light to wait out the red light, she beamed with joy. "I'm not a fan of them following me around every day," she explained.

Michael nodded in agreement. I'm not a fan of them following you around every day either. They cock-block me!

The car sped toward Bayside University. When they arrived, Sophia parked the car in the parking lot. Just when she'd parked, she saw that the bodyguards' car had caught up to them and was looking for a parking space. "Quick, let's go! Hurry! Let's scoot!" she said hurriedly.

Locking the car, Michael grabbed her hand, and they sprinted into Bayside University under the cover of darkness. They laughed as they ran, and it was as though they'd returned to the past, many, many years ago. Wearing flats, Sophia kept up with him closely. At his lead, they quickly lost themselves within the university after numerous twists and turns, hiding where the bodyguards couldn't find them. After all, he was very much familiar with this place.

Only when she was out of breath did Sophia stop, panting while clutching her stomach. Resting a hand on a small tree, she laughed uproariously. "Did you see how ridiculous they looked earlier, Michael? Haha..."

Sweat dotted Michael's forehead from his sprint. I love this feeling! It's as though we've gone back in time.

It was now time for nightly self-study at Bayside University, so the buildings were brightly lit. Nonetheless, there were still plenty of students strolling and jogging within the campus, rendering the atmosphere vivacious with a youthful vigor filling the air. "So, this is what a university is like..." She studied everything before her, her eyes teeming with envy.

Michael then bought two ice creams at the store with her card. As they enjoyed the ice creams and gazed at the students jogging and frolicking on the lush, green field, he replied, "Yup, this is Bayside University, the first university in Cethos and your alma mater." Pointing at the adjacent stadium, he commented, "You were the champion sportswoman in your class back then, leading your class in clinching first place in the basketball championship during sports day."

As Sophia ate her ice cream, a trace of disappointment manifested in her eyes. It's such a pity that I've forgotten everything. If only I could remember it all!

After they'd finished their ice-creams, Michael walked with her on campus. Under the illumination of the streetlights, their shadows intertwined on the ground, sticking to each other like glue to the point that one couldn't be discerned from the other. He surreptitiously took her hand as they strolled within the campus, introducing her to everything once again. Then, he brought her to her favorite cafeteria to shop and spend all the money in the meal card.

Sophia, who'd been lacking in appetite, was eager to try the fare on this day, ordering two grilled wings and a Coke. Taking a huge bite of the chicken wing, she mumbled indistinctively as she ate, "The food here is indeed delicious and cheap!" In no time, she finished the chicken wings and Coke.

Michael could no longer stomach anything after eating so much, but still, he looked on as she ate. "Eat more if they're to your liking," he told her. "Don't worry about gaining weight, what with you being so thin now."

There were few people in the cafeteria since it was now night, and it wasn't yet suppertime, while dinnertime had just passed. Thus, no one had recognized them so far as they sat eating in a corner. On this night, Sophia's appetite soared, and she ate a lot. When she'd finished the chicken wings, she even ate a bowl of noodles and a bowl of red date porridge.

There was a little over one grand in the meal card; it was the sum of her hard work, so it'd be a waste not to spend it. However, the food in the cafeteria was cheap, so no matter how much one ate, one wouldn't be able to finish that much money in a single meal. Thus, Michael then suggested, "Why don't we go over to the canteen next door? The food there is more expensive, so you'll be able to finish a grand in a single meal." Holding the card, Sophia hesitated for a moment. In the end, she declined, saying, "Never mind. I don't feel like doing so. I want to keep the card... Let's come and eat together again next time." Staring at her card, she muttered, "A little over a grand... A meal will only cost two to three hundred at most, so we can eat another 20 to 30 times!" This was already a blatant hint that Michael still had 20 to 30 times the opportunity to accompany her here to eat.

Michael dipped his head and gazed at her indulgently. "Sure, no problem. If you wish to eat here, my goddess, your humble servant is always ready to accompany you," he murmured.

Beaming, Sophia then placed the card into her bag. As soon as she'd put the card away and her hand was empty, Michael reached out and grasped her petite and fair hand. She didn't reciprocate, yet she also didn't object, merely allowing him to hold her hand.

