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Cooper was silent for a moment. In his opinion, this was the safest course of action.

They will be separated because of a misunderstanding and Michael will become a man who betrays his wife. He'll be gone and Sophia will hate him so much that she'll take his wealth and his child, and Michael will be left with nothing. Then, she will become a rich divorced woman who will live with resentment toward Michael for a while. But in a few days, she might fall in love with a twenty year-old man and be together with him.

After a while, Sophia will break up with that young man and meet another one. She'll completely forget about Michael, the old man who betrayed her. Decades later when Sophia turns eighty, Michael will wake up from his sleep and become a forty year-old 'young man'. The misunderstanding between them will be resolved and they will be together.

However, that is just the ideal situation. Ideals are amazing but reality is often cruel. There is a heart-breaking case right in front of us—Tanya.

Her family died horribly, like they deserved. It was their punishment. The fact that she survived was a blessing from God. She could have let go of her resentment and start a new life, but she chose to take revenge.

She hated Theo, so she trained her son to become a brutal killer. But what did she get from a lifetime of resentment? All she did was hurt herself and the child she had with Theo. Quinton could have had a better and more brilliant life... Who knows which path Sophia might take after being 'abandoned' by Michael? Perhaps she will hate him forever. Or she might take revenge, kill someone and live a life full of hatred and pain from the separation. Sophia might turn into a soulless being, and it might even affect Carmen.

Thinking it from another perspective, if Michael dies one day, at least he'll die in Sophia's arms.

He'll show Sophia that even in his last moments, all he thinks about is her. Michael's love for her is accompanied by breath and blood. The moment he stops loving her is the moment he stops breathing and his blood turns cold.

Michael won't be leaving. He'll just accompany her in a different way. He'll turn into the air around her, into the warm sunlight and gentle breeze. There will be traces of him everywhere she goes. Sophia will remember his love and live happily. Carmen will also grow up happily.

That is their perfect ending.

At that moment, Michael just wanted to be with Sophia and Carmen. Even if he didn't have much time left, it didn't matter as long as they were happy.

In the study, the two of them were silent. After a few rounds of tea, Michael said, "What about Tiffany's child? Father-in-law, how are you planning to deal with her?"

An upset expression immediately appeared on Cooper's face when he heard Tiffany's name.

"Keep the child alive."

These four words were enough to express Cooper's attitude toward the matter.

Michael said nothing but he had mixed feelings...

The next day after everyone headed off to work, Michael went to the basement and asked Justin to give him an injection.

At that moment, his organs were starting to fail. The poison that Quinton gave him back then was gradually losing control and slowly eroding his internal organs. The antidote could only slow it temporarily.

There was also news from Linus that the molecular formula for the antidote was under animal testing and initial results showed that it was working. However, it couldn't be used on humans. If the antidote could be used now, after the toxins were cleared and with recuperation, Michael could fully recover. However, he would still be weakened and he wouldn't be able to live long.

For now, Michael had a few options.

He could sit and wait for death. Perhaps in a few years, his internal organs would completely shut down and he would die painfully.

The other option was to ask Theo or Quinton to donate their organs and he would change all of them. Michael would live a few more years, but Theo and Quinton might die.

The third option was to wait for the research team at Michel Medical Technology Group to have advances with the dental stem cells project that could repair and regenerate organs. However, Michael may not be able to wait that long.

The last option was to enter cryogenic sleep and wake up when everything was ready. It was the safest bet with the least risk.

However, Michael chose to sit and wait for death.

The tiny needle tip pierced into Michael's skin and the antidote was injected into his blood, which temporarily relieved the poison inside him. However, the antidote was just something that could prolong his life a little longer. It could stop the pain but it wasn't a cure.

At that instant, Justin had mixed feelings. After the injection, Michael pressed on the cotton to stop the bleeding and he looked at Justin. All of a sudden, he smiled and said, "It's been an honor to have worked with you all these years."

When Justin heard this, he felt that it sounded like Michael's last words. He turned his face away. His mask covered half of his face, leaving only his eyes visible.

"There's no time for us to be sentimental."

Michael looked at Justin and couldn't help but sigh.

