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Sophia read through the materials seriously. Both husband and wife analyzed the data together, and Justin joined them too.

Michael soon finished reading through the information Sophia had gathered. Sophia also shared the results of her investigation with him. After considering it for a moment, he concluded, "The results from your investigation are suspicious indeed. Although the villagers personally witnessed what happened back then, they all saw things from a different perspective. Moreover, too much time has passed. People would subjectively change what they say, so this information might not be true.

Just like how Sam fooled you last time by saying that he took over the Crimson House for your mother... If anyone among the villagers of the Johnson Family Village were to lie to receive the money... the rest will follow that person's lead and weave their stories around the lie." He used a red pen to strike through most of the information provided by the villagers. "From mother-in-law's diary, we can confirm that she did not study past primary school. So, those who claimed that she dropped out of middle school are unreliable. With that, we can filter out many of these testimonies."

Sophia was overwhelmed by the onslaught of information she read through today. Therefore, she simply watched as Michael analyzed the testimonies, little by little, and looked for clues. Occasionally, Justin would also help to cross out useless or confusing clues with a red pen. The truth behind the testimonies was unclear. It was possible that by rejecting the falsified parts of the testimony, they would accidentally cross out the truth hidden in them too.

"This middle school teacher claimed that mother-in-law was the top student in his class. After she dropped out of school, she went with him to work at a noodle restaurant he owned. Moreover, he also met the man with the hooked nose—" Michael analyzed the data with a solemn expression.

Sophia immediately interrupted. "Mom never went to middle school. So, he must be lying. And, there may never have been a hooked-nosed man!"

However, Justin immediately retorted, "I investigated him before. When Annabel was in primary school, this middle school teacher was still teaching at the primary school. She was also the best student in his class. I think too much time has passed, and he forgot some of

the details. So, the part about her meeting the hooked-nosed man at the noodle restaurant remains uncertain."

Then, she fell silent and watched the two men analyze the information. What they were sure of, they would highlight blue; what they could discern as false, they highlighted red; and what remained uncertain, they highlighted green. In the end, they basically confirmed that Annabel was a bright student. Unfortunately, she dropped out of primary school to work. Moreover, she did all sorts of jobs before working at the noodle shop owned by her primary school teacher. Later, she received a recommendation and went to the city to work on her own. All the clues they couldn't be certain about were linked to that hooked-nosed man.

After they finished discussing the hooked-nosed man, Michael talked about what happened today. "Your current mother is very good at acting. Her disguise is perfect, and the plastic surgery on her face was done very naturally. However, I've been dealing with actors and people with facelifts for a long time now. I can tell with a glance that her face has been surgically reconstructed before. Everything is fake. As for whether or not she is genuinely your mother, it can be verified with a DNA test. But, I believe your father has already done that in secret. When I slapped her today, I took a closer look at her face. The surgery she did was rather major, but I couldn't find any traces of it. She probably removed her face entirely and underwent a complete facelift before reattaching her facial skin. Your father has been acting too. He probably knew from the start that she was a fake."

She had originally guessed that her mother was a fake. Cooper might have failed to notice it immediately since it had been decades since he last saw the real Annabel. However, she did not expect that he had been acting all this while. Perhaps, he already knew the moment she appeared. He was faced with a woman pretending to be the love of his life, yet he had to force a smile for such a long while. How furious must he be inside? After all, he could not stand for anybody desecrating his beloved Anna!

"In conclusion, something must have been going on behind the scenes back then. My father is pretending right now so that he can draw the people behind this conspiracy out of the shadows. Perhaps, it's the hooked-nosed man from back then!" Sophia tried analyzing the information too.

However, Michael shook his head and said mysteriously, "Perhaps. But, that's not the only thing he's thinking about."

