My Dreamy Old Husband Chapter 1016

It was getting dark as the amusement park grew more sinister. There were no lights in the area, and it was surrounded by land that was about to be developed. Dark shadows cast by the five-or-six storey building hovered over them, and inexplicable shadows swayed together with the night breeze.

Although there were more than ten of them combined, it still gave them goosebumps all over.

A sudden gust of cold wind was accompanied by strange sounds; no one knew if it was the sound of wind coming through the hall or a sound made from a strange creature, but the atmosphere turned spooky. Stanley shivered as he rubbed the goosebumps on his arm and said, "We should probably leave, Sophia. Sarah is such a scaredy cat, and I don't think she will come here."

Stanley's voice slowly trailed off, seeming as though he was afraid of disturbing the monsters in the park.

All of a sudden, the crowd fell into a deep silence and no longer dared to speak.

This place really made them uncomfortable; it felt as though a thousand pairs of eyes were staring at them in the dark.

This place was known to be haunted as there had been several murder cases around the vicinity. Due to the expropriation of the vast area, it had been empty for years. Since it was within uncharted territory, many murderers chose this area to dump their victims' bodies...

According to rumors, there were people who were keen on developing this place into a full-fledged haunted house.

Sophia used the flashlight on her cell phone and shone it along the park as goosebumps prickled all over her body.

However, the faint light from her cell phone was not enough to pierce through the thick black night. The wind blew against the weeds while it swayed against the groups' thighs. As they trudged through, it felt very weird and bizarre.

Sophia's heart pounded as she touched her bag. Before she left the house earlier, Sophia had secretly brought a gun with her. A sense of security filled her heart when she touched the hard object.

"This place is not that big; let's search carefully and leave after one round."

Afraid of leaving each other, they moved as one group and walked deeper into the amusement park.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, a blood-curdling scream filled with immense fear and pain came from the depths of the amusement park.

Upon this, bats scurried toward the sky in fright as the group of people were also shocked by the scream.

"That's Sarah's voice!"

Happy to have found Sarah, Stanley exclaimed happily as the group quickly ran toward the sound.

It was an abandoned bumper car site. After years of being abandoned, the place was dark and cold with strange graffiti plastered all over its walls. There was a strange smell in the air, and the roof was broken with a glimpse of moonlight shining down. It made the place even more eerie and sinister.

The scream earlier had amplified the dreadful atmosphere in the air, and the group rushed in as their footsteps shook the dust off the structural beams, causing a layer of dust to cover the scary, terrifying scene.

The second blood-curdling scream could be heard again, which sounded absolutely terrifying and helpless. Seemingly not too far away from the group, it resonated within the empty building and masked the place with a layer of creepiness; while everyone's nerves seemed to have torn apart, notification bells could be heard ringing continuously from someone's cell phone.

The empty house fell silent once again after the screaming ended, but that scream continued to echo in their ears as their bodies tensed up in response. They held their breaths as they hurriedly ran inside.

Deep in the house, the sound of something being pushed down echoed throughout the space; it felt like a drum beating on their hearts. As the group turned a corner, they saw a person standing in the middle of a corridor while the moonlight shone through the broken roof.

A petite figure with long, black hair stood there motionlessly.

"Sarah?"

Sean called out first.

That person moved in response to his voice; as her stiffened body turned around like a puppet, Sarah looked at them in a weird position with her torso twisted and her head cocked to one side.

All of them shone their flashlights on her. As the distance shortened between them, it took everyone a few seconds before they saw the situation clearly.

It was the most bizzare scene they had ever seen in their lives. That person was indeed Sarah, but she was looking at them with wide, lifeless eyes; it was as empty as a puppet's eyes.

She did not speak as she walked toward them in a weird pose while wearing a black dress—wait, that wasn't a black dress. It was a white maternity dress that had been partially soaked in blood.

With her left hand covering her crooked neck, she struggled to hold her neck in place; it seemed as though her neck was about to fall off.

Catching sight of them, Sarah walked lopsidedly toward the group. When her left hand loosened and fell from her neck, a stream of blood gushed out like a fountain.