Actually, Justin is the one who had the hardest life. He joined the army when he was eighteen and back then, he was undefeatable and famous. Unfortunately, he was born in a family that didn't support him. As the youngest child, he was asked by his parents to 'hand over' his lover to his big brother. When he was badly wounded and on the hospital bed, all he heard was his family discussing whether to stop his life support or not.

Later, Justin completely disappeared and became Abel. He abandoned his first and last name, and was busy with revenge day and night.

In order to get revenge, he forced himself to be strong with a superhuman will. Justin learned how to make poison, perform autopsy, dispose of bombs and many other professional skills. He could even do complex surgical operations on his own.

He lived just for revenge. However, he was considered to have a happy ending. Celine came back and he let go of the hatred. He even resolved everything with Quinton even though they bickered with each other all the time.

Justin then started his own company. Abel, who couldn't be who he really was, suddenly turned into the president of the biggest security company in Bayside City. He made money to raise his children and his silly wife. He was now living a happy life.

The family that he was greatly disappointed in became great again and he took back the name that he abandoned.

His life was now perfect. The only thing that he was still worried about was probably Michael and Sophia.

Michael was Justin's friend, confidant, family member, and best friend while Sophia was his sister and family.

Justin watched them get together and love each other, and he had also seen them part and reunite again. Now he had to watch them part again. Unfortunately, the hard work that he had done over the years still couldn't change the situation around. He could only watch as Michael slowly turned weak.

Michael said, "Even though Asco International was established by Ethan and I, you have a lot of credit. I have already signed the papers. In the future, you'll have some of the company's shares."

Justin's face was stiff from all the plastic surgery he had done. With a blank expression, he said, "There will be a way. Don't overthink things."

Even though he was not as good as the Michel Group's research and development team in medicine, he would not give up on Michael.

Michael pulled down his sleeves to cover his elbow that was full of needle marks while Justin cleaned up.

All of a sudden, Michael's phone rang.

"Tiffany is here with Mr. Mitchell's child. They are at the gates. Should I let them in?"

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Michael glanced at the surveillance monitor and saw that Tiffany's car was at the gates with other cars.

That's a lot of people. It seems that she has gathered her whole family to directly move into The Imperial.

However, Cooper, Sophia, and Linus were all not home. Only Michael, the son-in-law, was left at home.

At that moment, Michael didn't know what to do.

Should I let them in? If I do, Tiffany will definitely grab the opportunity to stay here. However, the baby in Tiffany's arms is Cooper's child. What if something happened to him outside? This old hag is really cunning. She's purposely making things difficult for me.

They are still waiting outside. I'm sure that Tiffany hasn't discussed it with Cooper before she came over. Moreover, she specially chose to come when Cooper and his family are not home. She predicted that I wouldn't dare to offend her.

Michael hurriedly made a call.

"What?! That old hag is there with the child?!"

Judging from Sophia's tone, Michael could tell how furious she was at the other end of the phone.

"No, you can't let her in. Once she enters the house, it would be impossible to get her out. You can't let her in. Just tell her that you're not home!" Sophia said hurriedly.

However, all of a sudden, Michael heard another voice. "Let her in."

It was Cooper's voice and he sounded helpless and dejected.

"Dad!" Sophia was extremely dissatisfied.

Cooper sounded unsure but his tone also seemed to be irrefutable. "Just do what I say..."

With that, the call ended. Michael told the guards to open the community gates. A short while later, Tiffany entered the house with four nannies behind her. There was even a group of people carrying her luggage, and all of them marched in as if Tiffany was married into the family.

Seeing that only Michael was alone at home, even though it was within Tiffany's expectations, she said, "Mike, it seems that you're the only one here. It looks like I came at the wrong time."

Mike?

Tiffany already regarded herself as Cooper's wife and spoke to Michael as if she was his mother-in-law. Furthermore, there was a strong sense of maternal love as she gazed at Michael, as if her love for her son-in-law would grow the more she looked at him.

Michael glanced at the baby in the nanny's arms. Except for his eyes, the baby didn't look like Tiffany in any other way. He could tell that the baby was mixed race, but it wasn't really obvious.

Cooper was a second-generation mixed race and two generations later, Carmen's mixed race features were also far less obvious compared to her mother.

That's my father-in-law's son!

Michael had goosebumps but he still forced a smile and said, "Cooper already got the news and he's on his way here."