When I held her hand in the past, I could still feel some fleshiness, but now, it's all skin and bones. "Let's go. I'll bring you around some more, then we'll go home."

They then strolled around the campus with fingers interlocked. Soon, Michael brought her to the alumni corridor. "All famous alumni of Bayside University are exhibited here." They started with the establishment of the institution whereby he explained Bayside University's history before introducing the people she might like one by one—Ivan, Harry, and himself, for instance. Besides, Linus, Faye, and Sandra were also here.

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"That's Stan!" Upon taking two steps forward, Sophia glimpsed Stanley's picture hanging on the wall, looking all formidable with his trademark crew cut while holding Judge's leash in his hand, Judge appearing very impressive as well. With the illumination provided, she could clearly see that his introduction included the founder of Plum Technology, a renowned esports player, and a multi-time singles champion of Esports World Championship. Beside him were Sean and Sarah, both listed as the founders of Plum Technology. Regretfully, she wasn't there. She pouted. "I'm not there..." Even Faye, Sandra, Irene, and Lucy were there, but not her.

"Back then, the pictures of you four were hung up concurrently, but the accident then befell you, and Plum Technology increased in scale, so they changed things up," Michael explained. "It's fine. You'll also be there in a few days."

As they both walked along the alumni corridor, Sophia asked him some strange questions, such as, "Are Stan and Sean dating?" and "Are they planning to go abroad to get married soon?"

Michael's brows furrowed. Never had I expected her intuition to be so spot on. He gave an exasperated sigh. "It's a long story. It all began when Sean was young..." When Sean was young, he often visited Fletcher Residence to play with Stanley. Since he had long, black hair and wore a pink tutu, everyone thought that he was Stanley's little girlfriend. Even Michael thought that he was a girl and treated him exceptionally well, but unexpectedly, he turned out to be a boy.

They chatted while walking, the two of them blending into the dark sky in Bayside City after walking through the alumni corridor... At long last, the bodyguards found Sophia. Upon seeing that their fingers were interlocked, they were driven by the urge to commit murder, but since Sophia was there, they couldn't really do so. Thus, they maintained a dark expression throughout the drive home, feeling that their lady had been defiled.

When they arrived back at The Imperial, Michael saw Sophia to the door, only to be greeted by the sight of the 2.5m cat blocking the door. Cooper was treating the cat like a guard dog, tying it to the door to keep him out. Sophia could only get in by stepping over it, and Michael followed behind her. He was on cloud nine today, so the enormous orange cat seemed much more pleasing to him, and he couldn't help stroking it.

Upon entering the house, the lights in the living room were turned on. The three members of the Mitchell Family were sitting in the living room, watching television. Again, Cooper wore a long face, dourness and displeasure written all over his face.

The moment they stepped foot into the house, Carmen flew over like a butterfly. "Mommy! Daddy!"

Hugging her, Sophia couldn't help giving her a kiss. How adorable! She's grown a lot. It's just been half a day since I last saw her, but she seems to have become cuter by 100 times! When she was done with her cutie pie, she then walked over to Cooper and said, "I'm home, Dad." "Hmm..." There was a sense of resentment within Cooper, but he couldn't vent at his precious daughter, so he shot daggers at Michael. He knew that his daughter would have her own life now that she was all grown up and would date sooner or later. Mark phoned him today, saying that he'd seen the live broadcast, thus inquiring about their progress since they seemed to be getting on very well. Cooper then proposed that Michael marry into the Mitchell Family, to which Mark instantly agreed, all gung ho to have him married away immediately. However, at the sight of them both coming into the house with fingers intertwined, he was still very much irritated.

"Mr. Cooper, I've brought Sophia home safely, so I'll be taking my leave." After hugging Carmen and giving her some instructions, Michael then went home. His steps were airy when he left, and he felt as though he was walking on air. I've already held her hand, so I'll surely get to kiss her on the cheek next time! Today, Great-Grandpa even called to ask whether I was willing to marry into the Mitchell Family. Of course, I'm willing! I'm extremely willing. It'll be great to be a live-in son-in-law!