In mere seconds, their minds completely turned blank. Such a scene only happened in horror movies, and the frightening atmosphere had tensed their nerves into numbness.

"Sarah!"

Sean was the first to rush forward, catching Sarah as she fell helplessly to the ground. Blood was still gushing out from the wound on her neck and she could no longer speak.

Sean reached out to cover her wound in a frenzied manner, but it did nothing to help. Instead, his hands were stained with Sarah's blood. As it continued to gush out like a waterfall, she would be dead in less than a minute.

Sean broke down in tears as he helplessly tried to stop the bleeding.

Meanwhile, Stanley froze on the spot upon seeing this. As he fell onto his knees, there was a dazed and bewildered look on his face.

Sophia was the one who remained calm and responded guickly.

"Quick, resuscitate her! Resuscitate!"

Roger rushed over as he carried Shae in his arms. Placing Sarah on the ground, the duo who had experience dealing with injuries to the throat gave Sarah all the medical help she needed.

A sinking feeling of panic swept over the group. One person went to get the car while another went to turn on the lights; someone even held a gun and stood guard while a fourth person made some phone calls.

Shae was a robotic bodyguard designed by both Cooper and Linus. It had been designed specially for Sophia, and it was programmed to deal with a series of emergencies that Sophia might face. In its storage compartment, there were several tools for stitching up wounds and hemostatic appliances.

Roger put on a pair of sterilized gloves and quickly drew out the necessary tools for resuscitation. Although lukewarm blood splashed all over his face, he had no time to care about anything else; he had to provide first-aid as soon as possible.

Wiping his tears away with his bloody hands, Sean ended up with a face full of blood.

Sophia looked at Sarah's current state and trembled all over; tears flooded her eyes and spilled over her cheeks.

After a round of resuscitation, Sarah's bleeding stopped temporarily. Her situation wasn't optimistic, so they had to carry her out and send her to the nearest hospital.

As Sophia followed behind, she felt limp and weak all of a sudden; it seemed as though her shoes were stepping on cotton instead of the ground. It felt surreal.

Who the hell harmed Sarah? We must get to the bottom of this!

Sophia leaned against Stanley as they walked out, but even Sean felt feeble as he trudged on beside them. Earlier on, Roger and Shea had taken the first trip out as they escorted Sarah to the hospital; the others were waiting for the second trip.

The killer might still be hanging around, so they had to leave as soon as possible.

The dark night felt endlessly long, and the gloomy, rundown building seemed never-ending as they walked past bend after bend. Suddenly, a loud piercing sound rang through the air as Sophia smelled something pungent; she turned back and realized that the whole room was covered with thick, black smoke. Along with the night breeze, it had completely enveloped the group in it.

"Protect the mis..."

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It was already too late by the time Sophia realized that something was amiss. Her body fell limp to the ground with a loud thud as her brain scrambled from the shock of the fall; she saw stars dancing in front of her eyes while her whole body plunged in chaos.

However, she refused to pass out as she struggled to open her eyes. She watched as the others fell to the ground; just like her, they became weak and had no strength to move.

Then, a pair of black sneakers appeared from the mist with silent yet heavy steps.

The owner of those shoes had a very clear target—Sophia!

Struggling to lift her head, Sophia finally saw the man's face. He wore a black gas mask which covered the blond-haired foreign man's features, leaving only a pair of deep set eyes as a cold, ruthless glare of light shone out of his light blue eyes.

He walked toward Sophia with eyes that were void of any human emotions. Just like a cold machine, he blandly stepped over a bunch of people who were unable to fight back.

Sophia tried hard to retrieve her self-defense gun, but she was so weak that she couldn't even lift a finger, let alone fight back.

She could only stare at the man with black sneakers as he walked toward her. Her eyes were filled with indignation and desperation, but she was utterly helpless.

This was a trap.

If I'm not mistaken, the man in front of me should be Blade—the legendary killer that's only second to Quinton, right? Blade never leaves any survivors... Am I going to die here today?

As Blade got closer to Sophia, she had already whipped out her gun when she sensed danger earlier. However, her body turned limp all of a sudden as she lost the strength in her hand; naturally, the gun fell out of her hand.