Tiffany entered the living room and the group of people followed behind her. Tiffany picked up the child she had with Cooper and walked toward the elevator. Unfortunately, she didn't know that elevator passcode so she asked Michael, "Mike, I'm holding a baby in my hands and I can't press the elevator button. Can you help?"

Michael secretly grumbled. Naturally, he knew what Tiffany wanted him to do—she wanted to move into Cooper's room. At that moment, she was holding Cooper's child, so she had absolute advantage. She's simply forcing herself in!

Michael had no choice. Can I refuse her? I can't, right?

So he replied, "No problem."

He entered the passcode and got into the elevator. Tiffany smiled triumphantly as they took the elevator to the third floor. Then, she directly moved all her things into Cooper's bedroom.

As the only owner of the house left at home, Michael had to check up on her and he watched as Tiffany's men put down her luggage.

Tiffany's face was all smiles as she held the baby in her arms.

Then, Michael saw the strange bracelet on her wrist that looked like a tiny remote.

With a smile, Tiffany said to Michael, "From now on, we're family. When I get married to Cooper, I'll definitely give you and Sophia a present."

A present? It doesn't sound good. Perhaps she is going to kill Sophia, Linus, and Carmen on her wedding day. That way, she'll be the only winner.

Tiffany is a terrible person. If it weren't because Cooper was strong enough, she might have just kidnapped him and r*ped him, just like what Tanya did to Theo.

Since Cooper was too strong, she changed tactics. He stole his sperm and inserted it into her body instead.

Michael didn't dare to imagine any further so he nodded in response.

When Sophia returned home, it was already too late. Tiffany's child had already moved in and he was using what Carmen had used when she was a baby. He was even sleeping in the 'royal crib' that once belonged to Carmen.

Celine's daughter had started walking on her own and everyone called her Bianca.

Carmen and Bianca leaned over the crib and watched Tiffany's son with the cats and dogs that had gathered around.

The little baby rolled around in the crib, celebrating his hard-earned life. When he saw Judge's head lean close, he smiled and tried to grab Judge's head with his tiny hands.

Nathan, Quinton, and Michael came over and glanced at the child, and all of them felt goosebumps all over their bodies.

In the living room, Sophia and Cooper had solemn expressions on their faces. The two pairs of eyes were gloomy as they emitted a cold aura.

Meanwhile, Tiffany was sobbing at the side. "Coop, I'm sorry. It's my fault. All I wanted was to have a child with you. I had a miscarriage and lost the twins. I can't lose this child. Coop..."

Cooper didn't say anything. Sophia was silent too, but she really wanted to give Tiffany a kick.

Seeing that Cooper wasn't saying anything, Tiffany gestured at the nanny and the nanny immediately brought the child over. Then, Tiffany carried the child to Cooper and said, "Coop, look at our baby. Why don't you give him a name?"

Cooper stayed silent but it was obvious he was furious. He glanced at the baby and said, "You can name him."

With that, he got up, put on a jacket, opened the door and left. "I have some business to deal with, so I won't be coming home tonight." Soon, his figure disappeared into the darkness.

Cooper was gone just like that. Tiffany's tactic had caught him off guard and he needed time to accept it.

Even though Cooper left, Tiffany didn't chase after him. Instead, she carried the baby around as she tried to coax him.

She knew that Cooper would never give up on this child.

It's good to have one of your own in an important position.

"Dear, come and meet your uncle." Tiffany called Carmen to come over. Carmen was fascinated and she looked at her uncle who was in Tiffany's arms.

Then, she glanced at Linus. Bianca babbled at the side, seeming like she was welcoming her new uncle.

Meanwhile, Sophia snorted and went back to her room.

Their evening family time was canceled because of Tiffany's arrival.

Tiffany was not surprised by Sophia's attitude.

It's okay. She'll definitely love me in a few days. If I enter the family like this, they won't treat me as their own, so I have to be Cooper's wife. Not only do I want to live here, but I also want Sophia to recognize me as her mother! I want the whole family to recognize my position!

Tiffany glanced at the ornament on her bracelet and there was great confidence in her gaze.

And this is my trump card!