As for what it was that his father-in-law had in mind, he didn't dare to make a guess either. Still, he was certain the reason the mastermind sent this imposter to their side was to drive a wedge between Michael and Cooper. They might have disliked each other in private, but to outsiders, they were a unit with shared interests. Hence, Cooper and Michael's cooperation more or less meant that Cooper was affiliated with the Fletcher Family, Asco International, and the Winston Family.

Michael did not know who the mastermind was trying to target. Is it me? Or, is it Cooper? But, there's only one person who considers both of us as their enemies... At present, he was pretending to be at odds with Cooper. So, there was nothing else for him to do but sit back and watch the show.

At the Edwards Residence, Cooper was so livid that steam was practically coming out of his nostrils after he almost got into a fight with Michael. He watched as Sophia and Michael left with Carmen, then he turned to Linus and said, "Linus, call Sophia and ask her to come back right now!"

Annabel tried to calm him down. "That's enough. Coop, let's not get all hot and bothered over that b*stard! Your health is more important. Don't get angry! If your health fails because of how angry you are, what will happen to me?"

Linus took out his phone and made a call. Then, he came back with a troubled expression and reported, "Dad... Sophia hung up on me."

Thus, Cooper gritted his teeth in fury and suddenly swept everything on the coffee table to the ground in his rage. "Unbelievable! I'm going to kill him!"

Seeing that Cooper was about to get up and rush out, Linus quickly put his phone down and rushed over. "Dad, calm down! Murder will not solve anything!"

Cooper was livid. "How dare he hit your mother?! Are you saying he shouldn't be killed?!"

Linus seemed impatient and annoyed. "That's enough, Dad. Stop being so impulsive. We were all at fault today! You should watch what you say!"

Then, Cooper glared at Linus before smiling coldly and cruelly. "Which side are you on? Linus, you better not forget this: just who do you think raised you all these years?!"

Linus pursed his lips in response. He remained silent, but it was obvious that he was upset. Glancing around at the messy living room, Cooper stormed back to his study and did not come out again. After he left, Linus snorted with a dark expression. Not long after, he left the house and drove back to The Imperial. "Coop! Linus! Where are you going—" Annabel anxiously ran after both of them, but she couldn't stop any of them from leaving.

Over the next few days, Linus did not return and Sophia did not send a single letter back home. In a moment of rage, Cooper ordered Lucky, the local dog breed that Linus raised, to be killed! After that, Linus finally returned. A huge quarrel ensued in the Edwards Residence, and he moved out completely. With that, their happy little family was broken beyond rescue. Sulking alone at home, Cooper did not allow anybody, except Annabel, to approach him.

In a flash, half a month passed by without any signs of reconciliation. Finally, a mysterious and cautious message was secretly sent out of the country through Annabel's phone...

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Nearly two months had passed since Annabel first appeared in front of Cooper. In these two months, she had been extremely careful, and her performance was perfect. Only after seeing that her plans had succeeded did she cautiously send out this message. Michael, Linus, and Cooper were now at odds with each other under her instigation, and Cooper was isolated and helpless. Now was the best time to strike at him!

After hiding in the study and sending out the message, she glanced through the latest news. The share prices of several listed companies under the Michel Group had fallen. Moreover, Cooper's Mitchell International Energy and Technology was doing poorly recently. The company had consecutively lost several projects and ceased all cooperation with the Edwards Group. Currently, it was being suppressed by the Edwards Group.

In the end, Cooper was only human—he had emotions too. As long as he had emotions, he had weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Back then, Annabel was his weakness. And now, his children were his weaknesses. With his weaknesses in hand, finishing him off was no trouble at all! She communicated with the mastermind through a special method of text messaging and received a reply not long after her initial message was sent. The response was short, containing only three words: 'Kill the twins'.