Blade bent down and picked up the gun. Raising the gun without any hesitation, he aimed it at someone who was lying on the ground.

Sophia closed her eyes in despair...

She never thought that she would die here. I still have so many dreams and revenge that I've yet to fulfill.

She still had people she needed to love and accompany for the rest of her life.

Carmen is not even big enough yet; I want Michael to grow old with me...

Meanwhile, Michael only heard a gunshot when he got out of the car; his hurried steps froze after he had heard the gunshot.

Looking up at the sinister-looking amusement park that was shrouded by the night, Michael's mind went blank and he instantly lost the ability to think.

He had been here before to shoot one of his crime thriller movies—he even played a psychopathic murderer who killed and dumped bodies here.

When he saw the rows of buildings, he no longer had the courage to step forward; it seemed like there was a black dragon curled up somewhere, waiting for him to take a step forward and immediately devour him.

Cooper, who was right behind him, hurriedly ran forward in big strides.

There was a strange smell lingering in the air throughout the amusement park. The strong chemical gas paralyzed peoples' nerves in a very short time.

Cooper held his breath as he put on a mask and walked inside. Michael quickly followed behind.

Meanwhile, the poisonous fog had almost dissipated in the night breeze. There were seven or eight people lying on the building's leaky corridor—all of them were Sophia's men. After sending Sarah away, they wanted to stay behind and investigate the traces of the killer who had harmed Sarah, but they lost contact with the other group all of a sudden.

Just then, there was another gunshot.

Cooper didn't dare to move forward. According to Roger and Shae's report, Sarah's throat had been slashed with a knife—it was Blade's signature killing move. Nicking the artery and trachea with a cut to the throat, that person would die in mere seconds.

If this really is Blade's doing and his target is Sophia... she wouldn't be able to survive. No, it can't be...

Cooper's hand trembled. He had seen all sorts of things in his life; he thought that he would be able to react swiftly, but he didn't dare to step forward at that moment. He was afraid to see his precious daughter lying in front of him as a lifeless corpse with a slash on the throat.

Michael quickly walked in as he glanced at the people who were sprawled across the ground. To his surprise, Sophia wasn't there!

"She's not here! She's not here!" he exclaimed.

She must still be alive if she's not here!

Tears stung his eyes, but after the burst of false delight, a surge of anger and grief coursed through him.

Blade!

In the end, they still fell into Blade's trap!

It was all because Sarah had suddenly received an anonymous call which informed her about Harry murdering her father; that was why she lost control and ran away alone.

Meanwhile, Sophia left the house because of Sarah's incident and fell for the trap.

Everything had been a trap, and they were all careless about it.

Sophia's small and delicate gun was left on the ground. Built as a self-defense tool for women, the gun was not too heavy and looked quite nice.

There were shell casings on the ground. They heard the gunshot earlier, and the bullet had been aimed... at Sean.

Affected by the poisonous fog, Sean was also paralyzed and couldn't move. Lying on his back with blood everywhere on the ground, it stained his light colored shirt. His eyes were shut with few traces of blood seeping out of the corners of his mouth and bullet holes in his chest.

The bullet hit him squarely in the heart, and there was no way he could have survived it.

Whenever Blade strikes, he never misses.

If he didn't kill Sophia, there had to be another reason.

Stanley was lying next to Sean. He watched as Sean dropped to the ground after being shot in the heart by Blade; not only that, he even witnessed Blade taking Sophia away.

Although his whole body was paralyzed, his mind was clear and awake. With his face covered in tears and dust, he whimpered softly as he struggled to reach out to Cooper, but he couldn't even lift a finger.

All of a sudden, Hale ran in from the outside hurriedly. When he saw Sean's body, his expression turned solemn as shock and grief filled his eyes.

Who would've thought that Sean...

However, he collected his emotions and spoke to Michael. "Mr. Winston had a car accident on the way to the hospital. His entire car was crushed by a dump truck which went out of control, and he... I'm afraid he is not going to make it."

Michael's tall, slender body trembled slightly; it was like a big mountain had collapsed.

"I'll head over first."

Michael glanced at the people who were gradually being carried away and left hurriedly.