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Just like that, Tiffany moved in with them, which Sophia was quite upset about. Even though she didn't care about her, someone had to. As such, this task had been 'assigned' to the son-in-law, Michael. He specially prepared a nursery for Cooper's newborn child and treated him really well. Meanwhile, Tiffany stayed in Cooper's bedroom as she wished.

At the same time, Cooper had fled as expected.

In the past, he couldn't go a day without seeing his three darlings. This time, his escape lasted a few days. These few days, he never came home, nor did he miss his darlings.

In fact, if this happened to anyone else, they would have run too, even for someone who had experienced this like Theo.

However, at the end of the day, Cooper still had to face that child whether he liked it or not. Even though he didn't get her pregnant, that child was still his.

Meanwhile, Tiffany, who had just made her way up to an advantageous position, appeared to be incomparably calm. After all, she and her child had already moved in to live with Cooper. Where else could he run to?

He may be able to run from her, but he would never be able to run from this huge family fortune.

In fact, he wouldn't be able to run forever!

All she had to do was wait for Cooper to come back after he had calmed down.

On the other hand, the Adams family had received news about the newborn child of Tiffany and Cooper, while the Michel Family were ecstatic that the two families had finally joined forces through marriage.

Whether Cooper was willing or not, the two families had begun preparing for the wedding. The Michel family was already rushing here to seize the opportunity to claim the naming rights for the child before the Mitchell family could.

As it happened, Carmen's naming rights had been under the grips of the Fletcher family. Every time the Michel family came to get Carmen to change her name, Sophia would come up with all kinds of reasons to put it off. As such, the Michel family couldn't stand to let the naming rights of this child be taken away from them again.

As for the Adams Group, their attitude toward Tiffany changed solely because of the fact that she was the future Mrs. Michel.

Finally, Tiffany had realized her dream.

Cooper could run from her, but his family couldn't.

Frankly, Sophia disliked Tiffany and planned to move to the Edwards residence at Riverdale, or even the Mitchell's ancestral home—she wanted to be anywhere else but here. However, on second thought, The Imperial's Villa No.8 was Michael's property, and her name was on the house property certificate as well. In other words, she was the owner, so she shouldn't have to run. Even if Tiffany shamelessly refused to leave, Sophia wouldn't leave too. Therefore, she could only live under the same roof as Tiffany, no matter how reluctant she was.

To top it off, Tiffany was absurdly thick-skinned and refused to leave their house. No matter how much Sophia rolled her eyes at her every day, pointed at the mulberry and abused the locust, or sarcastically hinted at her, Tiffany would just act stupid.

A sensitive person would never be able to sell insurance, which was why the Adams Family was the king of the insurance industry, and the king of having thick skin!

Now that Tiffany had moved in, she didn't have to care for the child herself. She would go to work as usual, and she would be swamped with work.

While Bailey had the upper hand for now, Tiffany was relying on this child to get acquainted with the Michel Family and gain access to outside help. Her career was starting to take off and she would be reclaiming her position in no time.

When Bailey heard the news from Quinton, he was starting to feel the heat.

Even an outsider could sense the pressure and burden that this fifteen-year-old child was carrying.

Sophia was concerned for this little 'son-in-law' as well.

Ever since Tiffany moved in, the Adams Family and Michel Family often came to visit. For the sake of the child's naming rights, the two families would criticize each other. While the Adams Family felt the baby was theirs and he should be named Adams, the Michel Family disagreed and thought he should be named Michel.

By the end of it, the two families decided to move in as well while they waited for Cooper's return to call the shots. In fact, they would not leave until Cooper returned.

After criticizing Cooper's child, they started to shift their attention to Sophia and Carmen.

They wanted Sophia and Carmen to change their surnames, which forced Sophia to flee as well, and she would only come home to Michael at night.

Recently, Michael had been in Bayside City. After filming 'Doctor Invincible 2', he was voice-acting for 'The Supreme Panda'.

'The Supreme Panda' was an animated movie produced by Michael, inspired by his two adopted pandas. The movie told a story of two panda warriors saving the world. It was a Cethosian story with a Cethosian cast, while Michael and Harry were voicing the protagonists in both the local language and English. Even Carmen had a small role in the movie

Every morning, he would bring along a cup of wolfberry water and take Sophia's car to work, and after work, he would pick Sophia up at her unit before picking up Carmen to go home together.

He devoted his remaining time to his beloved career and family.

