

Reborn 1121

Chapter 1121 The Boy Who Waited at the Door

“How much longer do you have to wait?” Hannah stared at Oscar.

Instinctively, she had blocked her body from his gaze. But then again, if Oscar was still a gentleman, he would immediately close the door and leave. She didn't need any more of this. But she hadn't expected Oscar to stare at her body for so long, which made her feel annoyed.

Oscar withdrew his gaze and turned away without looking at her again. Even though his mind was filled with those indelible traces, he said, “I forgot to remind you that all the clothes in the closet are new and you can wear them.”

“Thank you,” Hannah replied coldly and awkwardly.

Oscar closed the door but didn't leave right away. The pain in his heart made him want to calm down a bit but also eased it. At that moment, he heard the sound of locking from inside the room. He thought he had disgusted her once again. After locking the door, Hannah went straight into Oscar's closet. She needed new clothes after taking a shower.

As soon as she entered the closet room full of clothes of different styles, she found everything she wanted was there, even intimate clothing in her size. It was so rich that it made her wonder if Oscar had planned this all along.

But even if he did plan it out beforehand, what could be done about it?! At least for now, she had no choice but to rely on him. Hannah picked out some casual wear and sleepwear before heading into the bathroom for a shower.

Standing in front of the mirror inside the bathroom revealed many marks left by Doyle on her body last night, which were not easy to wash off completely. So when Oscar looked at her just now, he wasn't looking at her body, instead, he saw those marks. Her heart stirred slightly with emotion, recalling Oscar's gaze on her. He must misunderstand something. But, she didn't intend or need an explanation either way.

Then she went directly towards the centre of the bathroom, where water flowed overhead. She washed clean thoroughly. Every time she thinks about what Doyle did to her, she felt an uncomfortable feeling arising inside.

After finishing showering, Hannah tried hard not to let sleepiness overcome her while blow-drying her hair before finally collapsing onto the bed exhaustedly afterwards.

There wasn't any trace or scent of Oscar left on the bed. Everything was clean and new on the bed, which gave her peace in the heart.

When Hannah woke up later, she found out that darkness had already engulfed the outside world. She blinked her eyes and took a moment to realize where she was. She had returned to Northfield, leaving Jolencami and Doyle behind. Stretching lazily, she got up and went to freshen up before heading out for some food. She was starving.

As soon as she opened the door, a small figure jumped into her arms. Hannah quickly caught Salem in a hug.

“Sal?” Hannah called out to him. “What are you doing sleeping here?”

Salem stood up straight and explained quickly, “Dad told me you were back, so I wanted to come to find you. But he said you were sleeping and I couldn’t disturb you, so I waited outside your door until I fell asleep.”

Hannah smiled at him fondly as she crouched down to his level.

“You silly boy,” she scolded gently. “You could have knocked on the door instead of risking falling if Mom didn’t catch you.”

“I’m not afraid of pain,” Salem bravely declared with a grin on his face. “As long as Mom is with me, nothing hurts.”

Hannah’s heart melted at his words. Salem truly was a little sweetheart who had been on her mind constantly while being held captive by Doyle in Jolencami.

She stroked Salem’s head and promised him softly, “I won’t leave you again.”

“Dad already told me that too!” Salem exclaimed excitedly before taking her hand in his small one.

The little boy felt like he had never been so happy before in all his life.

Hannah smile genuinely and touched the boy’s hair again. She said, “I’m hungry, do we have something to eat for dinner?”

“Yes! Dad prepared dinner for Mom, I’m taking you there.” Salem pulled Hannah’s hand, which made her feel warm.

Then they made their way towards the dining room together through the quiet house, which was lit dimly. Only guard patrols and one or two remaining servants were there.

As they passed by the living room, Hannah saw the clock reveal it was already 2 AM. How had Salem managed to stay awake for so long? Didn’t Oscar care about what he did?

Hannah couldn’t help but wonder if Oscar would have let him stand outside her door all night if she hadn’t woken up.

“Mom, do you like all of these?” Salem had no idea what Hannah was thinking as he watched the servant prepare the food. He quickly asked, “Dad said these are all things that Mom likes, right?”

Hannah looked at the rich variety of dishes in front of her. “Yes, but there’s too much. We can’t finish it.”

“It’s okay if we can’t finish it. As long as Mom likes it.” Salem replied.

“But we shouldn’t waste so much food,” Hannah said.

“Don’t worry about it. Dad has a lot of money,” Salem said confidently.

“Did he say that?” Hannah frowned.

Oscar had instilled some bad thoughts into Salem’s mind, Hannah thought to herself.

“I can see it myself,” Salem replied knowingly.

Hannah pinched his chubby cheeks and said, “Even if we have a lot of money, we shouldn’t waste anything. Saving is a traditional virtue, you know?”

“Oh,” Salem obediently nodded his head and added, “Let me eat with you so there won’t be any waste.”

“Are you hungry?” Hannah saw through his little scheme. Salem rubbed his small belly sheepishly and answered with an affirmative sound, “Mm-hmm.”

“Let’s eat together then.”

“All right.”

Salem happily ate dinner with his mother. Even though he was also hungry, he tried hard to take care of his mother’s every need during their mealtime together by awkwardly serving her food on her plate. Whenever she took a bite from something that he served for her, the little boy revealed a big grin on his face. Hannah couldn’t turn him down so she ate a lot.

It had been around 3 AM.

“Salem? Aren’t you going to sleep now?”

“Don’t you want to see me?”

“It’s getting late now, you’re not going to kindergarten tomorrow.”

“But I’m afraid... when I woke up, you’ll disappear again.”

“How about sleeping next to Mom tonight then?” suggested Hannah.

“Really? Can I do that?”

“Of course!”

“I want to go to bed now. I’m sleepy.” Salem said as he rubbed his eyes.

Hannah was amused by his act. Salem was a smart boy.

She went back to the room with Salem. After brushing his teeth, they went to bed together.

Hannah finally returned to Salem after all these years of separation.

Chapter 1122 With Her Son

Hannah was lying in bed with little Salem, who couldn’t hold back his sleepiness any longer and finally dozed off. Hannah found it somewhat amusing but also hurt a little. She owed this child so much. She kissed Salem on his forehead.

“Mom...”

Hannah was somewhat taken aback. She thought she woke up Salem accidentally. As she was about to put him to bed, she found he had been keeping his eyes closed and murmuring in his mouth, "Mom, don't leave me..."

Salem was talking in his sleep.

"Sal, Mom will never leave you again," Hannah promised in Salem's ear.

He seemed to hear Hannah's words and finally fell into a deep sleep. Hannah had hardly slept all night, since she had slept for too long earlier. With Salem by her side, it seemed like she didn't want to sleep as well and just wanted to quietly watch him and accompany this child.