Sophia scrolled through the news, only to see that she and Michael had become the talk of town. Fans were all offering their blessings to the actor who was past his prime yet made a comeback now for finding his love for the second time. Carmen's identity had also been brought up since she'd become popular thanks to a video. The fans indeed had a keen eye, for they managed to surmise the identity of Carmen's father from her cute countenance. Some reckoned that she was Taylor's daughter, while some guessed that she was Scarlett's daughter. In short, a myriad of speculations abound. Michael didn't reply, knowing that it'd then all die down after they'd had their fill of gossip.

When they were in bed at night, Carmen burrowed into Sophia's embrace and whined pitifully, "Mommy, I miss Judgey. It won't be coming back after moving, will it?" Judge had been with her since young, so she truly missed it now that it had moved away.

"Judgey has its own home, but we can go over to its home to visit in the future," Sophia comforted.

Carmen nestled into her arms, yet not falling asleep at once. Sophia, on the other hand, was still scrolling through her cell phone when Michael sent a few videos to her. Playing one, she then saw herself. Michael's voice sounded in the video though he didn't come into view. "12 weeks pregnant. Mommy is healthy, and pregnancy is progressing normally. She even gained weight." That was Sophia a little over three years ago. She was lying on the sofa with a nightgown, watching television when Michael walked in with his cell phone, filming her.

Judge was sprawled beside her, and she stuck her tongue out at the camera while stroking the dog's head.

"11 weeks pregnant. Baby and mommy are both healthy. Pregnancy is progressing well."

"10 weeks pregnant. Mommy is healthy and even has a bit of morning sickness."

And so it went on.

When she was pregnant, he filmed her every week to keep a journal. As she watched her stomach grow increasingly bigger in the video, her heart filled with happiness and warmth. Alas, I've forgotten everything! I've forgotten how I gave birth to Carmen and how satisfied and blissful I was when she was in my stomach. While I've forgotten the past, I can still cherish the present! Putting down her cell phone, she pecked Carmen on the cheek before turning off the lights and going to sleep.

The next day, Faye's studio issued a statement, accepting Scarlett's apology. The day after, Calvin, the lawyer Michael retained, went over to negotiate the compensation with Faye. Faye's lawyer made a list of numerous damages, to which the compensation totaled up to over 50 million. Faye revealed to the public that she merely makes one to two billion a year when she made it to the top five highest-paid actresses in Cethos, and it has only been a few days since she was bitten by the dog. As she's injured on her thigh, it's true that she can't film any action flicks, but she can still film sedate movies. Furthermore, her shampoo, perfume, and jewelry advertisements are all the more unaffected. A flesh wound only takes a month at most to heal, so how could her damages amount to 50 million? However, her lawyer swore that this was her unvarnished income, claiming that she made 50 million a month.

Calvin brought the list back to Sophia. After looking at it, Sophia signed the agreement, and the compensation was swiftly wired over.

When Faye received the exorbitant compensation of 50 million, she counted the money happily, never once expecting that before she'd finished counting it, the subsequent events had developed beyond her imagination.

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After Faye had gotten the money, she boasted to Sandra with no holds barred. Seizing the opportunity, Sandra suggested, "Demand that she apologize to you in person!"

Engrossed in her victory, Faye agreed at once. It so happened that her birthday was just around the corner, so she was hosting a small birthday party and had invited quite a number of people. Many from the Mitchell and Edwards Family would be in attendance, as would business partners in abundance; all attendees were either rich or aristocratic. Besides, Sandra had even specially invited many of the Mitchell Family's elders.

I want Scarlett to apologize to me publically during my birthday party! I want the Mitchell Family to see how Cooper Mitchell's daughter lowers herself and apologizes to someone else! I just want to utterly humiliate her and have them realize who should be the rightful lady of the Mitchell Family! Faye then contacted Sophia, and Sophia agreed right away.