This September, five-year-old Carmen finally started elementary school. Like a young pioneer, she worked hard to score every exam. On weekends, she would not rest and urged Michael to give her more work.

In fact, she was starting to accumulate capital to start her own business.

She was attending a prestigious international school—the kind that parents would struggle to get their children into. To be accepted, both parents and child were required to go through a few rounds of interviews.

Fortunately, Sophia and Michael did their homework and did not become a hindrance for Carmen.

After about five or six stages, Carmen was successfully enrolled and became a member of the Arts Committee. However, when Michael attended the parent-teacher conference for the first time, he realized that the Cethosian headquarters of the Adams Group was located right next to the school...

As such, Michael complained and wanted Carmen to transfer schools, but after a while of making a fuss about it, things didn't work out for him in the end.

Since attending elementary school, Carmen seemed to have grown smarter than before. While she was full of confidence and talent, she was also lively and cheerful. Her teachers, principal, and even other parents were fond of her. Frankly, Michael was extremely proud of her.

On the other hand, Sophia was working overtime at the office. There was a batch of new products that were going to be launched soon, and everyone at the office was swamped with work and stayed back.

When Micahel finished work, he went to pick Carmen up. She was carrying a small backpack, and she had on a red scarf. As soon as got into the car, she started to babble away.

"Daddy, I got a ninety-nine on my language test. I lost a point from the essay section!"

"I got a ninety-five for my math test. The teacher said the last question was just ordinary addition and subtraction, and that I had to use the baby method of answering, and not the method Uncle Linus taught me. She said only adults could use that method!"

When he inspected her test, he thought that she should have gotten a full mark for her math test, but she had lost five points for using the decimal point incorrectly. At the end of the day, she was only in first grade. If she used a decimal point in her test, her points would be deducted.

As such, not only did they deduct five points from her test, but the school also almost called them as well. They suspected she was cheating because she was doing too well for her age.

After all, when a first grader used advanced formulas to answer a first grade exam, anyone would think that she was cheating.

In truth, it was usually Linus who tutored her at home. Linus, who was a prodigy who could already solve complex equations at the age of three, kept solving a simple math problem with complex methods, and it greatly affected Carmen's way of doing math as well.

On another note, although Carmen's handwriting was still crooked, it looked much better than before. After all, she had a calligrapher on her side—Louis. Not only that, Cooper also had impressive penmanship, and so did Carmen's parents. As such, even if she inherited a little of those genes, it was already more than enough.

In the first semester, she was elected as a member of the Arts Committee, and she was working with her teacher to prepare for this year's Christmas party performance.

As for her physical education, she was already able to dive to the bottom of the pool to retrieve a key at the age of three. Now, she had her own pony and was great at horseback riding. On top of that, she was especially good at roller skating and had even gotten a yellow belt in Taekwondo. Clearly, she had inherited the Fletcher Family's athletic genes.

Overall, she had an all-around development in morality, intelligence, fitness and arts. She was also awarded the most outstanding student of the whole school, hence she was selected as a representative to accompany the president overseas for an international academic exchange in two days.

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"Alright, sweetie. I'll have a word with your teacher soon," Michael promised.

To Carmen, the first grader's tests were too easy. Usually when Linus tutored her at home, he would be teaching her high school and college-level math knowledge, which she had no difficulty in understanding. Perhaps, they could let her skip a grade.

As a first grader in elementary school, Carmen started to develop a sense of awareness and was no longer a baby who sat around and did nothing. Back in kindergarten, she was already selling pet dogs and her father's autograph even though it was only a small-scale business that operated offline. Granted, it was a no-cost business, but sales were slow and it carried high risks. Now that she was in elementary school, her horizons had widened and she began to learn the basics of the internet from her Uncle Linus. As such, she opened up her own online store that sold her father's autographed posters, and merchandise made of the fur that the family pets had shed.

She operated the online store all by herself—she was the manager as well as the customer service officer. Meanwhile, the shipping of the sold goods was assigned to Hale. Recently, she had been gathering her pets' fur and had them made into pillows and keychain charms by Nicholas to be sold on her online store. In fact, it was being sold at a rather high price—a pillow would cost about a hundred.