By the time dawn arrived, a slight feeling of drowsiness finally set in and she fell asleep in a hazy state.

When she woke up, Hannah felt some movement around her.

She frowned and forced herself to open her eyes, only to see Oscar's face up close. Hannah slapped Oscar's face hard and exclaimed angrily, "What are you doing?"

Oscar was slapped hard by her, leaving a solid mark. Instantly, his face turned red.

"Mom," Salem quickly called out to her, hugging her tightly. Hannah just remembered that she slept in the same bed as Salem. She felt so sorry to be so violent in front of the child.

"Mom, don't blame dad. He came to wake me up and saw that you didn't cover yourself well with the blanket. Dad was just helping you cover the blanket, not trying to harm you." Salem explained quickly.

He was genuinely scared by what Hannah did.

Hannah snapped back to reality. So just now, she misunderstood Oscar.

"Let's go, Sal. We're going to be late for school." Oscar said calmly, without any sign of anger.

Salem obediently got off the bed and couldn't help but turn back to Hannah before leaving. "Mom, you don't have to go to school. You can sleep a little longer."

Hannah nodded and watched Oscar lead Salem away.

"Sal stayed up late last night, can he skip school today?" she couldn't help but ask and saw the boy's sleepy eyes.

"No." Oscar refused without hesitation. "Going to school is his task now, so he can't give up easily no matter what happens."

"He's only five years old."

"Habits are formed from a young age."

Hannah was a little angry because she thought that health was more important.

"Mom, don't argue with Dad. I volunteered to go to school," Salem said quickly when he saw that his mother was about to get angry. "I didn't sleep last night on my own accord, so it's my responsibility if I'm not fully awake today. I can't blame anyone else or avoid it."

Oscar had taught Salem to be too mature too early.

“Bye, Mom.” Salem smiled slightly.

“Bye.” Despite seeing Salem’s smile, Hannah couldn’t help but feel upset with Oscar.

After they left, Hannah felt lost in thought and couldn’t fall back asleep. She tossed and turned before finally getting out of bed and leaving the room.

Oscar sat on the couch in the living room reading the newspaper while Theodore sat next to him-though Hannah wasn’t sure when he arrived there as well. She heard Theodore make a joke at Oscar’s expense, “What happened to your face?”

Oscar ignored him.

“Did you impose? Honestly, I support you! There’s nothing that sex won’t solve, if once isn’t enough then twice or three times will do for sure! With your ability, you could do it five times over...”

Then Theodore’s words froze on his lips because he saw Hannah walking past them, making things awkward for everyone involved including himself.

Hannah acted like she hadn’t heard anything and walked straight into the dining room for breakfast, while Theodore looked embarrassed by his own words upon seeing her reaction towards him. He asked Oscar, “Did I offend her just now?”

Oscar gave him a look that shut down any further discussion on the topic immediately, causing Theodore’s lips to purse together tightly. He had felt inferior around Hannah since he owed her something deep down inside himself, which made him feel uneasy around her even more now.

“I just came here to see how your injury is doing. So you can’t work lately, I gotta work. See ya.”

“Mhm,” Oscar responded.

Theodore left dejectedly.

After he left, Oscar stood up from the couch and walked towards the dining room, where Hannah was already calmly eating breakfast at this moment.

Oscar sat down next to her. Hannah paused for a moment but didn’t say anything and continued eating. She couldn’t demand that Oscar not eat his breakfast while staying under his roof. Once he sat down, the servant brought over Oscar’s portion of food as well. Neither of them spoke as they silently ate their respective meals.

Because Oscar’s right arm was injured, he had to use his left hand when using utensils, which made it difficult for him to eat properly. Hannah couldn’t bear watching him struggle any longer and helped cut his bread into bite-sized pieces for him.

Oscar looked at her and she bluntly said, “You could just use your hands.”

He had been trying to cut the bread with a knife and fork before Hannah reminded him that he could simply pick it up with his hands instead.

She implied that he wasn't very clever. However, despite being scolded by Hannah, Oscar suddenly smiled. It seemed like he was in a good mood.

Hannah noticed this smile on his face but didn't think too much of it-she only cared about showing some humanitarian concern towards someone who got hurt because of her.

She put down her utensils and said, "I'm finished now, take your time."

"Hannah," suddenly called out Oscar.

She frowned slightly since she didn't want too much involvement with him anymore.

"On the coffee table, there is a phone, I got you a new number so Doyle won't bother you again." Explained him.

Hannah's eyes flickered slightly as she realized that all he wanted to do was tell her that he bought a phone for her, not cling onto or harass her further.

Chapter 1123 Oscar, Don't Overthink It

"By the way," Oscar said, but Hannah remained silent. He continued, "Why don't you call Susan and let Manuel know that you're back? It was Manuel who reminded me of what happened to you."

That day when she went to drop off Manuel and Susan, Doyle suddenly appeared and Manuel noticed something was wrong. She was surprised that Oscar knew she had been held captive by Doyle; it turned out that Manuel had told him.

Manuel always surprised her with his intelligence.

She responded calmly before walking towards the hall to pick up her new phone. The phone already had a list of important contacts including Susan, Manuel, and Salem's watch phone, even her parents' numbers were saved except for Oscar's.

She tightened her grip on the phone as she dialled Susan's number. The voice on the other end sounded groggy as if just waking up.

"Hello? Who is this?"

"It's Hannah," she said plainly.

The person on the other end suddenly became excited at hearing Hannah's voice. She could imagine Susan sitting up in bed with such force that it probably scared even Manuel who was still sleeping beside her. Despite Edward and Justine having been taking care of their baby all night long, since they needed feeding every two hours or so, getting some sleep after a restless night made them both very tired. Therefore, when Susan bounced out of bed like this, Manuel thought there was an earthquake or something. So Manuel tried to grab onto Susan to run, thinking they needed to escape but then heard her say, "Are you sleepwalking? I'm talking to Hannah right now!"

"Hannah?" he asked once he calmed down a bit from being startled by all the commotion caused by his wife's sudden movements. Living with someone like Susan for so long had influenced his character, making him act rashly sometimes too.

“Has Hannah come back?” Manuel got excited again.

“I haven’t even asked yet! You just pulled me to run, are we scared of being found out or something?” Susan got cross. Manuel was speechless too.

Hannah couldn’t help but laugh while listening to their conversation over the phone line. Although Susan had become a parent, she hadn’t changed much. She was still as likeable and reckless as ever.

“Hannah, did you come back?” asked Susan.

“Yes, I did.”

“Where are you?” Susan asked eagerly, “Did you come with Doyle? I told him before if you come to Northfield, I’ll show you around.”

“He isn’t here.”

“What’s up?” Susan seemed to notice something.

“I can’t explain it over the phone. Let Manuel tell you.”