It was going to be Faye's birthday soon, so her fiancé, Vincent Mitchell, definitely had to prepare her a gift. Vincent was Alex's biological nephew, a direct descendant of the Mitchell Family. Alex's son was still young, so he groomed Vincent as though he was his biological son and entrusted him with important tasks. Faye had long since had her eye on him, finally becoming his fiancée after playing all sorts of tricks, and unsurprisingly, they were going to get married within the year.

When they were married, she'd then retreat behind the scenes and become a producer. At the same time, she'd have stocks from both the Edwards and Mitchell families. It'd be much more enjoyable than filming. Thus, she was now at the pinnacle of her life, being the center of attention in the Edwards Family and soon-to-be young mistress of the Mitchell Family in addition to procuring 50 million in compensation. In short, it was smooth sailing for her.

With her impending birthday, Vincent once indirectly asked her what birthday gift she wanted, but she naturally feigned hesitance since she couldn't really speak her mind. In reality, however, she was already hankering after a car. It was a burgundy ladies' sports car manufactured by the global industrial giant, Michel Group. In fact, it was a customized

sports car commissioned by the mysterious director of Michel Group, Fass Michel, for his daughter, Lucile Michel.

This was the world's first sports car to be specially customized for ladies with a gorgeous burgundy coat and car seats as well as windows designed especially for ladies. Furthermore, it was brand new. It'd be auctioned by Bayside Golden Age Auction House with a starting price of 30 million, the sports car going to the highest bidder. Not only was the car superb, but the former owner of the car was also extraordinary, so it'd be doubly prestigious to drive it. However, she couldn't just admit it bluntly, so she merely said that she fancied a piece of jewelry that would be auctioned at the same time to avoid appearing crass and invited him to attend the auction with her.

The appearance of that burgundy sports car at an auction house in Bayside City in Cethos attracted widespread attention from celebrities. Fass was indeed a mysterious figure whose origins were unknown to everyone, and this was even the first time they were hearing that he had a daughter. It was rumored that he pampered his daughter greatly and had tailored many exclusive sports cars for her. Only one of those was auctioned this time, but still, it caused a stir. Many people were even dubious, but the auctioneer this time was Linus Michel himself, so it seemed credible. Many celebrities came from abroad just for a look at how advanced the car belonging to the eldest young lady of Michel Group was. It was even said that it exceeded the current standard for at least ten years.

Therefore, an invitation to the auction was truly difficult to procure. Nonetheless, Faye managed to finagle an invitation and attended with Vincent.

On the day of the auction, a huge crowd thronged the venue. Dressed in a stunning burgundy dress with her arm hooked around Vincent who was young and handsome, Faye attracted much attention. Just after she'd sat down, she caught sight of many acquaintances, such as Nicole, Bethany, and of course, Sandra. Sandra wore a white sheath dress, appearing elegant and stately as she made her appearance with her arm hooked around her fiancé, Ian.

Very quickly, Ethan who seldom made public appearances showed up with his wife, Sarah.

Finally, the actor past his prime who was the current talk of the town, Taylor, made his appearance amidst a torrent of exclamations. After his dog, Judge, had bitten Faye, he was once again thrust into the limelight while riding on the coattails of her fame and was recently at the height of popularity.

Michael had deliberately brought Judge along. Judge was wearing a muzzle, but it was richly bedecked in gold and silver, looking as dazzling as ever with an imposing bearing. It'd just bitten Faye a while ago, yet he'd brought it out now, and to the same event in which Faye was in attendance to boot. Hence, the media swarmed him for an interview as though they'd discovered something huge.

After Michael, Sophia appeared with her hand hooked around Cooper. She was dressed extremely plainly today in a dress and a pair of leather shoes. As someone who was involved in pet luxury goods, she needed to bring a pet, so she had Corrado on a leash. Naturally, Corrado was bespangled in accessories, simultaneously showcasing her products.

When the auction was about to begin, the guests from all walks of life sought out their seats and sat down. Everything to be auctioned today was women's favorites such as jewelry, accessories, and also that sports car exclusively for ladies.