Stanley was also being lifted up, but his eyes were still fixated on Sean. He watched as Sean's bloody body turned cold as he bled out, the life draining out of him.

Stanley watched as Sean completely disappeared from his life, but he couldn't do anything!

Today, he watched several of the most important people in his life falling down one by one in front of him.

The warm blood that spurted out of Sarah's slit throat burned his skin; Sean being shot dead in front of him; and watching helplessly as Sophia got taken away.

He hated it!

However, there was nothing else he could do apart from shedding some tears; he couldn't even make a single sound.

This poisonous fog did not cause durative damage to people—its focus was mainly instant paralysis. The group would recover once they got an IV drop in the hospital.

Stanley was carried into the car. He knew that once the car door was shut, he would never be able to see Sean again; he knew that this glance was eternal.

The group of friends had run through Bayside University's green grass while they yearned for their future all those years ago, but not a single one was left.

N-Not a single one of them!

Now, he was all alone...

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In the dark corridor, Cooper continued to stare at Sean's corpse.

Sean had always been a promising young man that he liked. He was smart and strong-willed; with a little guidance, he would achieve great things. Cooper had trained him as his future heir—if Sophia was not able to manage the Mitchell Family, Carmen and Sean were his second and third choice.

However, no one had expected...

Cooper gritted his teeth and turned around in silence.

He's planning to wipe out all of my heirs!

Sean, Sophia, and eventually Carmen...

Linus was also his heir, but his identity as Fass had been well protected. In other words, the other party had not discovered it yet.

After taking two steps, someone called him from behind and said, "Come and take a look at this, boss!"

As Cooper turned back and saw what was in front of him, his eyes glistened immediately...

Meanwhile, Michael rushed over to the hospital while Hale relayed what had happened. Harry was on his way to the hospital when he learned that his wife had been harmed; he

was feeling very anxious when a dump truck skidded out of control, tipping all of its contents onto Harry's car and smashing it....

At that moment, he was in the hospital ward right next to Sarah's. Both husband and wife were currently being resuscitated.

Michael forced himself to calm down. "Hale, send someone to The Imperial; get them to pick Hope up and send him to the nearest Fletcher Family house for the time being."

"Gary, go back to the Edwards Residence and protect Carmen well."

In reality, he wanted to send Hope back to the Edwards Residence. Since it was Cooper's old place in Bayside City, it would be hard for the enemy to sneak in, but the distance between The Imperial and the Edwards Residence was too far away. What if something happened along the way?

Meanwhile, the Fletcher Family's house was nearby; it was sufficient enough to protect Hope. Since Nathan had been undergoing military training in the Fletcher Family, he could keep Hope company as well.

He hadn't been thinking through things clearly—the enemy was not only fighting against Cooper himself, but also all the forces under him.

Although Michael and Cooper didn't see eye to eye, they had already become one in everyone else's eyes. Cooper only had one daughter and Michael was his son-in-law, which meant that he was part of Cooper's forces.

Harry and Michael were partners, so they were counted as a mutual community.

Not only that, Michael and Harry were considered a menace to that person; it was only a matter of time before he would have attacked them.

Michael's cell phone rang all of a sudden, and it turned out to be a call from Quinton.

He went straight to the point and said, "The mission I received before was to find Sophia and kill her on the spot; Blade should have received the same task as I did. However, it seems like he has other plans since he took her instead. Wait for his message—he'll definitely send you one anytime soon."

Michael's expression turned grim after he hung up the phone.

Blade definitely had other plans—his sister, Celine.

Suddenly, he thought about one question; if a person's sister and wife fell into the water at the same time, who would they save if they could only rescue one person?

One was his sister while the other was his wife; how could he give either one of them up?

He'd beat the son of a b*tch who pushed his wife and sister into the water!

Shortly after that, Michael arrived at the busy hospital. Even though it was already late at night, the hospital was filled with people as nurses bustled around the wards.

Academy Award winner Harry had an accident; the news spread like wildfire all over Bayside City and shook the city to its core. The best surgeon in the city had also been called in to work overtime.