With the help of Linus, she also modified Nicholas's program and added an extra function of embroidery and sewing. Since then, Nicholas had been working overtime for Carmen and doing odd jobs for her every day.

Meanwhile, a national children's opera competition was also coming up, and the winner would walk away with a prize of 500,000. She signed up for it enthusiastically and was aiming to win first place.

Looking at Carmen's achievements so far, Michael was content and proud. With the way things were going, he would have nothing to worry about. Even if she didn't have a father, Carmen would still grow up healthy and happy. She was a business-minded child who would grow up to have a career and great accomplishments of her own, just like her grandfather, uncle, and mother.

When they arrived home, Michael held Carmen's hand and spoke in a firm manner, "Carmen, you're a big girl attending elementary school now. You'll have to leave Mommy and Daddy to live on your own in the future, so you have to learn to be independent, okay?"

Nodding confidently, Carmen assured, "Don't worry, Daddy. I can take care of myself now."

After arriving home, Carmen ate and completed her homework before she started to work. She wore a face mask and a pair of pet deshedding gloves to collect the fur of their pet cats, dogs, and alpacas. She also plucked the feathers from the rooster's tail to make shuttlecocks. Meanwhile, Maria disinfected the fur and feathers before passing them to Nicholas to work on.

Furthermore, the 'double eleven' shopping festival was just around the corner, and there would be a promotion at the store. As such, Carmen's schedule was expected to be full for the coming period. She took her job seriously and worked overtime. Recently, her little store received too many orders, and she was being put to the test. As such, she hired many tiny workers of her age. As soon as school was over, Poppy and Hope would come over from next door to work.

Meanwhile, a stack of posters was placed before Michael, who was carefully signing them with a pen. He strived to help Carmen in increasing sales and inventory. In fact, his signed posters were a hit, and the demands were largely exceeding the supply. At that point, Carmen's illegal home-based workshop was fully equipped and staffed.

Soon, Sophia also returned from work. JNS Group was also in the midst of preparing for the 'double eleven' shopping festival, so she had been busy with work until late at night recently. Even when she came home, she would be working for Carmen at her illegal workshop.

As a matter of fact, everyone in the family was supportive of Carmen's first ever business. Even Cooper who had fled would often call to encourage her to be persistent in her business. On top of that, the entire family was happy to provide her with whatever resources she needed.

With plenty of encouragement, Carmen was full of confidence and worked even harder to the point where the family pets were going to be bald soon.

Fortunately, they had many pets at home, so they could afford to be deshedded to this extent. After the fur was collected and disinfected, Sophia would wear a face mask and a

pair of gloves to stuff the fur into pillows and keychain charms before sending them to Nicholas for sewing works. Then, the items would be disinfected again and marked with the store label before being sold.

After signing a hundred posters and a hundred addressed postcards, Michael would come to help as well. The family of three were busy making little keychain charms and pillows while they discussed bringing home the dogs that were being kept at the Edwards residence at Riverdale for Carmen to collect their fur as raw material.

After the 'double eleven' shopping festival, new year's was around the corner. This year, they would be making more cured meat to be sold on the online store. At the same time, Carmen could also learn to make cured meat and carry on the Johnson family recipe.

Sophia picked up a model of the keychain charms. All of them were designed by Carmen and sent to JNS Group to be produced by a specialist. After the items were delivered to them, they only had to stuff it with fur and sew them shut to complete them. The keychain charms were sold in a complete set as well as in separate units. The designs were dog figures, baby girl figures, and even parent figures. The whole set would be figures of a happy family of three, with a bunch of cats, dogs, alpacas, and rooster figures.

At that moment, Sophia had made a whole set of keychain charms. She had stitched them and was going to keep them for herself.

"This is for Daddy, this is for Mommy, and this is for you..." As Sophia spoke, she put the little keychain charms on her and Michael's sets of keys, while Carmen's was hooked onto her backpack. When she was done, she smiled with content. "There, the three of us will always be together." At which Michael smiled but rather ruefully.

Carmen had also made a baby boy charm and brought it to Sophia before saying sternly, "Mommy, look. Doesn't this look like the baby brother you promised to give me, but didn't?" She needed a lot more child workers at her illegal shop, and a little brother or sister would be able to help her in managing her little business.