“Did he know?” Susan frowned. “You guys are keeping secrets from me again!”

Susan was angry again. She had been holding a grudge against them since they had found out the real identity of “Besse” but didn’t tell her last time. Now they were hiding something else from her again.

What kind of person did they think she was?

“It’s not a big deal,” Hannah tried to calm her down.

“Even if it’s not a big deal, you still kept it from me. Where are you now, Hannah? I want to see you.” Susan said angrily.

“Aren’t you supposed to be resting after giving birth?”

“Then come see me.” Susan immediately changed her mind. She was quick on the uptake like that.

Hannah hesitated for a moment. It would be better not to wander around during this time. Oscar had said that he needed one month to settle things.

But if she refused Susan, Susan might start throwing tantrums right away. Just as she was in a bit of a dilemma,

Oscar spoke up, “Go ahead, I’ll take you there.”

His voice reached Susan’s ears too. Susan couldn’t believe what she heard and opened her mouth wide before hesitantly asking, “Did I just hear Oscar’s voice?”

Hannah didn’t know how to explain this situation to Susan now.

“Hannah, are you and Oscar rekindling your old flame?”

“No,” Hannah denied firmly.

“Really? Are you sure that deep down inside, Doyle wasn’t your true love? Did you regret marrying him the moment he proposed and then immediately broke up with him and came back...”

“You should ask Manuel.” Hannah cut in before hanging up directly on the phone call.

Sometimes when Susan got excited like this, they couldn’t handle it well, Only Manuel could help out with these situations.

Hannah put down her phone while Oscar stood next to her saying, “Change into some clothes, I’ll take care of taking us there.”

“Is that okay?” She didn’t want any trouble for him or herself either. She didn’t want history repeating itself with another kidnapping by Doyle happening again so soon after escaping Jolencami.

“It’s fine. We just left Jolencami yesterday, Doyle shouldn’t have arrived here yet. We’re safe for these two days.” Oscar explained calmly.

“Alright then, thank you.”

“You’re welcome.”

With that said Oscar turned around to get back to another room and get prepared.

“Oscar!”

He turned back towards her.

“You’re bleeding again, your arm.”

Oscar turned his head to take a look. He wasn’t wearing much at home, and his arm was exposed. The gunshot wound had stained the bandage with blood once again.

“It’s probably from before,” Oscar said nonchalantly.

“Did you change your dressing today?”

Oscar shook his head. He hadn’t had the chance yet. He was going to let Theodore do it, but the latter ran too fast.

“Where’s the first aid kit?” Hannah asked.

Oscar pointed to the cabinet next to him, and Hannah got up to retrieve it.

“I’ll help you change your dressing.” Said she.

Oscar felt a bit excited but tried not to show it on his face. He sat upright on the couch like a well-behaved student as Hannah unwrapped his bandages and changed them for him while saying, “Don’t think too much about it.”

Oscar pursed his lips lightly in response.

“Your gunshot wound is because of me. I’m just doing this out of humanitarianism.”

“I know,” Oscar replied before adding, “Thank you.”

The distance between them grew wider after they exchanged words. They both fell silent until Hannah finished re-dressing Oscar's wound properly. Afterwards, they both went back into their respective rooms and changed into fresh clothes. As they came out again, they looked somewhat stunned when they saw each other dressed similarly-both wearing khaki coats on top with black pants below. Hannah could imagine how Susan might react if she saw them together like this.

Hannah couldn't believe that she would end up dressed so similarly to Oscar. Feeling annoyed inside, she suspected that Oscar might have done this intentionally by giving her clothes similar to what he wore himself. She turned around immediately wanting to change her outfit, but Oscar stooped her.

"I'll change my clothes." Said he.

It was clear that he noticed how unhappy she seemed about their matching outfits.

Chapter 1124 Susan is Angry

Hannah followed Oscar out of the mansion, and they sat in silence in the car like two strangers carpooling.

"The clothes were sent directly from the mall." Oscar broke the silence. Hannah continued to stare out of the window at Northfield's streets, not turning to face him when he spoke. "I only gave them your size, I didn't request anything else."

He was probably trying to make it clear that he had nothing to do with their matching outfits. "Hmm," Hannah responded flatly.

On second thought, it was just a coincidence. But she was somewhat frustrated at her choice of clothes before.

"Susan will ask a lot of questions," Hannah turned around and continued, "I don't want her to misunderstand our relationship."

"Okay, I won't let her misunderstand," Oscar replied.

"Hmm."

Hannah turned back around again and deliberately kept her distance from him.

They arrived at the airport where their private jet was waiting for them. The flight would take over two hours and they would return to the Capital later tonight. Hannah hadn't thought about how much trouble it would be for Oscar when she agreed to come along on this trip.

After arriving in Kensbury by plane, they were picked up by another private car and taken straight to Susan's villa.

The Phillips family was finally reunited after all these years-Edward woke up from his coma; Justine and Edward remarried; Susan got back together with Manuel and even gave birth to a baby daughter. They were truly one big happy family now.

Hannah and Oscar walked into the living room, where Susan was waiting for them looking quite imposing without welcoming them first. However, Edward, Justine and Manuel came over warmly saying, "Oscar, Hannah! You guys have been through so much!"

"It wasn't too bad," Hannah politely replied as Justine invited her over sit down next to her on the sofa.

Both Justine and Edward couldn't recognize Hannah but Manuel had told them beforehand. After the accident, Edward had remained unconscious for a long time. When he woke up, he never expected so much to have happened. Thankfully, everyone was still here. Susan and Manuel had gotten back together.

"Edward, how's your health?" asked Hannah.

"The doctor said I'm recovering well. I go in for check-ups every three months and they say my condition is good, no different from a normal person."

"That's good to hear. When you had your accident, Susan almost cried herself to death."

Edward chuckled indulgently. "Thankfully it's all in the past now."

"Mm-hmm." Hannah nodded.

"Oh yeah," Edward suddenly remembered something. "A few days ago, Miguel and I went golfing together. At that point, we didn't know if you were alive or not so I didn't tell him about it yet. He should know by now though."

"I don't think he knows yet," Hannah replied calmly. "Please don't tell my parents for now, when everything is safe again, then I'll explain things myself."

"Sure thing." Edward quickly agreed; he knew that Hannah had her plans and besides, she looked completely different now than before the accident.

"I saw your father recently too, he still looks healthy as ever." Edward continued chatting casually with Hannah.

Hannah smiled but inside she felt a twinge of sadness whenever her parents were mentioned like this. She planned on returning home once everything was truly safe again so they could live together as a family once more.

"I heard that after your accident years ago, your parents' health deteriorated rapidly but thanks to Salem and Oscar taking care of them, they're doing much better now. And if they found out you were alive, they would be very happy."