Staring at those words, she felt puzzled; she couldn't quite understand the meaning behind those words. *Kill the twins? The twins are probably referring to Sophia and Linus, the fraternal twins. So, he only wants to kill Cooper's children and end the family lineage? But, from my observations during this time, Cooper isn't particularly bothered by blood ties. Aside from Sophia and Linus, he still has several backups, such as Sean and Carmen, that could inherit his will. Therefore, more than two targets exist if he wanted to eliminate Cooper's successors. So, why only kill the twins?*

Annabel put her phone away and turned around. To her surprise, she discovered that the door to the study had been opened at some point without her noticing. Furthermore, several people stood at the door watching her. Standing at the forefront was Cooper, and he was accompanied by Linus, Sophia, as well as his son-in-law, Michael. As the four of them stood by the door, she could feel their gazes coldly and silently staring at her.

Her heart skipped a beat in fear. *Why are Linus and Sophia here? Aren't they at odds with Cooper? Why are they here?* Even so, she reacted quickly. Without revealing her emotions on her face, she pretended to wipe down the desk in the study with the rag in her hand. She also acted pleasantly surprised as she said, "Oh, my! Sophia and Linus are back! I knew it; we are a family after all. What is there—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Cooper took out a gun and swiftly aimed the nozzle at her leg. Then, he pressed the trigger without a hint of hesitation. The silenced pistol did not make a loud noise. She only heard a soft '*Bam*!' when he pressed the trigger before a bullet went through her leg. Several seconds of silence passed before she let out a shrill cry of pain as she fell back against the desk behind her and slowly slid to the ground. She stared at her leg, which had been shot, in disbelief and her entire body trembled uncontrollably. A moment later, she let out a piercing scream, "Coop, why—"

He aimed the gun nozzle to the left and fired again without batting an eye. *Bam!* Another bone-chilling scream completely covered the soft sound of the gunshot. That ear-splitting scream reverberated throughout the entire Edwards Residence when she was shot in her other leg.

Sophia expressionlessly watched the entire scene unfold before her. Her faint blue eyes were utterly unmoved. Rather, there was a hint of delight in them. Meanwhile, Cooper lowered his hand that was holding the gun and walked into the room. Looking down at the woman in front of him expressionlessly, his gaze was as indifferent as if he were looking at an ant.

"The bullet to your left leg is for my daughter." His sea-blue eyes were cold—there was no trace of emotion in them. "My daughter is not somebody you are allowed to shame."

Annabel seemed to have caught on to what was going on. Leaning against the ground, she stopped screaming even though both her legs were bleeding. She was pale-faced and sweating profusely from the pain, but her trembling lips were cocked in a mocking smile. The gaze she fixed on him held a hint of pity and ridicule. It felt as if she was holding the trump card that he could only dream about acquiring.

On the other hand, his expression was unreadable. "The bullet to your right leg is for my granddaughter... For all the things you said to her."

He knew she was a fake from the moment she appeared. She had disguised herself perfectly, and her imitation of Annabel's expressions and demeanor was flawless. However, he knew from the first glance. Even if more than 20 years had passed, that person still appeared in his dreams daily—he remembered everything about her as if it were yesterday. How could he possibly forget? Yet, he still brought this imposter home.

He simply watched as the imposter fed Carmen an expired jelly and the talisman drink; tolerated her rudeness and all her attempts at sounding him out; and tolerated the harm she brought to his family. All of it was for today! He had achieved what he wanted to know—this woman was useless to him now. However, he decided to do it himself.

Looking at the cold and merciless gun nozzle pointed at her, she sneered. She knew he could not kill her. Even if he wanted to kill her, it depended on whether he had enough confidence and courage to pull it off.

"Haha..." She gritted her teeth, her pale lips opening and closing slightly. However, the words that came out of her mouth sent chills down their backs. "I have to hand it to you, Cooper. You saw through my pretense after all. But, what else could you do? I was pregnant; I was having your children. So, you endured it and murdered your own child—"

Bam! He raised his gun and fired the third shot with a frigid expression. The bullet hit her in the stomach.