Since Sarah had lost a lot of blood, it was likely that she and her child would not be able to survive. Meanwhile, Harry's whole body was fractured; his internal organs were severely injured and was still in resuscitation.

Shortly after that, Sean was sent in with a gunshot to his chest. Naturally, no one thought that he'd survive it...

This was a really long night!

Michael sat on a hospital bench; no one was loitering around the hospital as everyone was trying to rescue those people who had just come in.

His men came in and out while the doctor and nurses raced against time to save those four lives.

Four human lives...

Michael's heart had gone numb from all the anxiety; everything fell apart one after the other, giving him no time to prepare at all.

It was cruel, helpless, and devastating!

The men he sent out had sent back an endless stream of news, but none of them was about Sophia.

Some time in the middle of the night, Carmen called.

"Why aren't you and Mommy home yet, Daddy?"

Carmen's sweet voice was laced with sleepiness. She was supposed to be asleep at this time, but she couldn't do so without talking to her parents. She stayed up and waited for Michael's phone call but it never came, so the slightly annoyed Carmen decided to call him herself.

When he heard her voice, Michael's throat tightened as tears spilled out from his eyes. He stayed strong and replied tenderly, "Mommy is still busy with her work. Daddy is with Mommy at the company; perhaps we'll try to make a little sister or brother for you later tonight. Carmen, do you want Mommy to give you a little brother? Would you like a little sister instead?"

Carmen pouted and snapped back impatiently. She said, "You've asked me several times and I've answered it already! I just want an alpaca baby!"

...

After talking to Carmen, Michael hung up the phone. His heart was filled with sweetness, pain, and an endless pit of despair and suffering.

Where are you, Sophia?

•••

After a sleepless night, Cooper forwarded an anonymous message he received the next day. It was all in English, and the person wanted to meet at an abandoned factory at 12.00AM to exchange hostages; he even attached a video of Sophia being tied up.

In the video, Sophia was only tied up and not injured. She was even energetic enough to kick over the mineral water beside her.

Cooper and Michael both sighed in relief, but right now, they had to deal with the most important question at hand.

Was it possible to exchange hostages—a sister for a wife?

"No! I will never hand over my wife like this!" Justin shouted as he slammed the table emotionally!

Having lost his daughter, Cooper was completely frustrated as he tethered on the brink of erupting into a storm.

"Does that mean my daughter will not be saved?!"

Justin's expression hardened. For the sake of his wife and child, he dared to face Cooper head-on even though he usually respected the latter.

Even if they really handed Celine over, how could they guarantee that the other party would spare Sophia's life?

The two of them slammed the table and argued loudly. They almost fought with each other, and even Linus couldn't seem to calm them down.

On the other hand, Michael had been silent and didn't involve himself in their argument. He simply looked out the window and saw Carmen swimming in the pool; she was carefree and happy, while Celine clapped her hands innocently by the shore.

They look so happy; they deserve to be in such bliss forever...

However, Sophia must come back!

Michael's heart tightened as he made a difficult decision!

That night, a car stopped near the abandoned factory. As the car door opened, Cooper dragged a person with him.

It seemed to be a woman who was crying as she walked, and she looked incredibly scared and sad. Her mouth was taped shut, her hands were tied to her back, and she had messy hair with a bulging stomach, clearly indicating that she was already pregnant.

When they arrived at the location, Cooper took out his phone as he received a message that read, 'Why is it you? Where are Justin and Michael?'

Blade hadn't appeared yet, but he was definitely around there and had seen them.

Cooper replied to the message coldly. 'They didn't agree to exchange hostages so I had them locked up. Where is my daughter? If I can't see my daughter, I will kill Celine right in front of you.'

Without waiting for the other party's reaction, he stabbed a knife into Celine's leg as she stifled a groan; blood started pouring out and soaked her dirty, white dress. With that, Celine fell to the ground on her knees painfully...

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The other party quickly replied, 'Put her down and you will be able to see your daughter.'

Cooper read the string of English messages and his ocean-blue eyes flashed with rage.

He had guessed that the enemy never intended to let Sophia live.

He put down the phone calmly while the knife in his hand was still stained with blood.

