

Reborn 1171

Chapter 1171 Delusional

Theodore's nervousness and suppressed excitement were too conspicuous to ignore. Little Bunny was watching all of this. She knew once she nodded, there was no turning back tonight. She couldn't describe her feelings for Theodore. Since she was his mistress, she should fulfil her duty.

"I'm sure."

As the words fell from his lips, Theodore couldn't help but embrace her in his arms. He kissed her deeply again as if he was asking everything of her. She also responded actively at this moment. Theodore became visibly more excited and picked up Little Bunny, placing her on the bed. Soon, both of their clothes were stripped off. In the room, it quickly became hot and fiery while they were intertwining together.

It was almost dawn. Both of them were almost exhausted. But Theodore remembered that Little Bunny didn't like the smell on him, so he wanted to get up and take her to the bathroom.

But she stopped his hand and said, "I'm too sleepy, let's just sleep like this." Her sound was all a bit fuzzy and unclear. Theodore looked uncertainly at her and asked, "Don't you think it's dirty?"

"Tomorrow will do for washing." Little Bunny turned over and happened to nestle in Theodore's embrace. Theodore's heart completely softened with her being so close to him. That made him more satisfied and comfortable when he fulfilled his physical desire just now. He quickly lay down and held Little Bunny tighter with his other hand. She fell asleep soon since she was so tired. Theodore also fell asleep quickly while holding Little Bunny.

Until the phone suddenly rings, Little Bunny suddenly got up from the bed and picked up her phone. She then realized that it was the agent who called.

"We've been waiting for you for half an hour, why haven't you come down yet?!" The agent's temper was not good. "Didn't we agree to go do a commercial today?"

"Sorry, I overslept. Can we not go today? I have something to do."

"Little Bunny!"

"I didn't sleep well last night, I may have only slept for 2 hours now."

"Little Bunny, are you meddling in Addison's affairs?" The agent sounded angry.

Little Bunny wants to defend herself but her agent continued, "Yuna came to find me but I refused. I told her not to find you. Did she?"

Little Bunny knew she couldn't deceive her agent. She glanced at Theodore, who was still asleep and got up to walk towards the balcony. "I can't just stand by and do nothing." She said.

"How are you going to help? If you try to save Addison now, you'll only drag yourself down with him! No matter how much he tries to clear his name, he's already been labelled as a tainted artist. Even if he says it was forced upon him, everyone won't accept him again. It's impossible!"

“I don’t believe that.”

“Little Bunny, wake up!” Her agent was furious. “If you help Addison, what about Theodore? Do you think he’ll be okay with it if you ask for his help in saving another man that you like? Do you think your relationship will survive this kind of scandal?”

Little Bunny had no response but she wanted to try.

“Little Bunny, I’ll give you one more day off today but don’t get involved with Addison’s affairs or cause any trouble! I’ll also talk to Yuna about that, that untrustworthy woman!” Her agent hung up angrily.

Little Bunny put down her phone silently. Her agent did make sense. But she didn’t want to owe anything else to Addison. If not for what she did to him, he wouldn’t have sought out another way of expressing himself emotionally.

She took a deep breath and went back into their room where Theodore had already woken up, looking tired with bloodshot eyes but managing a smile when Little Bunny approached him.

“Did I wake you?” she asked with a smile.

“Who calls this early?”

“The agent, she called me earlier but since I was exhausted so I asked for a day off. Are you going to work today?”

“I didn’t tell Oscar that I would be working today so let’s take advantage of our day off.”

“Do you want some more sleep then?”

“What about you?”

“I’ll stay here with you.” Little Bunny climbed onto the bed and snuggled against Theodore’s chest, making his heart race faster.

He hugged her tightly asking, “Did it hurt last night?”

Little Bunny nodded slightly.

“I’ll be gentler next time.”

“Theodore,”

“Uh-huh?”

“Do you like me?”

“Isn’t it obvious? I like you so much it’s ingrained in my soul.”

“We should be together for real.”

“Are you serious?”

“I am,” Little Bunny replied confidently.

If Theodore continued to treat her this way, she didn't think life would be too difficult. She could always accommodate his bad habits and make things work between them.

"All right." Theodore held her tighter in his arms. Sometimes happiness came too suddenly, leaving him feeling a little dazed and confused.

"There's something I want to tell you," Little Bunny finally mustered up the courage to say.

"Go ahead." Theodore was in a great mood at the moment; anything that came out of her mouth made him happy.

"I went to see Addison at the detention center yesterday."

The smile on Theodore's lips froze instantly upon hearing Addison's name mentioned again.

"It turns out that I misunderstood what happened. Addison did indeed choose to take drugs himself... I'm sorry about that."

"So, are you close with me because of your misunderstanding?"

Theodore thought that maybe there was still some conscience left in her after all.

"Theodore, I want you to help Addison." With newfound courage, Little Bunny spoke up again.

The smile on Theodore's face froze once more as soon as he heard those words come from her mouth. So, it turned out that he had been deluding himself all along.

"I know this might make you angry but... Addison taking drugs is related to me somehow, I don't want any guilt towards him."

"What do you mean by 'related'?" He asked sarcastically

"The last time we talked, I said some hurtful things which caused Addison a lot of pain, that led him down this path of drug use as a way of coping with his inner turmoil. If it wasn't for me then maybe he wouldn't have gone down this road or ruined his future like this. Theodore, I promise after helping Addison this time around, no matter what happens, my heart will belong solely and completely with you. If we don't break up then rest assured that there's no one else for me."