Sophia sat beside Cooper, and on her other side was naturally Michael. Faye stole several glances at her, noticing that she and Sarah who was sitting behind her were gesturing at the sports car's promotional brochure. So, she's also here for the sports car! But well, with me, Faye Edwards, here today, that sports car can only be mine! I want to use the compensation she paid me to buy the sports car she fancies!

However, never had she imagined that Sophia and Sarah's conversation was actually thus: "Why are you selling off such a good car for no good reason? Are you broke from compensating Faye that you've got to sell your car to recoup your losses?"

"Huh? Nah, that's not it. I've got too many cars that this garage in Bayside City has run out of space. So, why not exchange it for some pocket money? I've still got several more cars like this. Come over to my house and have your pick one day. I'll give you one as a gift!"

"How affluent!"

Today, it wasn't just the ladies who had their eyes on the car, but also many of the male guests. Michel Group had subsidiaries in the military industry and also the hi-tech industry, so this car boasted a combination of both industries' advantages. The military material ensured that it was bulletproof, while the hi-tech components made it fully intelligent; it was a perfect combination of the two. Besides, it was specially designed by Fass for his daughter, so the quality and significance were extraordinary.

There wasn't much suspense during the first two rounds of auction. At long last, the final round of auction began. The supercar rose automatically, slowly ascending before manifesting in the crowd's line of sight. As the lights hit it, it appeared magnificently stunning as though an aristocratic lady in a burgundy dress, its perfect body reflecting a breathtaking countenance. As the auctioneer introduced the main item in the auction today, his voice steeped in enthusiasm, exclamations rang out from the guests below.

"I think this car matches you well." At a single glance, Vincent could tell that the color of Faye's dress today truly matched the supercar.

Covering her mouth with a hand, Faye giggled in embarrassment. "Indeed."

Vincent understood her meaning without her pointing it out. Her birthday is right around the corner, so it's time for me to prepare her an insightful gift. She didn't fancy any of the jewelry earlier, so why don't I just buy her this sports car? Thus, he emphatically called out a bid as soon as the auction began. "40 million!"

This price instantly shocked everyone, including Ian who wanted to buy the car for his fiancée. After mulling it over, he decided to give up. It's obvious that Vincent is determined to win the bid, so I won't fight him for it.

It was extraordinarily intimidating when Young Master Vincent spoke out, so many people were discouraged. However, someone called out a higher bid in no time. "41 million!" Everyone's gaze swung over, only to be greeted by the sight of Taylor with his bidder card raised.

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The starting price of this luxury car belonging to Lucile was 30 million with an increment of a million for every bid. Vincent hiked up the price to 40 million in a single go, while Taylor merely increased the price by a million. The implication of this was rather obvious.

Vincent cast a glance in Michael's direction. He'd been long since aware of Michael's identity as Mark's biological grandson and a descendant of the Fletcher Family. However,

he'd never cared a whit about him. After all, Mark's influence was limited to the military, and Michael wasn't in the military, so he wasn't worth a damn.

Seemingly sensing his gaze on him, Michael looked in his direction. His eyes were gleaming as though he was resolute to win, and beside him, Scarlett seemed to be harboring some kind of expectation as well.

Just after he'd called out his bid, another person raised his bidder card. "42 million." The person who bid was the heir of a particular European conglomerate, a handsome man with blond hair and blue eyes.

"43 million."

"44 million."

There were successive bids, all by people who boasted an impressive background. Besides, all of them were men. While this car might be contrary to men's tastes, all who bid on it were men. At a single glance, one could tell that some were bidding for their female companions, such as Vincent and Michael, while some had their sights on the car's former owner.

Rumor had it that Fass' daughter, Lucile, was breathtakingly beautiful and was only in her early 20s, yet to be married. Regretfully, she kept an extremely low profile and wore a mask during all her appearances. If one could make the acquaintance of this superbly fair, wealthy, and stunning lady and start a relationship with her, one's entire family would be spared several years of struggle. Thus, many European celebrities and royalty flew over from Europe and America just to attend this auction. This auction was destined to be a bloodbath, for it wasn't only a car, but also a chance to make the acquaintance of the eldest young lady of the Michel Family!

Vincent had known that it'd be a financial battle from the beginning itself, so he again whipped out his bidder card. "50 million!"