Hannah could imagine how happy her parent would be at that time. But before everything was fully settled, she didn't want to bring them hope and disappoint them again. If it happened again, she was afraid her parents would never make it through.

"You two done talking?" Susan interrupted their conversation rudely from across the room.

"You're already a mother yourself, can't you speak properly?" Edward scolded Susan lightly.

"I know you had been preferring Hannah since we were kids, and you always think she's better than me in every way," Susan said, disgruntled.

"It's not what I think, it's a fact."

"You old man!" Susan huffed.

"Hannah isn't disrespectful." Said Edward again.

Susan was so angry. Hannah's situation was already enough to make her angry, and now her dad was deliberately provoking her.

"Alright, alright. Susan is still in her postpartum confinement period, so please don't say too much." Justine said to Edward.

Edward was compliant with Justine, while the situation said otherwise between his daughter and Justine's son. It was fair enough.

"You're still laughing," Susan said, looking at Hannah's smile, which made her even angrier.

"I'm so happy right now," Hannah explained.

"Do you think it's funny when I look angry?" Susan was being unreasonable.

"You are the boss when it comes to postpartum recovery. Whatever you say goes." Hannah rarely argued with Susan.

"So you think I'm being unreasonable, right?"

"..."

"Hannah, we've been friends for decades, and you've been hiding so many things from me. Are you my best friend?" Susan couldn't help but bring up the topic. The more she thought about it, the more furious she got.

Why did they all know everything about Hannah, while she was the only one who was clueless and knew nothing? She had been trying to set up Doyle and Hannah. If she had known Doyle had confined Hannah in his house, she would have killed him as she saw him.

Damn it, was there no good man in this world?

Couldn't Hannah meet a good guy?!

"To be honest, I haven't told anyone about my business," Hannah said honestly.

Susan frowned and looked at her.

"It's just that they are smart enough," Hannah emphasized each word.

"So you're saying that I'm stupid, right?" Susan stared at her, looking gloomy.

Chapter 1125 The Talk Between Hannah and Justine

Hannah couldn't help but laugh. She and Susan were so close that even when Susan was angry, she wasn't afraid of her. Hannah found it amusing how unique Susan's anger could be.

"No," Hannah explained, "it's just that they're too smart."

"Aren't you admitting that?" Susan asked.

"I didn't say you're stupid."

"You're being ridiculous!" Susan said in a huff.

Hannah was amused by her. She thought to herself that if she ever became depressed one day, all she would need to do was chat with Susan a bit more instead of seeing a therapist and she'd feel better in no time.

"Just now Justine said you are sitting confinement period. During this time remember not to get angry because your emotions will pass through breast milk and affect the baby. If the baby drinks your milk when you are upset then he or she will also become unhappy."

"You're talking nonsense seriously," said Susan disdainfully but it did make her adjust her mood a little bit. After becoming a mom, there wasn't anything small enough that could affect their child both physically and mentally. Children truly are sweet burdens.

"The past is in the past," Hannah didn't want to explain anymore. She wanted to forget them and start over again, to live life anew with her parents by her side while raising her child together. She hoped to return to a society, where everyone knew each other from before. The past had truly been left behind like dust blown away by the wind.

"So are you back together with Oscar now?" Suddenly out came another question from Susan, who still cared about this matter very much despite Manuel repeatedly telling her they wouldn't be together anytime soon.

"No. Didn't Manuel tell you?"

"He did but I don't believe him." Insisted Susan confidently. "I think right now since you're single again there's no way Oscar won't try his luck!"

At this moment Oscar sat on the sofa chatting idly away with Manuel without any intention of interrupting their conversation. But he still heard every word nonetheless.

He pursed his lips lightly while Manuel felt speechless yet again. When talking about others, one should speak behind their backs. Only someone like his wife would do it so openly.

Hannah explained. "I'm just temporarily staying at Oscar's house because Salem is there and for my safety," she added. "Oscar respects me a lot."

Oscar's fingers trembled involuntarily. It had been a long time since Hannah had praised him. Although her words weren't exactly praise, they seemed like recognition to him. His heart raced uncontrollably.

"How does he respect you?" Susan asked curiously. "Hasn't he touched you?"

Hannah blushed. This wasn't the right time or place for this conversation, especially with Edward and Justine present as well. Susan didn't have any filter when speaking her mind.

"Susan, why don't you go talk to Hannah in the room?" Manuel couldn't take it anymore. He was afraid his wife might say something even more explosive than what she already had said before.

"Fine," Susan said as she led Hannah upstairs with her.

"Hannah," Justine suddenly called out to her. "I want to talk to you alone."

"Okay," Hannah nodded. She knew that whatever Justine was going to say probably wouldn't be something she wanted to hear, but given Justine's status as Susan's mother-in-law and Manuel's mother, not to mention Oscar's aunt, as a junior member of the family, she couldn't refuse either way and agreed without hesitation.

"Mum!" Susan protested unhappily towards Justine who was already leading Hannah upstairs.

"You stole my son from me back then and now you're trying to steal away my friend too? You love taking things from me so much?" Susan fumed with anger.

"Aren't you the one who stole my son away first?" Justine retorted calmly while looking straight into Susan's eyes. "I never held grudges against that nor did I ever try stealing anything from you."

Susan had never won an argument against Justine before.

Hannah followed Justine up onto the second-floor balcony where they sat down together in the warm winter sunray that shone upon them both. Despite feeling somewhat chilly outside, they still felt quite comfortable. A servant brought them some hot tea, which was poured by none other than Justine.

"Justine, I can pour myself some tea."

"It's okay." Justine had poured Hannah the tea.

"Susan loves drinking this kind of tea too," Hannah remarked after taking a sip.

"Yes indeed, that's why we always keep plenty stocked up at home just waiting for when she finishes the confinement in childbirth." Said Justine.

Her kindness towards Susan was never forced, as if everything just fell into place naturally. Justine didn't feel the need to show off how well she treated Susan either. After all, a family should love and care for each other.

Hannah smiled slightly, "Susan is lucky to have a mother-in-law like you."

"Oscar's mother is also very kind." Justine's voice carried a hint of a sigh.

Hannah sipped on her tea, the smile on her lips gradually fading away. But she didn't interrupt Justine.

"If she hadn't passed away so early, she would have been a good mother-in-law too," Justine said with tears in her eyes at that moment. She still felt sad about losing loved ones.

"I know you don't want to hear me talk about Oscar's family situation and I learned from Manuel about your relationship with Oscar. I'm not trying to persuade you in any way but as Oscar's only elder relative

left, there are some things that I think you should know. Consider it my nagging as an elder and listen if you will.”

“Please go ahead, I’m listening.”