"This bullet is for Anna," he said quietly. Despite his deep hatred, his words came out calmly and indifferently. "Anna is not somebody you can blaspheme." That shot pierced through the imposter's stomach at a close range, and the bullet lodged itself in the desk behind her. The imposter clutched at her stomach, but she couldn't stop the warm blood that gushed out without stopping. As an agent who was about to die, she suddenly felt incredibly cold. The person standing before her did not feel human—it felt as if an emotionless dragon was looming before her. As expected, he truly was cold and merciless.

She gritted her teeth and snarled, "Cooper, you won't be able to bring yourself to kill me. I know all the answers to everything you want to know!"

In response, he lifted the gun again and fired the fourth shot without saying anything. The bullet hit her in the shoulder. "This bullet is for my son. You shouldn't have tried to harm my family."

The imposter was shot four times, and it no longer hurt. Instead, she laughed. "Hahaha... Cooper, I have enough cards in my hand that you won't dare to kill me! You will never know the answers to some of the secrets if you killed me—"

Ding! A notification sound rang out from the Dragon Eye tablet Linus was holding in his hand. Then, he reported to Cooper, "I've gotten the coordinates. It's in Ronney City."

Cooper didn't seem to be agitated. Rather, he didn't seem to feel anything at all. Calmly putting his gun away, he walked out of the study without sparing a single glance at the imposter lying on the ground. "Your mother is still alive. She's in Ronney City."

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The smile on the imposter's face was wiped off when she heard what Cooper had said. There's no way he has found out about this! I've prepared for this mission for more than ten years, and I've left no traces behind. Even if they've figured out that I had sent a message to Ronney City, there's no way... Cooper never answered her question and left with Linus in a hurry. After they took a turn, Lucky ran to them as it wagged its tail. Delighted, Linus stroked the dog's head.

In fact, the moment the imposter appeared, Cooper had figured out most of the things, but what he needed was the exact location. The imposter's plan was impeccable, and she was backed by a powerful force. If Cooper pressed on, his enemies would be alerted. Therefore, he chose to be patient until this day and eventually found out the location.

Of course, Lucky's death was faked. Cooper bought a chunk of pork and claimed that it was Lucky's flesh so that Linus and him could pretend to fall out. During this period of time, Lucky had been staying with Sophia because she had pets herself, so she would always give proper food to the animals. Therefore, Lucky had been eating the same food as her orange cats. Now that the imposter was busted, Lucky could go back to its owner. Linus was joyful that his dog had grown fatter.

Equally jolly, Cooper put on a bright smile. The real Annabel is in Ronney City. Anna, I'm going to meet you!

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In the study, the imposter gritted her teeth and tried to get up, even though she was soaked in blood. Cooper will never kill me because I know a secret he's dying to find out!

Seeing this, Sophia strode forward and gave her a forceful slap. With red finger marks on her face, the imposter glared at Sophia, who then landed another slap on her face.

"These two slaps are for my daughter. After this, you shall go to hell!" Sophia growled.

Since her identity had been exposed, the imposter, whose face was identical to Annabel, put on a hideous expression and spat out some blood. Leaning against the desk, she raised her chin in a haughty manner.

"Does your dad really want to kill me? Haha. I know a secret he's desperate to find out. I want him to kneel before me and beg me to tell him about this!" Now that her blood was still streaming out from the wounds caused by gunshots, her voice had weakened.

After Cooper shot her a few times with his pistol, he directly turned to leave because there was no way she could survive. If it weren't because he had to take revenge for his kids, he wouldn't even talk to a petty person like her.

However, Sophia wouldn't let this revolting woman die so easily. This woman still thinks that my dad is reluctant to kill her. She falsely believes that her death will mean a loss to my dad, so she's acting in an arrogant manner now. I have to make sure she'll die with regrets and embarrassment, Sophia thought.

With her arms crossed, Sophia paced around and said in a derisive tone, "You had successfully fooled me with your impeccable acting skill and disguise because I had never met my mother before. It took me a long time to figure out that you're just an imposter."

The imposter arched her brow haughtily.