Amused, Michael reached out and patted the top of her head with a smile while he subconsciously glanced at Sophia's belly. Their second child seemed to be out of their reach now. Truthfully, he didn't want his child to be born without a father.

Michael clutched the keychain charm that Sophia made for him, on which her smell and warmth seemed to have lingered. Meanwhile, Sophia had started to make a baby boy charm and put together a family of four.

While doing so, she was thinking that she would begin to prepare for IVF once JNS Group became stable. She didn't mind the pain as she would be able to tolerate it. In fact, she had been through surgeries before and had been pricked by countless needles, and even her face had been reconstructed entirely. Now, the pain that came with IVF seemed insignificant. She wanted to give birth naturally!

Soon, the baby boy charm was done and Sophia hung it on Michael's shirt. Staring at the charm, he felt infinitely heartbroken.

Out of the blue, the door opened and Tiffany came into the workshop. Perplexed, she asked, "What are you doing? Do you need help?"

At once, Sophia hastily put everything away and grunted coldly, "No."

Then, Carmen added, "Miss Tiffany, you're too late. We're all wrapped up for the day."

Tiffany had been wanting to join their illegal workshop as well and be assigned a task in hopes of strengthening their relationship. However, she did not pass the interview with Carmen. She wasn't accepted because she was too old to be able to adapt to the intensity of the workload. However, the marketing tasks were outsourced to her.

Just then, Tiffany backed away sensibly, while Carmen pondered as she watched her departure.

When Michael went to pick Carmen up the next day, she said with seriousness, "Daddy, we need to make a stop. I have a business meeting with someone."

Puzzled, Michael wanted to see who Carmen was meeting, so he sent her to a nearby café where they had agreed to meet. Upon arriving, Michael spotted the green-eyed goblin he despised—Bailey Adams.

Looking up from the documents, Bailey peered at Carmen in wonder. "You mentioned on the phone that... you wanted to insure your online store?"

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With a stern expression on her adorable face, Carmen tried very hard to look like a business owner and went into negotiation mode by nodding firmly. "Yes."

Then, she took out a proposal she had drawn up herself from her backpack.

At once, Bailey and Michael were at a loss for words.

What does this tiny child know about business? She isn't here to take advantage of the opportunity to flirt with this boy, is she?

It must have been Bailey who seduced Carmen again!

This b*stard! She's just a child!

Michael's eyes were glowing red as he glared at Bailey. In fact, he was on the verge of swinging his fists at him, but he managed to control himself. He didn't want to ruin Carmen's business meeting.

Meanwhile, Bailey was also feeling the pressure. It was Sophia who called him and said that she wanted to cooperate with him on a big project, and this so-called big project was to insure Carmen's little workshop and online store.

Under Sophia's guidance, Carmen had written a proposal regarding the insurance of the property of her workshop.

At that moment, Bailey was struggling to keep a straight face while he studied the proposal... Although there were many misspelled words, her risk awareness was quite strong.

Quinton, who had been standing on the side as a bodyguard, leaned over to take a look as well.

After skimming through, he realized how much Bailey was actually struggling. How could he look at this and still maintain a straight face?

Just then, Bailey put down the proposal after reading and spoke in a monotonous and business-like tone, "I'm sorry, but your workshop does not meet our requirements. As such, we cannot provide insurance service for your workshop."

With a similar tone, Carmen pointed out, "But according to your operational procedures, you should only make the decision after a field survey." She continued sternly, "Besides, my business has the highest revenue among others under the same category. May I ask what it is that does not meet your requirements?"

At that point, Bailey was about to roll his eyes at her. Everything!

Of course, he couldn't say that out loud. "You have to have a business license, at least."

Thud!

Without missing a beat, Carmen slammed her business license on the table.

Bailey glanced at it. The license read, 'Carmen Fletcher's Pet Accessory Creative Studio'

Michael was the legal person, and the registered capital was 100,000. The location registered was the basement of The Imperial's Villa No. 8.

The required documents and procedures were complete, and it seemed like this was a serious matter.

However, Bailey was reluctant to provide insurance for her illegal workshop.

At that moment, he was put in a difficult position. Glancing at Michael, he was hoping that he would say something as he father. However, he didn't look like he was going to make a move. He remained silent so that Carmen could learn to fight for herself.