Justine looked at her calm and gentle smile and couldn’t help feeling regretful. Even though Hannah looked different from before, it didn’t change how much Justine liked her. In Justine’s mind, only someone like Hannah could match up with Oscar.

Justine took a deep breath wanting to let go of some emotions in her heart before saying, “Oscar has probably told you all about the Wells family background so I won’t repeat that, but let me tell you something else about his personality, which many people may not know.”

Hannah listened quietly. Since she saw everything lightly enough, she could listen peacefully to stories about that man from Justine’s mouth.

Chapter 1126 Hannah’s Refusal

“You know, Oscar has a younger brother named Cian,” Justine began to explain. “The Wells family wanted an heir, so as both brothers were born, if it weren’t for Cian, Oscar would have been the one to inherit the family’s wealth and power. But since there could only be one successor, they chose Oscar because he was older and easier to train. He was tasked with assisting his younger brother in taking over Northfield’s empire.”

Hannah sipped her warm tea as she listened.

“From a young age, Oscar was taught how to protect and sacrifice for Cian. He rarely had any emotions of his own because he grew up fighting and killing, hunting small animals as a child and later killing anyone who stood in the way of Cian’s success. He left his biological parents behind at a young age and didn’t receive much love or affection growing up.”

Justine continued speaking even though Hannah seemed disinterested.

“Despite all this, Oscar is surprisingly emotional more so than we expected from someone raised in that harsh environment. We thought he would be cold-blooded but he cares deeply about people, especially those close to him like Manuel and Theodore, whom we sent to him during difficult times.”

Hannah smiled faintly as she continued drinking her tea.

“But this is also the result we wanted. For an emperor, being emotional may not be a good thing. Cian was more indifferent as if they have seen through the coldness of the world. Therefore, in governing the country, they can be fairer and manage a country better without feeling tired. But Oscar is different. He is not suitable to be a commander. Everything he does now is because his emotions are forcing him to do so. Because of Cian’s unexpected death, he was forced to take on the Wells family’s legacy and has been enduring it all along.”

Hannah nodded her head lightly in agreement with Justine’s point of view. It was true that Oscar had given everything for the Wells family’s legacy and their ancestors’ heritage.

Who could blame him?

That was his own choice. He chose to bear the burden of his family's great business even if it meant sacrificing himself. Of course, he had no other choice but to do so. He also had things that were hard for him to express or control. But these were all his problems and others shouldn't have to pay for them.

"Hannah," Justine said after taking a sip from her teacup, "I want you to know that Oscar is different from what others see on a surface level. He values emotions greatly, and it means that he has always held deep feelings for you since day one, whether it was when he was forced into marrying Lillian or when you 'died' unexpectedly. He now holds such a high position, but everything doesn't come easy for him. I believe right now he might feel more oppressed than anyone else. I hope there will be someone who can accompany him through this difficult life journey, someone whom he loves dearly... Well... I admit I still want you two back together again." Justine finally revealed her true intentions behind talking about Oscar with Hannah. "You both have Salem together, such an adorable child! And I'm sure you wouldn't want Sal growing up without having a complete family."

Hannah put down her tea cup calmly after hearing what Justine said; she already knew what she wanted before coming here today.

"Justine, you've finished talking about your thoughts, may I share mine?"

"Sure," Justine replied eagerly, "Say whatever you like, I won't blame you."

"Okay. Oscar and I indeed had a great relationship before. I can't deny that he was probably the person I loved the most in my life. No matter what happened between me and Charles Sawyer before or any other man I met after, they could never compare to the love I had for Oscar back then."

Hannah had thought carefully about her relationship with Oscar. He was probably the pinnacle of her life.

"Maybe it's because we loved each other too much that we truly understood how it felt to be heartbroken. You should know that Charles and I were already talking about marriage when he betrayed me. We were more than just engaged at that point, but when he betrayed me, all I felt was hatred. All I wanted was for him to pay for what he did so revenge became my only option against him. But with Oscar, it wasn't like that at all. All I wanted was a peaceful end to our relationship because ultimately it wasn't his fault we ended up here today. As you said yourself, Oscar has too many responsibilities tied up with the Wells family, so choosing to let go of our relationship is understandable on his part as well. But it's not my fault as well, because, the one who betrayed another was him."

Justine knew from Hannah's words alone that trying to set her up with Oscar would be an uphill battle. Hannah sounded indifferent towards their past romance, which meant she'd truly moved on from it.

"I don't know if there will ever be another man in my future, who'll make me want to get married and have children again, but one thing is for sure, even if there is someone else out there for me someday, he won't be Oscar. Relationships are fragile things. Once they're broken beyond repair then they stay broken forever. Admittedly Sal deserves better than what little attention or affection he gets from me right now, but whatever debt of gratitude or obligation towards him, it doesn't change anything about how things stand between me and Oscar now. I can't give Sal a full family, but I'll make up for that in my way."

Justine sighed heavily once again.

Hannah saw everything clearly since she had clarity of mind. She always knew what she was thinking and talking about. But if Hannah were someone like Susan, things would be so different.

"I'm sorry, Justine. I disappoint you."

"Nah, I put that inelegantly. I thought Oscar loves you and you have feelings for him too. You even have a child together, so getting back together would be the best thing to do. But who would've thought that this relationship would hurt you so deeply? The things I just said have put you in a difficult position."

Chapter 1127 I Will Not Give Up

Hannah had not yet spoken.

Justine spoke up again, expressing her position, "Hannah, don't take to heart what I said to you today. No matter what, you are Susan's best friend and grew up with Manuel. Your parents and Edward are also old friends. For me, you're always Hannah, and I want you to come over more often when you have time. Not to mention Edward I've liked you since childhood and wanted to pair you up with Manuel but Susan beat you to it."

Hannah couldn't help but laugh a little. "Manuel and Susan are a perfect match, one careful, one careless; one introverted, one passionate; one cautious, the other easy-going. They complement each other perfectly. As for me and Manuel, we're just alike in personality so there's no chance for us."

"I was dissatisfied with Susan before because I thought my son was good in every way but he fell for Susan instead. Now I think..." Justine continued.

"You think she has a good character, right?" Hannah interrupted with a smile.

"I'm not comparing you two." Justine quickly responded.

"Don't worry about me being jealous of Susan either, I do think she's great, pure-hearted and clean-minded, she has something I aspire or else I wouldn't like her so much." Said, Hannah.

"Just don't know if it's true that fools have all the luck, Anyway, I don't know when it started, seeing her is getting more and more pleasing to the eye," Justine added indulgently while smiling involuntarily.

"She's likeable." Said, Hannah.

"Yeah, I think so too." Replied Justine.

The happiness of this family was truly visible even without words being spoken.

"If there isn't anything else I will go find Susan now. She's angry with me now I'm gonna try to explain to her."