"But..." All of a sudden, Sophia raised her voice and said in a confident way, "My dad had seen through your disguise, but he chose to play along with you. Do you know why?"

The imposter snorted. Blood had formed a puddle around her. She was waiting for Cooper to appear at the door because she didn't believe that he would let her die. Doesn't he want to know Annabel's whereabouts?

Seeing through her intentions, Sophia said in an impassive manner, "Stop looking. My dad won't come because he has already found out what he wants to know, so you're basically useless to us now. The reason I'm still talking to you is only because I don't want to let you die so easily."

Naturally, the imposter didn't believe her. Since she approached Cooper, she had been very careful with her actions and never contacted her master. With such an impeccable plan in place, there was no way Cooper could have found out anything.

Sophia then went on to break this harsh truth to her. "Your imitation of my mother was perfect. Even my dad thought that you were her for a moment. However, your biggest mistake was that your imitation was too perfect."

Lowering her body, Sophia pinched the imposter's chin and examined her face, which was being gradually drained of blood. If it weren't for the fact that the imposter was such a devious woman, she was the perfect exemplification of the kind of woman Sophia imagined her mother to be. Observing the imposter's manner of speaking and posture, for a moment, Sophia thought that her mother was just like that.

"If you wanted to imitate my mother perfectly, there was no way you could do this by just taking a brief look at her. So, you must have either been living with her, or you have been observing her behavior for a long time. Your appearance proves that my mother is still alive. You're a well-trained secret agent, so there's no use going hard on you. That's why we decided to play along and get more information out of you when you became complacent."

Hearing this, the imposter appeared to be slightly flustered, for she didn't expect that there was such a huge flaw in her seemingly impeccable plan. Unresigned, she gnashed her teeth and snarled, "So what if you've found out about this? You can never locate her!"

Sophia guffawed. "It was just a guess. Now you've confirmed it for us!"

The imposter gulped, for she didn't expect that she had fallen into her trap. Then, she laughed hysterically and raised her chin to face Sophia so that she wouldn't appear to be weak. "Yes, your mother is still alive, but it's pointless for Cooper to look for her. He's loyal to Annabel, but she doesn't love him at all! Just like myself, Annabel is just a tool that was used to go against Cooper! When he gets to the truth one day, he'll realize that Annabel is nothing more than a devious and lowly woman. By then, you and your brother will end up like the baby in my belly! Cooper dotes on the two of you because you're Annabel's kids. If he figures out that she's been making use of him, he'll kill the two of you. You and your brother are the most pitiful people on earth because you're mere tools for Annabel to threaten Cooper. If it weren't because there was a change of plan, both of you would—"

"Shut up!" Enraged, Sophia pounced on her and clenched her neck. If it weren't for the fact that she was a frail woman, she would have already broken her neck on the spot. "I will never allow you to defame my mother! You don't even deserve to mention her name!"

Seeing that Sophia had lost control, Michael grabbed her wrists and pulled her away. "Sophia, restrain yourself. We have to keep her alive!"

After Sophia was lugged away, she kept kicking in the air and snarled, "B*tch! I will kill you!"

Seeing how discomfited Sophia was, the imposter laughed arrogantly. In spite of her weakened voice, she said in an insolent manner, "Sophia, do you get it now? Cooper is the cruelest man in the world. He could fake his death and abandon his father for so many years, and he could kill my child in an unfeeling manner. So, he will also kill you and your brother coldly. Both of you are pathetic!"

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While Sophia was cursing the imposter, she couldn't stop her tears from streaming down her face. It seemed that the woman's words had had a huge impact on her. "Shut up! Shut up!"

If Michael were not restraining her, she would have pounced on the woman and torn her mouth apart.

Seeing that she had successfully enraged Sophia, the imposter felt that she could die with no regrets. Even if she couldn't survive, she had to make sure that Cooper's life would be turned upside down, thereby accomplishing the mission her master entrusted her. Her mean words exposed the fragility of the relationship between Sophia and Cooper.