Cooper pointed the knife at the abandoned factory and shouted coldly, "I will give you one minute, Blade! I want to see my daughter now, or else I'll kill this woman! I mean every word I say!"

Celine's soft whimpers and Cooper's voice echoed in the empty factory, each one sounding colder than the other; it felt like a gust of cold wind whistling and scraping people's faces on a snowy mountain.

Unfortunately, the enemy did not respond; it seemed like he was waiting to watch something.

Cooper's cold eyes glanced around. It was quiet and empty; there was no Sophia and no Blade, but he knew that his daughter was somewhere in a corner and Blade was already here.

Celine cried helplessly in pain, looking like a baby with her face covered in sweat and tears. Her thigh, which had been stabbed by Cooper, was still bleeding as it soaked through her pants.

15 seconds later, Blade and Sophia still hadn't shown up.

Cooper struck without warning and plunged his blade into Celine's bulging belly, the entire blade sinking into her flesh.

Celine grunted a painful grunt as her stomach was instantly soaked red. Cooper loosened his bloodied grip on the weapon, the hilt of the sharp knife coming out of her bulging belly. It was followed by Celine's rapid breathing and painful spasms.

She screamed in pain as her throat barely made a sound; her mouth was blocked with tape, and only a faint, raspy sound escaped.

If Cooper continued to stab her like this, her unborn child would definitely not survive.

Cooper acted as though he couldn't see Celine's pained expression while he ruthlessly drew out the knife from her stomach; the blood from her abdomen spurted out like a bloody flower all over Cooper's hand.

However, Cooper had no sympathy for her pain. He was a father who had gone over the edge and just wanted his own daughter.

If he had to do it for the sake of Sophia, his daughter, he would exchange the world for her life.

Moreover, Celine had nothing to do with him!

Cooper lifted the knife and aimed it at Celine's stomach for a second stab.

Judging by the angle and the force of the knife, it meant that he didn't plan on keeping Celine alive.

He just wanted his own daughter!

If Blade planned to trick him, then he would kill Celine right there and then!

The second stab landed on Celine's stomach again, and a burst of blood gushed out immediately. At that moment, Cooper looked like a murderous maniac; his eyes and face were stained with bright red blood.

Celine curled up in pain like a shrimp. Her hands were tied with some rope that wrapped around her neck; when she struggled, the rope at her neck would tighten.

A streak of blood seeped out—Celine had no idea whether it was the child's or her own.

When Cooper lifted his knife for the third time, the sound of footsteps finally came from behind him.

Cooper quickly grabbed Celine by the neck and pushed her in front of him as he cautiously stared at the man who came out of a corner.

Blade wore a black shirt with a pair of black sneakers. His light blue eyes were less majestic but more sullen compared to Cooper's.

Cooper noticed that the pair of eyes above his mask were filled with rage and murder; it seemed like a husband had witnessed his wife being tortured and abused.

As Blade walked over quietly, he carried a petite figure who was also tied up on his shoulders.

He placed the person in front of Cooper and revealed her face—it was Sophia.

She seemed to be asleep; her cheeks were rosy and her breaths were regular.

Cooper was still not convinced as he choked Celine's neck and threatened, "I want to see my daughter alive! If anything happens to my daughter, I will kill her!"

Meanwhile, Celine was still bleeding; her face had gone pale as her eyes started to roll back. Her fragile neck was defenseless against Cooper's hands.

Blade took out a spray bottle from his bag and sprayed it on Sophia's face. Seconds later, her eyes suddenly opened as she woke up and looked around in a daze before finally remembering what happened before.

Blade had killed Sean and abducted her! He even wanted to exchange her for Celine!

By the time she recollected her thoughts, she saw Celine being choked by Cooper.

Celine was still breathing but her face was dangerously pale—even her lips had turned white. Her whole body was covered in blood; not only were her stomach and thighs bloodied, there was even blood trickling down her pants as it soaked through her white sandals.

The knife that Cooper was holding onto dripped with blood as his other hand was wrapped around Celine's neck.

Obviously, the person who had hurt Celine was none other than Cooper.

In that instant, Sophia was completely stunned; it was as if she did not recognize Cooper.

"Dad? Why..."