"Alright. Thanks for trying." Said Justine. She seemed quite contented with this daughter-in-law.

As Hannah stepped out onto the balcony outside, she saw Oscar waiting there as if he had been waiting for her. Hannah looked calmly at him and said, "Your aunt tried persuading me into getting back together with you."

"I know," Oscar replied.

He already knew about it.

"I refused," Hannah stated firmly.

"Mm-hmm," he replied unsurprised by this turn of events.

"I'm going to see Susan now." She walked past him without another word.

"Hannah," Oscar paused and continued, "I won't make things difficult for you."

"Okay."

"But," His throat moved slightly, "I won't give up either."

This caused Hannah's eyebrows to furrow slightly.

"If you have a better destination, I will quit. Until then, I will continue to pursue you." Said he.

"Suit yourself." Replied Hannah.

Anyway, that was his personal choice. And whether to accept it or not was her choice. Hannah walked past him and headed for Susan's room.

At this moment, the baby had just woken up and was breastfeeding. Hannah walked over to watch the baby breastfeeding and asked, "Is the milk enough? The way you feed the baby, it should be rich."

"Then why did you ask?" Susan replied in a huff. Susan was still angry with Hannah, for she was the only one who didn't know things about Hannah.

"You know about me and Oscar, why do you still ask?"

Susan seethed.

"Okay, I won't provoke you for now. You breastfeed first, and I'll be by your side." Hannah sat confidently in the nearby chair.

Susan endured and decided to feed her daughter first before arguing with Hannah. Earlier, Manuel saw that Hannah was coming into the room, so he found an excuse to go out. He wanted to give them a separate space, and he went to accompany Oscar.

It had been a while.

Susan fed the baby and skillfully belched her back to prevent her from vomiting. Hannah sat next to Susan and looked at her sudden motherly appearance, which was a bit funny.

"What are you laughing at? Am I looking like an aged mother right now?"

"Nope, a middle-aged mother."

"Hannah, you intentionally wanted to anger me, didn't you?"

"I am older than you."

"Humph."

Hannah went forward to hug the baby.

"She's getting more and more like you," Hannah said while looking at the baby's appearance.

She had big black eyes with long eyelashes, incredibly cute.

"It's said that daughters look like fathers, but why does my daughter look like me? Maybe she could be even more beautiful like Manuel."

"Not bad like you."

"You're praising me?"

"I am telling the truth."

"You must be trying to please me and make me unable to be angry with you."

Susan finished speaking both good and bad words.

"Has the baby given a name?" Hannah shifted the topic.

"No," Susan said angrily. "I don't even know what shocking and good name Manuel is going to give her daughter, but he hasn't come up with one yet. I searched online for a few, but he despised them and said, 'Not good enough for her!' He even said the names I found didn't deserve her. I had someone read it. It's a waste of my hard work."

"I'm curious, what names did you come up with?"

"It doesn't matter now that Manuel rejected them all," Susan replied.

Hannah thought about it and realized they probably weren't great names anyway.

"Don't always bring the conversation back to me. What about you? Your love life is a mess, first it was Charles Sawyer, then Oscar, then Doyle. How can your personal life be so chaotic?"

Hannah didn't know how to respond to her directness.

"Okay fine, forget about that for now. What's going on with you and Oscar?"

"I'm staying with him temporarily because of Doyle chasing after me?"

"And there are no other feelings involved?"

"No," Hannah replied firmly.

"Well actually..."

"Your mom already told me everything."

"Oh... Justine mentioned it too?"

"Yeah."

"She didn't convince you though. My words are more convincing than hers." Susan confidently stated.

Hannah couldn't help but laugh at her friend's stubbornness and responded, "Although your argument makes sense in most cases, there indeed isn't anything between Oscar and me."

"Not even a little bit of hope?"

"Nope."

"Fine then." Sighed Susan resignedly as she looked at Hannah's face closely while wrinkling her brow.

"Speaking of which Hannah, are you not planning on fixing your face anytime soon? It looks weird seeing you like this."

"I'm not used to it either," admitted Hannah as she shook her head. "When I have some time later on I'll go ask if there's any way my original face can be restored." She didn't want to spend the rest of her life wearing someone else's face.

Chapter 1128 Una's Breakdown

Hannah spent a long time chatting with Susan in the room. It was only after dinner that they were allowed to leave, and they sat in the car. Hannah still had her back turned to Oscar as she quietly watched the familiar streets of Kensbury pass by, neon lights flickering through her thoughts.

"Do you want to go see your parents?" Oscar asked.

Hannah shook her head. "No need."

She was afraid of disappointing them again until everything settled down for real.

"Okay," Oscar replied and instructed the driver to head straight for the airport.

They returned to the Capital late at night around 10 PM. When Hannah walked into the lobby, Salem excitedly ran out and hugged her thigh tightly saying "Mom!" He seemed so thrilled that he held onto her leg as if he feared she would disappear again.

After Salem came home from school earlier that day, he had been texting Oscar non-stop asking where they were and whether his mother would come back. Fortunately, Dad didn't lie to him; he just waited patiently at home all this time until finally seeing them return safely home tonight. He even refused to let go of his mother's thigh when she touched his head affectionately. The little boy had been waiting for her until this hour.

As Hannah squatted down readying herself for a hug from Salem when suddenly a clear childish voice rang out beside her ear, "Mom."

She turned around and saw Una standing there wearing a pink dress with big sparkling eyes full of anticipation looking up at Hannah expectantly.

Hannah fell silent for a moment unsure how best to respond. Una looked disappointed.

Why could her brother call Mom but not her? Was Mom unhappy because she hadn't waited for her last night but went to sleep?

Una's eyes filled with tears instantly, looking pitifully sad. This child resembled Cian so much that it made one wonder about the Wells family genes being passed on so strongly through generations. Salem

also looked like Oscar; both siblings bore an uncanny resemblance, making people mistakenly assume they were blood-related. Hannah realized that Oscar hadn't told the two of them everything.

Oscar called out gently, "Una, come over here with Dad."

Una looked at Hannah with hopeful eyes, but when she didn't respond, Una went to Oscar and cried in his arms. Hannah pursed her lips. If she were with Oscar now, she would treat Una as her child since Una was Cian's daughter. However, since she and Oscar were no longer together, she wasn't Una's mother either.

"It's getting late, Sal, go to sleep, let's go," Hannah said.

Salem was a sensitive child and felt the coldness between Hannah and Una. He turned around to look at Una crying on his father's lap but didn't say anything as he followed Hannah back to her room.

It was clear that Salem had something on his mind tonight. He seemed distracted. Hannah could sense it too and knew what he wanted to say. She put Salem into bed after taking off his coat.

"Did you take a shower?"

"Yes, I did when you were with Dad."

"Then let's go straight to bed."