She had to learn to be independent, especially when he was no longer here.

Upon sensing Bailey's hesitation, she pressed, "Is there anything else? Otherwise, you may send someone over to my studio for a site visit and evaluation."

At that point, Bailey felt helpless. He was considered to be an ally to Sophia now, and if he refused Carmen, then he would be disrespecting Sophia. However, providing insurance for her illegal workshop seemed to be against his work policy and ethics.

After a long pause, he finally decided to make a trip to their home.

He couldn't refuse her seeing how serious she looked.

Under Michael's scrutinizing stare, Bailey went to their residence. After all, it was Sophia who personally contacted him to talk business. As such, he had to agree, and he would also visit Tiffany along the way and find out what that old lady was up to.

As soon as they arrived, Carmen led Bailey to her workshop.

Pointing toward a room in the basement, she said, "This is our regular work space."

Then, she pointed at a few kids. "These are our staff."

Next, she turned toward the family pets. "These are our raw materials."

Lastly, she pointed at Tiffany. "And this is our partner."

Bailey was tongue-tied.

After that, Carmen brought him to see their products, production line, warehouse, shipping process and everything else. It looked like she had made preparations for this.

Even though she had fought hard in good faith, her application for insurance was still rejected for the sole reason that the illegal employment of child labor was inherently risky for this business. Therefore, they would not insure her illegal workshop.

But in reality, he simply did not want to take on this deal because it was too childish.

After her business proposal was denied, Carmen burst out in tears.

Quickly, Michael rushed to coax her and crooned, "It's okay. This is how business meetings are. You'll fail many times in the future, and you'll have to find a way to solve it. Crying isn't going to help."

It was unfortunate that her first meeting had been with Bailey, who was unmalleable and cold. Carmen's confidence had been shattered instantly and she felt defeated, so much so that she cried all night. Even her neighbors, friends and family were alarmed and came over.

Then again, Bailey was a man of principles. At the first glance, he knew taking on this deal would be equivalent to digging himself into a hole. Hence, he stood firm in his decision as the deal was not in line with his work policy.

Even when Micahel and Sophia came to persuade him, he remained unmoved.

At the end of the day, the insurance deal didn't work out. Despite that, Sophia still kindly invited Bailey to stay for dinner.

While waiting for dinner, Carmen was still weeping. All of a sudden, she left and came back not long after with a bunch of whimpering children behind her. They each had a piece of paper in their hands.

With teary eyes, Carmen mewled, "I have terminated all the illegally employed child workers. Look, we have all signed the termination contract. Now, will you insure my store?"

Without any option, Bailey glanced at the crying children behind her who had all lost their jobs, and a strong sense of guilt washed over him.

He really didn't want to at all!

With glistening eyes, Carmen stared at him and waited for his response. She looked pitiful and distressed.

On top of that, her entire family was also watching him as they waited for him to take a stand as if he was the hope of the entire family.

Being put on the spot, Bailey's eyes darted to Tiffany, who was watching with amusement.

Eventually, Bailey reluctantly agreed, "It's a deal."

In an instant, a bright smile stretched across Carmen's face. With tears still on her face, she grinned, revealing a row of tiny white teeth with two black holes where two of her front teeth should be. At that moment, she looked like she had just been given the tastiest candy in the world.

In fact, everyone in the room could feel her sweet joy.

"How impressive! Our Carmen just closed her first ever business deal!"

Linus enthusiastically picked her up and lifted her into the air, causing her to let out a giggle that sounded like silver bells.

She looked like a cheerful little angel that was flapping her wings and flying around happily.

Meanwhile, Michael finally relaxed his facial muscles that had been tensed up for a long time. He took Carmen from Linus and lifted her up again.

In fact, even Cooper, who had run away, was watching everything in real time through a screen. He even called and checked on Carmen regarding her business deal.

Even though it was just insurance, the family was so thrilled that they nearly threw a party to celebrate as if it was a huge deal.

Seemingly being influenced by this heartwarming atmosphere, Bailey smiled meekly as well.

This was probably what bliss felt like—to have unwavering support and care from the people around, no matter how insignificant the issue was.

In contrast, he had to bear everything in silence alone no matter what happened. He had to carry the weight of the world on his young yet already calloused shoulders.

Otherwise, it would be the end for him.