"Do you think Cooper really loves you? No! Just like Annabel, he only loves himself! Whoever gets in his way, he will kill that person, even if that person is his own kid! In his eyes, you are no more important than a pile of dust! Annabel should have been killed a long time ago. It serves her right that she's infertile! That man had done everything he could to win her heart and acquired everything she desired for her. However, she turned a blind eye when my kid was dying!" The imposter growled, trying to vent her resentment before she were to die. Although she had lost her mind, her hatred was real.

"I hate all of you! What makes you deserve the love of others? How could Annabel hurt the feelings of the man who loved her? He is such a contemptible man. He knows that Annabel has been making use of him, but he's willing to sacrifice for her over such a long period of time. What makes Annabel deserve his love? I've sacrificed everything for him. I've been following him since I was young. I've squandered my youth and even imitated another woman just to win his heart! I also became a surrogate mother for that b*tch. Your mother turned a blind eye when my kid was dying. Although I'd given birth to the kid, it was her child! What did I get in return? The man I love doesn't love me back, and my child didn't even know I existed. I've sacrificed all I have, but I get nothing in return! I hate all of you!"

As the imposter was bawling, her face was already covered in tears. She hated the fact that her life had been ruined.

When she was told to imitate Annabel, she executed the order. Firstly, she went under the knife to get her face modified to look exactly like Annabel. Then, she observed her behavior

and learned all about her. Also, she took the risk of becoming mute by undergoing vocal cord surgeries to make her voice sound like her.

When Annabel became infertile, she even offered to be her surrogate mother and bore her child. But in the end, she got nothing in return for her favors.

The imposter then laughed maniacally because she felt that the man had loved the wrong woman for all his life. She was also laughing at herself for sacrificing for a man who didn't love her back. However, she was unwilling to give up because Annabel and her met the man at the same time, but he fell in love with the other one, even though she was the more brilliant one.

Noticing the silence in the room, she came to her senses and lifted her head, only to see that Sophia, who was agitated moments ago, had composed herself. Although there were tears on the corners of her eyes, her expression was as glacial as her father's.

"Thanks. I've learned all I want to know. You shall go to hell now." With her head tilted, Sophia kept the smile on her face, but her gaze was indifferent. After helping her up, Michael gently brushed the tears off the corners of her eyes.

Sophia's acting skill had improved significantly under Michael's guidance, so she easily got the information she needed out of the imposter.

Startled, the imposter knew that she had unwittingly revealed all the secrets. Trying to defend her last bit of dignity, she laughed coldly. "Sophia, now that you've figured out that your mother is still alive, I do hope that you'll find her one day. By then, you'll understand how despicable your mother is. Hopefully, you'll still believe that you have the last laugh when that time comes."

With an impassive expression, Sophia gazed at the imposter without uttering a word. However, Michael noticed that her hands were cold, and her fingers were trembling.

"Alright. It's time for you to hit the road to hell. Siri, you may do your job now." After Michael finished talking, he left the study with Sophia, after which the housekeeping robot came into the room and jabbed a needle into the imposter. A short moment later, life left her body as she hit the desk with a resounding thud.

Right before she died, the memories of her life flashed across her mind.

She remembered the summer thirty years ago when she was a young and beautiful girl. Unfortunately, she was born into a poor family, and her parents were not well-educated. Her alluring face turned out to be a curse for herself as she was forced to marry a man in his forties in exchange for some money for her parents.

Unwilling to marry that man, she fled from the house on her wedding night. Just when she was almost caught by her soon-to-be husband's family members, the man of her dreams came along.

He was the most handsome, mysterious and elegant man she had ever seen. After he offered to buy her off for five thousand, she had started following him since then.

Annabel and her were saved by him at roughly the same time. Since they were young, he had taught them various assasination skills. By using their beauty as weapons, they had helped the man kill countless of his opponents.