"Can I still sleep with Mom?"

"Of course! You can always sleep with me when I'm here."

"What about... Una?" Salem asked while looking at Hannah.

Hannah smiled gently and said, "Una can't join us tonight."

"Don't you like Una?"

"No."

"Why do you treat me differently than how you treat her? She likes Mom too!"

"Hasn't your dad told you everything yet?"

"He has," Salem answered seriously. "Una is not my real sister. My real sister couldn't be only half a year younger than me. Dad said that Uncle Cian had a daughter named Una, who came home after he passed away. So we have to treat her like my own sister."

Hannah was surprised that Oscar had told him so much about it all.

"So Mom isn't Uma's mom. Uma can't call me like that." Explained Hanna

"But..."

"Don't worry about it honey, this is something your dad has taken care of for us already. Your responsibility is just being a good boy who sleeps well every night."

"Mm-hmm," nodded Salem obediently.

He was such an adorable child who listened attentively. He lay down in the covers of Hannah's bed before drifting off into peaceful slumber.

"Mom will come to accompany you after taking a shower. It's already late, good night." Hannah tucked Salem in and reminded him.

"Okay, Mom. Good night."

Hannah got up and went to the bathroom. At that moment, she couldn't help but sigh at the thought of Una's injured eyes just now. She still felt uneasy. But all of this was Oscar's responsibility. He should be the one dealing with it.

When she got out of the bathroom, Salem had already fallen asleep soundly. He didn't get enough sleep yesterday and waited so late tonight. After all, he was still a child and couldn't resist sleepiness.

Hannah thought about it for a while before walking out of the room. She felt that she needed to talk to Oscar about Una's situation. She didn't want a child to pay for adult emotions. So she walked up to Oscar's door and was about to knock when the door opened by itself. The sound of Oscar comforting Una came from inside the room.

Una had been crying all along.

"Una, don't cry."

"Mum doesn't like me anymore," she cried out loud.

It made her sad.

"She doesn't dislike you. Mum just..."

"She just loves Sal more..."

Upon hearing this, Una cried even louder. Oscar seemed somewhat at a loss. Although Una had been pampered since childhood compared with Salem, who was tougher but not unreasonable. Every time Una cried, she could be comforted easily with some coaxing words but tonight nothing seemed working well enough on her tears.

Oscar understood Una's feelings very well. She had always been looking forward to a mother. But now she thought her "mother" didn't like her.

"Una, she's not your mother." Finally, Oscar spoke up.

For a 5-year-old child, perhaps this might be an inappropriate topic, yet there were many things that they should have the right knowledge about them.

The sound of Una crying suddenly stopped. She blinked through teary eyes, "Why isn't she?"

Chapter 1129 Hannah's Comfort

"Because she's just Salem's mom." Oscar gathered the courage to say it. Eventually, Una would find out about her true identity.

"Isn't my mom also my brother's mom?"

“You’re not your dad’s biological daughter.”

“Huh?” Una was completely confused and looked at Oscar with a blank expression.

“Dad had a younger brother who was very dear to me, just like you and Salem are close. You’re his daughter, but he passed away, so I brought you back to raise you in his place. Even though you’re not my biological daughter, Dad loves you just as much as I love Salem.”

“I’m not Dad’s daughter?” Una murmured in disbelief and still didn’t understand what was happening.

When it finally hit her that she wasn’t related to her father by blood, her already hurt face crumpled even more. She burst into tears again and cried out loud, “Why not me? I’m not Dad’s daughter... Dad is a bad person! You’re bad! I hate you!”

“Una...” Oscar tried to comfort her.

“Don’t touch me!” She pushed him away forcefully.

Oscar hesitated for a moment before deciding against forcing himself on the girl who needed time alone. Una ran out of Oscar’s room crying uncontrollably with an expression of utter despair on her face.

Hannah saw Una running towards the door when she arrived outside of Oscar’s room. She felt heartbroken seeing how upset the little girl was when they made eye contact for only one second. Una continued running past Hannah without stopping or looking back at all.

Una locked herself in the bedroom.

“Don’t worry.” Oscar walked over to Hannah and told her.

Hannah didn’t know what to say. Nor did she want Una to bear these things at such a young age. However, she couldn’t make it to be Una’s mother.

“I’ll talk with her,” Hannah spoke up.

Oscar was a bit surprised.

“I’ll give it a try

“Thank you.”

Then Hannah walked towards Una’s room. She knocked on the door. There was no response inside.

“Una, open the door, okay? I want to talk with you.” Said Hannah.

“No! Don’t come to me.” Una said while crying.

Hannah gritted her teeth and tried to open Una’s room door but it was locked by Una from inside. Hannah left and went to the lobby to call a servant.

“Do you have a spare key for home? Please help me open the lady’s room door.”

“Yes.”

Not for a moment, the servant brought a spare key.

“Give it to me, please,” Hannah said.

She took the key and walked back to Una’s room. The moment she opened the door and entered the room.

Bang!

A photo frame suddenly threw at Hannah on her forehead. Blood oozed a bit from the cut.

Una was shocked at what had happened. She didn’t want anyone disturbing her but never intended on hurting Hannah in any way. Seeing blood on Hannah’s forehead scared her so much that she couldn’t even cry.

Hannah tried not to show how much pain she was in as she picked up the picture frame from off of the floor. The photo inside showed Oscar, Salem, and Una all smiling happily together.

Hannah walked over towards the girl who had shrunk into herself due to fear of punishment or retribution for what had just occurred.

“I won’t hurt you,” Hannah smiled gently at Una.

Una bit down hard on her lip wanting desperately wanting to apologize but too stubborn to do so.

“Do you like this photo?” Hannah asked softly. Una remained silent.

“You must love Oscar and Sal, right?”

Hannah was trying to say something to let Una’s guard down. But once again there was no response forthcoming from the little girl.

Hannah sighed and smiled. She asked, “Do you know your Dad had a younger brother?”

On hearing her say so, Una was in tears again because it reminded her that she was not Dad’s real daughter.

“Oscar’s younger brother is your father.”

“I don’t want it!” Una kept crying.

“But that’s true. You’re the daughter of Cian Wells, your father’s name is Cian Wells.” Hannah continued.

“He and Oscar were orphaned at a young age. They were the only family each other had in the world, and they were very close, just like how Sal and you are now. They always thought of each other and wanted to give their best to one another.” Hannah said gently. “But suddenly, one day he passed away. You know who was the most heartbroken?”

“Who?” Una asked curiously.

“Of course, it was your current father, Oscar. He loved his brother so much that losing him would be devastating for him. Luckily, his beloved brother left behind you as a reminder of his love for him, so he can continue to love through you. So do you know how much your dad loves you? It’s because he carries

all that love for both you and his brother in his heart so deeply. But you said you hate him, do you know how sad he would be?" Hannah explained.