The crowd went into an uproar. It's just been a mere few rounds, yet the bid has gone up by more than ten million!

However, there were still people who continued bidding despite it being 50 million. "51 million." Michael raised his bidder card.

"53 million!" It was a European royal prince who called out the bid.

"55 million!" This time, it was a prince from a country rich with oil in the Middle East.

Harry hurriedly joined in the fun. "57 million." He definitely wasn't buying it since he'd save the middlemen fee if he got it from Sophia directly. Thus, he was merely playing the game now and driving the price up.

Emanating a cold air, Vincent swept a disdainful gaze over the crowd. With his utmost confidence as the Young Master of the Mitchell Family, he squeezed the slightly anxious Faye's petite hand before loudly proclaiming, "60 million!"

Faye was over the moon. After all, who wouldn't be moved in her shoes? Is there a woman who won't be envious of me to have a fiancé who's throwing away money recklessly for my sake? She glanced at Sandra out of the corner of her eye, only to see that her eyes were blazing with jealousy. However, Ian knew that Vincent was determined to win the bid for the car today, so he'd long since given up bidding. Since Cooper Mitchell is here today, the opportunity to stand out naturally has to be given to Mitchell from Alex's line. Thus, she was set on showing off before Cooper. While she was inwardly ecstatic, she still needed to keep up appearances. "Why don't we just call it a day, Vincent?"

Gazing at her, Vincent flashed her a gentle smile. "It's fine. It's just a drop in the bucket." This amount was actually quite taxing to him, but he was dead set on getting the car.

When the price had gone up to 60 million, a group of bidders gave up, but still, some persevered. Of those, some were merely hiking up the price, while others were truly wealthy. "61 million." This was from Michael who was driving up the price.

"62 million." This was Sean who was likewise driving up the price.

"65 million." This was the truly wealthy heir to the European conglomerate.

"68 million." Similarly, this was the truly wealthy oil prince from the Middle East.

With his own woman and another member of the Mitchell Family looking on, not to mention Michael whom he looked down upon bidding on it, Vincent definitely wouldn't give up, so he sneered and called out, "80 million!"

It's an increase of more than ten million at a single go! Everyone sucked in a breath. The Mitchell Family is truly rich! And this time, Vincent Mitchell is hell-bent on winning the bid!

"81 million." Michael promptly countered without even having to consider it. Every time Vincent called out his bid, he always followed with an increase of one million. It was an even figure of one million, no more no less as though his goal was to provoke him.

The heir to the European conglomerate stopped bidding, but the oil prince with deep pockets instantly called out, "85 million!"

In the next moment, Harry shouted, "89 million!"

Vincent had finally realized the cruelty of bidding, but he had no retreat since it was him who'd authoritatively started bidding, and his fiancée was even looking on beside him. Hence, after Harry, he declared, "90 million!"

All at once, Michael spoke up and said, "91 million." Again, it was one million more, no more no less.

This time, no one made a bid. The oil prince frowned as he scrutinized the laptop in his assistant's hand beside him. Harry had also gone silent, appearing very much defeated, even pulling Sarah who was beside him for a consoling hug as aggrieve manifested on his face.

Only two people present continued to persist—Michael and Vincent. Now that the price had more than doubled, many were pulling out. Gritting his teeth, Vincent slammed his hands on the table and sprang to his feet. "I offer 100 million!"

The auction hall plunged into pin-drop silence. This time, everyone's gaze swung to Michael, only to see that his brows were deeply creased as though he was hesitating. Several times, he made to raise his bidder card, and his mouth was even twitching in preparation of calling out '101 million,' but he seemed to be holding back the words that were right on the tip of his tongue, dithering a handful of times. It was apparent that he was exceedingly hesitant; he wanted to buy it, but at the thought of the price, he swallowed his words again.

In the end, the auctioneer hammered the nail in the coffin with the gavel. "Congratulations to Mr. Vincent Mitchell for winning the bid for this one and only exclusively-customized luxury car in the world at 100 million!"