Her voice was strained as she looked at Cooper incredulously.

Cooper had actually traded Celine in exchange for her!

Sophia went silent as she stared at Celine's bloodied stomach, unable to say anything.

Cooper was heartless to the whole world; he was only kind to his daughter. For her sake, he'd go out of his way to hurt others.

Even if that meant hurting Celine, he would not hesitate to do so.

That's Michael's sister, though...

How could he be so heartless? Was his daughter a human being while the other person's sister wasn't?

Nonetheless, he was Sophia's father!

She finally understood Sarah's feeling of cleaning after her father's mess when he owed money from gambling. At the end of the day, he was her father!

Sophia lay on the ground and sobbed, not daring to look at Celine's fearful and desperate expression.

It's all my fault!

When Cooper saw that his daughter was fine, his hardened face finally softened. However, he still held Celine's neck with his hand and spoke to Blade. "Put down my daughter, and I'll give you Celine."

Blade saw the puddle of blood under Celine and knew that this ruthless man in front of him would never hesitate.

He silently picked Sophia up and threw her somewhere in front of Cooper.

Remembering how Sean had died and Celine's appearance, she had gone weak from all the crying. However, when Blade loosened his grip on her, the strong desire to live gave her strength as she rolled as hard as she could toward Cooper's feet.

When Cooper saw his daughter, he was secretly relieved as he threw Celine over and quickly rushed forward to pick Sophia up. Meanwhile, Blade dashed forward to hold Celine as they both hurriedly backed away from each other.

Cooper carried Sophia and retreated. At this moment, Sophia no longer had the strength to question Cooper.

Between Celine and her, Cooper would definitely choose his daughter—even if it meant exchanging Celine's life for another.

Having picked Celine up, Blade was ready to take her away. All of a sudden, he felt something cold on his waist while he was getting ready to untie the ropes on her body; it was as if something had viciously pierced through his waist...

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Blade, who was known as the world's top killer, naturally knew what it was and pulled out the small knife from his waist with trembling hands. He stared at the object with an unreadable expression; it was a pocket-sized knife, but it was also a murderous weapon that pierced through his waist instantly.

Blade stifled a painful grunt as he looked up at 'Celine' incredulously and saw her staring at him coldly.

"Katrina..."

He gave a startled cry and his voice trailed off instantly.

No, that's not Katrina. This person has an Adam's apple!

It's a man!

Blade's shock lasted only for a brief moment as he retreated in a flash. After all, he was an assassin; as soon as he realized that he was in danger, he retreated immediately.

The person with an Adam's Apple pulled out a gun from his stomach and fired several shots at Blade, but as the world's top killer, he was agile enough to avoid the gunshots and like a shadow despite being injured. Soon enough, he scurried into the darkness of the night.

Covered in blood, 'Celine' quickly chased after him. Ripping off the fake stomach and wig along the way, he finally revealed his true appearance.

After using almost half of Sophia's toning cream and painting his face as pale as he could, the disguise looked quite realistic. The waterproof eyeliner's effect was simply unbelievable—it made Michael look simply enchanting and feminine, and his disguise was flawless.

The effects of Sophia's eye shadow were even more amazing; after he casually smeared some on his face, Michael looked less manly and more womanly.

Together with his superb acting skills, he looked almost identical to Celine. Blade, who had not seen her for years, naturally fell for it.

As Michael chased after him, he made a phone call and said, "He got away."

Blade disappeared into the night. Michael was very uncomfortable wearing a skirt and women's sandals; it slowed him down and Blade managed to escape.

However, Michael already had numerous traps set in place.

In order to prevent Michael from playing tricks on him, Blade had changed the meeting place multiple times. Finally, they agreed on this location so that Michael and Cooper's men could not set up their traps in time.

However, Blade never imagined that Michael would have a backup plan.

Meanwhile, Cooper sped toward the hospital with Sophia in the car as Michael took a shortcut and followed them.

Inside the vehicle, Sophia was throwing a tantrum as she cried and screamed.

Cooper had replaced her with Celine; how was she going to face Michael without any sense of guilt in the future?!

She wouldn't listen to anything Cooper had to say and even scratched him.