Una sniffled her little nose, feeling sad by what Hannah said.

"Just like how it's hard for you to accept that Oscar isn't your biological father." Hannah continued.

Una didn't know how to respond. The thought of not being her Dad's biological daughter made her feel overwhelmed inside but she also didn't want her dad to be upset either.

"Your dad has been waiting for you in the room." Hannah patted Una's head gently before leaving. "Don't let someone who loves you suffer."

Hannah knew that the best way to convince Una was by making her understand Oscar's love for her and what it would mean if she rejected him. As soon as she left the room, she saw Oscar standing in the hallway. He saw the wound on Hannah's forehead.

"It's just a scratch." She said before walking away from him.

"Thank you." He called out after her.

"It wasn't about helping or comforting anyone. I did this because of Cian."

Oscar chuckled softly, realizing there might be some hope after all thanks to Hannah's words.

Chapter 1130 You're a Good Person

Hannah didn't go straight to her room. She went to the lobby to find a first aid kit.

"Ms Cooper,"

She suddenly heard a familiar voice behind her. Hannah was startled. Who could still be in the lobby at this hour? She quickly turned around and saw Max carrying his luggage. Hannah had been surprised earlier when she didn't see Max during her visit to Oscar's house. It seemed like he had gone on a trip.

"Is it Ms Cooper?" Max asked again when he didn't get a response from Hannah.

"Yes, it's me, Max. I'm Hannah." She smiled slightly.

"Ms Cooper!" Max became excited all over, his eyes even turning red with emotion. "When Master called me earlier and said that you were back, I couldn't believe it! But here you are! Even though you look different now, I know that it's you!"

Hannah nodded, feeling emotional herself now too. Facing Max at this moment brought back memories of how he had taken care of her when they lived under the same roof before. Although she knew that Max was following Oscar's orders back then, she would never forget how good he had been to her then, just like how Salem was being treated well by him now too.

"I thought maybe... you..." Max choked up and couldn't continue speaking for a moment. After a while, he held himself together again and said, "It's good to see you back safe and sound."

At this point, Hannah found herself unable to express just how grateful she felt towards him inside. She wasn't sure what words would be enough for such an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards Max.

“Oh right, does Salem know who you are?” Max asked.

“He knows.”

“Salem must be very happy about it. He always wanted a mother.”

“I owe him so much...”

“If not for Master...” Max hesitated briefly before continuing. “Young Master knows your struggles, and he is such an understanding child. He won’t blame you.”

“Thank you for taking care of Salem so well, Max.”

“I’m only taking care of his daily needs. Master Oscar takes charge of most things related to Salem’s education. His concern towards Salem isn’t any less than mine. He just wants Salem to grow up independent.”

“I know,” Hannah nodded. She was used to hearing praises about Oscar from Max anytime anywhere.

“Ms Cooper, what happened to your forehead?” Max noticed the injury there.

“It was an accident.”

“Let me help treat it.”

“Okay, thank you.” Hannah didn’t want to trouble Max, but she felt that if she rejected him now, he might get hurt.

Max quickly put down his luggage and skillfully picked up the nearby medicine box to carefully apply medicine to Hannah’s wound.

“Where have you been these past few days, Max?” Hannah chatted casually.

She was surprised that Max would “run away from home”. She always thought that Max would tire himself out by Oscar’s side and leave no one qualified enough to serve him or take care of Oscar’s household.

“Oh,” Max blushed a little.

“Don’t tell me you’re in love?” Hannah teased him.

Max blushed even more.

“I guessed right?” Even Hannah scared herself with how accurate her guess was.

Wasn’t Max almost 50 years old? A late-life romance at this point?

She never thought that Max would still be able to start a family at this age.

“Who is it? Where is she? Didn’t come back with you?” Hannah asked curiously.

“I often take Salem to school, she’s the principal of Salem’s school...” It seemed like Max wanted to tell her but couldn’t bring himself to say it out loud.

“The principal?” Hannah laughed brightly.

Max explained quickly, "Although she is the principal, I think she just turned 40 and doesn't look old at all. Although divorced with a son, her son likes me... I didn't say anything."

Max made her laugh uncontrollably-he was so serious about everything. At this moment, even Hannah couldn't help but envy whoever had captured Max's heart; no matter how old they were in the future or what their personality was like-they were sure going be treated like royalty by someone as caring as him.

"I'm afraid you guys might not approve of her." Muttered Max softly

"How could we not approve? Anyone who catches your eye must be a good lady." Hannah gave great affirmation, "So did you go on vacation with your girlfriend these past few days?"

"Not exactly... Kailey isn't local."

So her name was Kailey.

"We went back to visit her hometown and meet her parents along the way." Hannah laughed again when she heard this part. Just thinking about how someone as mature as Max still had to meet his girlfriend's parents made her laugh uncontrollably.

"Are they satisfied with you?"

"Yes," replied Max happily.

"So are you talking about marriage?"

"We are planning for next month's wedding registration." Said max excitedly, "I haven't told Master Oscar yet. I don't know if he will agree."

"Why wouldn't he agree?" Hannah felt that Max was overthinking things again.

"But..."

"Don't worry about it," Hannah dismissed his words. "Even though it might hurt to say, I feel like your dependence on Oscar runs deeper than his on you. So go ahead and pursue your happiness, he's a grown man who can take care of himself."

Max was hurt by her words, but also secretly pleased at the thought of his upcoming wedding. Such conflicting feelings were new to him and he realized that this was what love felt like.

"Is everything taken care of?" Hannah asked as she watched Max retract his hand.

"Yes, Ms Cooper. Just be careful not to get infected by the water and I'll change your bandages tomorrow."

"Got it. Oscar has been shot in the arm, so if you're not too tired, please check up on him and see how he's doing."

"Okay," Max quickly agreed.

"Well then, I'm heading back to my room now. Get some rest soon, Max."

“Ms Cooper... you’re back together with...?”

“No way! I just needed a place to stay!”

Max wanted to say more but Hannah had already turned around and left. As soon as she got back to her room though, she saw Oscar waiting for her at the door. He must have known that she wasn’t in her room so he waited outside instead.

“Did Max help you with your bandages?” Oscar asked.

So he did see them together in the living room earlier but chose not to interrupt them.

“Yeah, he said that he’s getting married soon, so he wants your wishes.” Replied Hannah.

“He said that?” Oscar asked and raised an eyebrow.

“I guessed as much.”

Oscar couldn’t help but laugh as Hannah started joking around with him again.

“Max is a good person,” Hannah stated seriously before turning around and walking into her room without another word.

“You’re a good person too,” Oscar muttered towards her retreating figure before realizing that he had just been shut out by the closing door.