Thunderous applause broke out in the hall. Meanwhile, Faye was so touched that she threw herself into Vincent's arms and sobbed quietly. Despite his heart twisting in agony, Vincent forcefully stifled it amidst the applause of numerous celebrities, leaving smug satisfaction on his face. Then, he even instinctively glanced at those few people who'd countered his bid.

Michael had a distressed expression, seemingly talking to Cooper about something, and it looked very much like he was apologizing or mollifying him. In short, he looked despondent, making it plain as day that Cooper was enraged. Therefore, this had Vincent feeling all the more conceited as though he'd done something exceptional.

When the curtains fell on the auction, everyone slowly left. Reporters were waiting outside the door for the celebrities to make an appearance so that they could interview them. The news that Vincent had bought a luxury car at 100 million for his fiancée, Faye, had quickly spread throughout the entertainment industry, making headlines. Thus, the reporters caught wind of it and rushed over for some hot interviews.

Harry was the first person to exit. When he accepted the interview, he expressed his deep regret, saying, "I was actually planning to buy my wife a new car, but it looks like this car isn't meant for her."

Then, it was Michael who was interviewed next. Forcing a smile, he lamented, "I initially wanted to buy this car just to put a smile on Miss Scarlett Mitchell's face, but regretfully..."

Finally, Vincent was interviewed. As he held on to Faye, who was so touched that she was crying, he declared smugly, "Faye likes it, so I got it for her birthday present."

Faye dashed off her tears of gratitude, but still, she was keeping a triumphant eye on others around her out of her peripheral vision, such as Scarlett whom she hated to the bone. She's bound to be extremely frustrated now!

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Sophia too saw the complacent look in Faye's eyes, but she drove off without making any comments. Arriving at Crimson House, she booked two private rooms, which was soon populated by a crowd. Among them were Michael, Linus, Harry and his partner, as well as Sean and Stanley. Even the filthy rich prince from the Middle East who fought with Vincent, as well as that heir to an European conglomerate were present.

Upon entering the room, Sophia announced, "I appreciate your support, so tonight's meal is on me."

If there were no worthy opponents present for the occasion, it would be hard to prompt Vincent into action, which would make it hard to raise the price of the car. A thirty million car being sold at the price of a hundred million was quite the deal in itself, more so when it could benefit from Faye's popularity.

Faye's birthday soon arrived. As the Mitchell Family's future daughter-in-law, the Mitchells honored her by inviting a lot of celebrities, as well as members of the Edwards Family. The birthday party was held in the riverside mansion that Vincent bought for Faye. The four-storeyed mansion spanned across more than 700 square meters, whereas its interior was not only lavishly decorated, but equipped with an elevator. Vincent personally drove the burgundy car to the venue before parking it in the garden of the mansion, which quickly garnered a lot of attention and praise.

,兴奋地投入了他的怀中。

While the crowd watched on in awe, Vincent got out of the car to hand the keys to Faye as if it were a solemn affair. His actions seemed to touch Faye so much that she threw herself into his embrace in elation, with the subsequent round of applause seemingly having fulfilled Faye's vanity.

However, other than the sports car, the other highlight of the day was Scarlett's apology. Sandra brought along with her a few of the elders from the Mitchell Family, as she wanted them to witness Scarlett's humiliating public apology. They spent a long time waiting before Scarlett finally arrived. Upon glancing at Cooper's daughter, whom they had yet to meet till then, the elders determined that she was but another celebrity with a plastic face, her appearance a splitting image with many among the crowd.

On the other hand, Cooper came alongside Sophia, only to be irked upon seeing people walking around with faces similar to Sophia's. In fact, Sophia's appearance was somehow being hailed as the latest beauty standard, so a lot of people had been tweaking their faces to look like her, which was something that Cooper was unhappy about.

Aside from Cooper, Michael, Sean, and Stanley came along as well. To add to their already grandiose line-up, they brought with them the 2.5m cat, Barney. Judge came along with Stanley as well, but it cowered at the entrance upon noticing the enormous cat.

All eyes on them, the crowd fell silent for a moment upon their entry. Although it was outrageous of them to have brought a lion to someone else's birthday party, to be fair, the lion was docile, sitting down upon finding itself a spot where it could rest.