He was her faith and the only reason she stayed alive, so she was willing to sacrifice everything for him. However, what did she get in exchange for her loyalty?

She had given birth to a child of the man she loved and another woman. The child then grew up to be an adult, but never knew of her existence. The child even called another woman 'Mom', even though that woman was one of the cruelest people on earth.

She knew that this mission would cost her life, but she still chose to take it. Therefore, she only had herself to blame for her miserable ending.

Her eyelids grew heavier, and her vision turned blurry. Eventually, she closed her eyes and left for the other world. In the last moments of her life, she asked herself if she ever regretted her decision, and the answer was clear—she never regretted it once.

With her eyes closed, her head slumped to the side, all her love and resentment ended with her life. When she was at her last breath, she recalled the very night she came across that man.

The moment she laid her eyes on him, she knew that she would be willing to sacrifice everything, including her life, for him. But Jordan Edwards... will you regret it?

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Seeing that the woman was dead, the housekeeping robot started spraying some liquid on her body. A moment later, the body decomposed into a puddle of blood. Following that, the robot started cleaning up the floor.

The woman was born with nothing, and she brought nothing with her when she left this world, as though she had never existed in this world before.

On the other side, Sophia's mind was a mess. Although she had figured out everything she needed to know, she felt that the more she learned, the more she was terrified of what was ahead of her.

Will Cooper kill Linus and me without hesitation? Is Annabel really a secret agent sent to Cooper to destroy him? What if Linus and I really are the tools Annabel intends to use against Cooper?

At the thought of this possibility, she was gripped by fear.

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Previously, Sophia had this supposition that Annabel was sent to approach Sam in order to destroy him. Later on, however, Cooper became close friends with Sam, so she decided to deal with them together.

Then, Annabel successfully persuaded Cooper to leave his family with her. At the age of eighteen, he lost the protection of the Mitchell Family, and it was the best time for Annabel to kill him. Unexpectedly, Sam exposed this news to the Mitchells, after which they went all out to save Cooper before Annabel could kill him.

After her mission failed, she survived the Mitchells' attempt to kill her, but she was still abandoned by her master. In order to evade the Mitchells and her master's punishment, she

became a nanny at the Edwards Residence instead of going back to her hometown. Unfortunately, she was raped during her stay at the residence.

At that time, she was already impregnated with Sophia and Linus, who were supposed to be the tools to threaten Cooper. However, since Annabel had lost her value, her children had become redundant as well.

After that, her master came to look for her and brought her away, but he decided to abandon Sophia and Linus because they were of no value to him.

After Sophia left the study, she gazed out the window at the lovely weather, but she felt cold all over her body. *I'm redundant... Annabel gave birth to me just to deal with Cooper!* The more she tried not to think about this, the more she was troubled by this thought. At the moment, her mind was restless.

Just then, her legs turned to jelly, and she almost collapsed to the ground. Fortunately, Michael supported her weight in time. Trapped in his strong arms, Sophia could hear him consoling her in a low voice. "Forget about the past and move on."

For that instant, she was as helpless as a child. She recalled a time when Carmen was unfairly accused of being useless to her father. Even a young kid would be sorrowful over such an accusation, so what was more to say of Sophia, who was an adult. She knew that if the truth was just like her speculation, it would deal a heavy blow to both Cooper and her.

With her head leaning against Michael's chest, Sophia started weeping because she was terrified that she would lose her father and eventually her family.

Then, Sophia recalled what happened to Sarah. In the past, she was the princess of her parents, but one day, everything turned upside down. Her parents, who swore to love her forever, abandoned her just like that. At that time, Sophia couldn't even imagine how Sarah felt after the latter lost everything in her life.

Hugging her, Michael understood all her worries and sorrows, for he knew how unfeeling Cooper could be.

After Cooper faked his death, Woody grew so agitated that he lost his mind. As an indifferent man, Cooper never even showed up for the next twenty years, even though he was aware of his father's condition.