But when they arrived at the hospital, Sophia saw Michael standing at the entrance; he was waiting for her in a bloody skirt and a pair of slippers.

When she got out of the car and saw Michael, she was stunned for a moment and suddenly realized what had happened earlier.

Instantly, Sophia burst into tears as she leaped into Michael's arms and hugged him tightly.

Michael caught her in time and coaxed her. He said, "Alright, it's okay now. It's okay, good girl..."

Cooper's face darkened when he got down from the car. Sophia had argued with him without even listening to his explanations; she blamed him for sending Celine to her death and even scratched his face.

Although he had grown older and looks were no longer that important to him, he was scratched by his beloved daughter—the pain was not from his face, but from an old father's fragile heart!

Sophia cried like a child as she touched Michael everywhere and sobbed. "You're covered in blood," she said.

Michael quickly assured her and replied, "This is fake blood from the filming crew!"

Sophia continued to sob. "I saw a big hole in your stomach, though!"

"That's fake as well—it's a prop from the filming crew too. Look at this..." he answered.

Hale held the fake stomach that Michael had used earlier; when he put it on his body, it looked very surreal. Since it was night time, it had been effectively disguised. The filming crew typically used this as a prop for their movies.

Sophia was dumbfounded; she had probably experienced too many things in a day and her brain couldn't seem to digest all of it.

She stared at Michael's pale face and asked, "Your face is so pale; there's no color at all. Are you injured?"

Michael quickly explained, "I used your toning cream."

Sophia finally accepted that Michael was alright; Cooper hadn't exchanged Celine for her, and she came back safe and sound. She wiped away her tears and turned toward Cooper before murmuring, "I'm sorry, Dad. I shouldn't have scratched you."

Cooper could never stay mad at her. To him, Sophia was the world's most adorable daughter. When he saw his daughter fussing over her husband and not the old man, Cooper felt slightly upset. However, his dissatisfaction dissipated once he saw her cute little nose and eyes; only the relief and joy of her being alive remained.

"It's okay, I'm not mad at all."

He reassured Sophia as he patted her shoulder.

Earlier on, he was really afraid that Blade would harm Sophia; his hands were trembling while he held the knife.

If he had taken one wrong step, he'd probably be looking at a dead corpse right now.

Fortunately, Sophia came back alive—it was like a dream!

This time, his negligence had almost caused an incalculable damage to himself.

Looking at Michael who was still wearing the dress, he suddenly felt gratuitous.

Michael was the one who had come up with the idea of disguising as Celine. Cooper initially thought that it was impossible, but after putting on a skirt and some makeup, Michael looked exactly like his sister.

The two siblings had always looked alike, but looking identical wasn't enough; the most significant part was their gaze and temperament. The disguise was simply divine as Michael successfully turned himself into Celine. If they were to stand opposite to each other, it was completely impossible to tell the two siblings apart without Michael's Adam's apple—even Sophia and Blade didn't realize it was Michael.

If he did not receive an Academy Award for his acting, who else would be qualified enough for it?

Cooper used to think that his son-in-law was always passive in life; he was a man who could do anything, yet he chose to sing and act in movies with heavy makeup and outfits. However, Cooper realized Michael's pure talent. If it had gone to waste, it would be a real shame...

Michael was still waiting for his father-in-law to thank him, but after almost an entire day, Cooper said nothing. Michael eventually caved in and thought that there was no need for it. Since we're already a family, why should we say 'thank you' to each other?

With that, Michael accompanied Sophia into the hospital. Her body was covered with bruises from being tied up with a rope. Although there were only a few scratches here and there, they insisted on doing a thorough checkup.

That night, the hospital was heavily guarded and impenetrable.

After Sophia went through a full body checkup, she was lucky to have only gotten away with superficial injuries. Blade had no intention of letting her live after the exchange with Celine; he had a thousand ways to kill her, but he unexpectedly met with the ruthless Copper.

Cooper was even more ruthless than Blade; his intimidation had finally forced Blade to hand Sophia over.

Throughout the entire plan, Michael's job was the hardest. Had he not acted like Celine, Blade would've seen through his bluff. By then, Sophia would definitely be gone...