That was the elders' third encounter with Cooper after his return. The first time was when Woody Mitchell passed away, the second being during Woody's funeral, while the third being this birthday party. Instead of returning to the Mitchells, Cooper had been going solo ever since his return without heeding the elders' summons. His actions made the elders felt their statuses challenged, so they always gave Cooper the cold shoulder whenever they met him.

However, Cooper also ignored their presence. For all he cared, the elders were only superior to him in age, as some of them were still among the servants when he took over the Mitchell Family.

On the other hand, Sophia kept a low profile by dressing up plainly today, as she didn't intend to steal the limelight. Aside from applying some of Carmen's baby powder, she wasn't wearing any makeup at all. Due to its ritualistic significance, she only ever put on makeup when she had to meet someone important, but not when she was merely gracing someone inconsequential with her presence.

As soon as she arrived at the venue, she went to Faye and apologized, "Miss Faye Edwards, I hereby offer you my deepest apologies regarding the hurt I caused you during Pourl's product launching ceremony. Please accept my apology." She gave Faye a sincere bow after saying so.

Chuckling complacently, Faye scanned the crowd before she responded, "It's alright. You don't need to take it so seriously. Let's consider this settled now that you already paid the fines. Vincent and I will soon be married, so we will become family soon." While she spoke, Faye deliberately combed her hair using her slender fingers to show off the huge diamond ring she wore, whereas a similar one resided on Vincent's ring finger.

Seemingly unaffected, Sophia said, "Oh, so I see you are registered."

Faye was so proud of herself, her face was flushed from all the emotions. "Yeah, we did. Because it's my birthday as well as an auspicious day, we got registered in the morning, while the ceremony will be held next month." In fact, news regarding their marriage was the trending topic on the Internet ever since a week ago, which helped to promote her upcoming movie.

Sandra chimed in, "Miss Faye will be a member of the Mitchells from now on, while Vincent is the youngest member among the board of directors with a firm hold on the shares of Mitchell Group, so I bet they have a bright future ahead of them! With how compatible they are, this sure is a match made in heaven!" Getting ahead of herself, Sandra was starting to show off unabashedly. "The Edwards Group provided Faye with a huge amount of dowry, which indicates how important her wedding is. And we Mitchells also offered a huge sum as a betrothal gift, seeing the significance of the wedding for both families. My wedding with Ian will be happening next year, which would deepen the bond between the Mitchells and Edwards as we're now in-laws. This is surely the strong banding together to form an even stronger union!"

However, Sandra wasn't referring to Cooper and Scarlett's family. Although the Edwards and Mitchells would be coming into union, Cooper had nothing to gain from it. With nothing under his name, the fact that Cooper had Mark's assistance meant nothing, more so when Mark would kick the bucket any moment.

Even by arranging for Scarlett to marry Michael, it was naive of Cooper to think that they were secure. Not so long ago, Michael wasn't even regarded as a member of the Fletcher Family. They only inserted him into the family tree after the poor sod lost his wife. Cooper was therefore being regarded as a senile fool who misjudged the situation in Bayside City after being a castout for more than twenty years.

Despite catching on to the fact that Sandra was trying to show off, Sophia seemed unaffected when she replied nonchalantly, "Yeah, that sounds great." Without further words, she turned to reunite with her father and the lion.

Exchanging a smile, Faye and Sandra assumed that Sophia's nonchalance was but a facade to the dejection she felt deep down, as a public apology should be extremely humiliating. However, Faye wasn't about to let Sophia off the hook, so she dragged the latter with her to check on her new car. "Look, Scarlett, this is my new car that Vincent bought for me! It was used by Lucile Michel! I bet you have no idea who she is! She is one of the top socialites in the world!

Her father is Fass Michel, the president of Michel Group, whose net worth could easily rival that of a country! Vincent and I had an audience with her when we went to sign the contract for purchasing the car! We became friends very quickly, and she even invited us to visit her manor! It was a shame that she left for Africa for an errand, or else you might even get to meet her today!"