On the other hand, Linus did all he could to destroy Sophia. The father and son were equally ruthless.

However, Sophia was different from them, for she had endured hardship in her younger days.

She was overjoyed that she could finally reunite with her family members, so it was hard for her to accept the truth that her mother was a secret agent sent to destroy her father, and her brother and her were nothing more than her mother's tools.

As her tears soaked Michael's white shirt, she tried to stifle her crying. Moments later, she sniffled, pouted and tipped her head back to look at her man.

She decided to leave the past behind because she knew that even if everyone else in this world lied to her, the man before her eyes, whose hair had turned gray overnight because of her, had the purest heart for her.

No matter what she would encounter in the future, as long as he was by her side, she would have the strength and courage to weather the storm.

Seeing that she stopped crying, Michael lifted her chin, gazed at her teary eyes, and said gently, "There's no need to cry. No matter what will happen, I'm with you. I will always protect you and love you."

I'm with you. That was the most beautiful thing Sophia had ever heard. Tiptoeing, she locked her lips with Michael. *As long as he's with me, I'm happy...*

It was a difficult task to get information out of the imposter because she was a secret agent who had received special training. Nevertheless, Sophia was able to stir up her emotions and got the information she needed.

Basically, Annabel survived. At that time, she suffered from amniotic fluid embolism, but the Johnsons never managed to save her in time. After her uterus was removed, it was too late because she had stopped breathing. Even though she probably had just fallen into a state of suspended animation, the Johnsons buried her body. Fortunately, Liam dug her out in time. She was then taken away by her master, who was a rich man who managed to revive her and eventually changed her life.

"The imposter also mentioned that my mom had a test tube baby with that man, and that imposter offered to be a surrogate mother." After Sophia told Cooper the information she had gathered, she furtively observed his expression, which remained impassive.

Over the years, Annabel was alive, and she certainly knew that Cooper wasn't dead. However, not only did she not look for Cooper, but she also raised a kid with another man. By now, it was apparent that she never loved Cooper.

She approached Cooper and lied to him because she was on a mission. Unaware of all these, Cooper had been missing her dearly for decades. If she was really such a ruthless woman, then Cooper's love for her would be laughable.

With her body tensed up, Sophia gazed at her father.

After a moment of silence, Cooper announced, "I'm exhausted from what happened today." Upon finishing his words, he turned to leave in a hurry, as though he didn't want anyone to notice his true emotions underneath his impenetrable facade. He had always believed that Annabel was in love with him, but the truth turned out to be a slap in his face.

After her father left, Sophia turned to face Michael and Linus with a heavy heart. After everything that had happened on this day, everyone was taxed out. Sophia decided to stay over at the Edwards Residence instead of going back to her own home.

Carmen was brought to this place as well because she had been wanting to meet her grandfather. However, her grandfather wasn't at the residence at the moment. Just when she felt frustrated, her father told her that they were going to join the filming of the variety show 'Where Are We Going, Dad?'. The news cheered her up.

What happened on this day had had a huge impact on everyone. Nevertheless, Carmen was playing with Corrado as she wasn't aware of what the adults had gone through.

In the evening, Cooper and Linus stayed in their own rooms and never came out to have dinner. After giving it a thought, Sophia decided to go to her father's room with a tray of food.

The moment she opened the door, she was stunned. The room, which used to be clean and neat, was now in a mess. All the photos and pieces of paper were torn apart, and the floor was covered with empty beer bottles. At that instant, Cooper was lying on the ground, gulping down a bottle of beer.

"Dad!" Shocked, Sophia immediately put down the tray and edged toward her father. She had never seen her father so discomfited and helpless before. "Dad, stop it!" Flustered, she snatched the beer bottle from him and helped him up with difficulty. After placing him on the couch, she told the housekeeping robot to clean up the mess.

Cooper had torn apart all his photos with Annabel and the diaries she had written, all of which were his collective memories with her.