Chapter 1172 Compromises

Little Bunny's words were ironic to Theodore. So, for Addison, she was willing to sacrifice everything.

Did she not know that this will only anger another man even more?

It would make him do even more cruel things.

"I just feel that Addison is going through all of this because of me, not for anything else." Little Bunny could also sense Theodore's mood and quickly explained. "And when I said I wanted to be with you, it wasn't for Addison. It was because you moved me and I felt like you had changed from before. If Addison's matter was settled, our relationship won't be affected by others. I don't want to carry guilt towards Addison forever. I want to be honest and sincere with you."

Theodore still listened indifferently. He didn't care much if she was sincere or not.

After all, what use was caring?

If Little Bunny didn't like him, he couldn't do anything to change her mind yet. If he thought too much, he would only disgrace himself. Might as well deceive himself like this instead.

"Did Addison tell you he started doing drugs because of you?!"

Little Bunny could hear the sarcasm in his voice.

"Addison wasn't originally like this. I'm not defending him. I'm just looking at him from a fair standpoint." Little Bunny replied calmly.

"I'm not questioning why Addison does drugs, I just wanted to say..." Theodore suddenly paused and looked at her intently. He wanted to say that maybe Addison wasn't as great as she thought he was either. If Addison didn't want her help, then why did he reveal his drug addiction? He knew what consequences it would have on their relationship.

But in her eyes, Addison was a perfect person who couldn't do any wrong. He wouldn't want to ruin her image of him again.

As Theodore paused, Little Bunny's phone suddenly rang,

"It's my agent calling," She glanced at the caller ID

"You can answer it," Theodore said while leaning against the headboard smoking a cigarette from his bedside table.

Little Bunny answered the phone and the person on the other end was clearly in a bad mood. They started by saying, "Little Bunny, I told you not to get involved in Addison's business! And now look, you're all over the news. Last night when they went to arrest Addison because someone exposed them, were you happy about that?!"

Little Bunny tightened her hand holding the phone.

She thought nobody knew she went to see Addison except for the men arranged by Laird, and Addison. But, she did tell Addison's agent.

Little Bunny had a vague idea in her mind.

"Do you know what the public is saying about you now? They're saying that you're involved with Addison, that your relationship is very close, and that you might even be using drugs!" The agent became angrier and angrier as she spoke. "I'm going to be driven crazy by you. Damn it, the brand merchants are calling me again. I have to go deal with them first. Little Bunny, please behave today and stop worrying about Addison's affairs. You're not allowed to interfere anymore!"

The agent abruptly hung up the phone.

Little Bunny put down her phone and quickly checked the news. The scene of her going to see Addison last night popped up in the news, which was written in an official tone and only presented the facts. However, the comments were all over the place.

The two most popular comments were as follows:

That she and Addison were in a romantic relationship, which was why she went to visit him in jail; secondly, she also had a drug addiction like Addison and went to jail to prevent him from revealing her drug use.

The news was trending.

Many people were asking her to come out and make a positive response.

Little Bunny looked at the news and was also a little angry. Unexpectedly, being exploited by Addison's agent in such a way. Now, she was set up. It was obvious that if she didn't handle Addison's matter well, she would also be implicated. If it was handled properly, of course, both of them would be fine.

Theodore took a drag of his cigarette and looked at her flushed face.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

Little Bunny gritted her teeth and showed the news to Theodore. Theodore looked on, his cold laughter becoming even more severe. Little Bunny used her reputation to save Addison, or perhaps she could sacrifice her body for him like she suddenly came near to Theodore last night.

"Alright, since I shagged her, I should pay her something." Theodore thought to himself.

Since she chose Addison, he would give her what she wanted.

Theodore returned the phone to Little Bunny and got up by lifting the covers directly. Watching him finish his morning routine, change clothes, and leave without telling her anything, Little Bunny didn't know if he was helping her or not. At this moment, she didn't dare to ask and just let Theodore disappear for a day.

That night, she couldn't resist anymore and called Theodore. He answered with a cold tone.

"Theodore, are you coming back tonight?" Little Bunny asked in a gentle voice.

"Are you concerned about me coming back?" Theodore retorted with some sarcasm in his voice.

"I made dinner and I'm waiting for you to come back." Little Bunny said calmly despite sensing his displeasure.

"No need. I still have things to do here." Replied Theodore curtly.

"When will you be back? I'll wait for you for dinner." Insisted Little Bunny firmly.

"Don't wait for me. I'll be late."

"I'll wait until you came back no matter how late." She insisted.

Theodore tightened his grip on the phone. Sometimes he seemed unable to refuse even this kind of kindness from her towards him. He didn't say anything but hung up directly on her.

He returned to his office chair at this moment after dealing with Addison's affairs all day long. It involved public figures and many things were not as simple as he thought even when using his power. He needed a compliant way that could truly get Addison out safely. Moreover, no matter how compliant it was, it was ultimately illegal, which made him feel conflicted inside too.

Theodore lit another cigarette while thinking about these issues when suddenly the door was pushed open by Oscar, who joked around saying, "Still haven't left yet? Why are you suddenly so diligent?"

Theodore shrugged without answering. He kept Addison's affairs from Oscar since it was such an embarrassing thing that he did not want Oscar involved in it at all costs. Oscar was tired enough from managing the entire country. If he was caught showing favouritism in the future, he would be fully responsible for that. Oscar had nothing to do with any of this mess anyway.

Chapter 1173 Guilty

"Are you going to work as usual now?" Oscar refused the cigarette that Theodore offered and asked.

"Do you have something to do?" Theodore asked.

"I plan to go to Kensbury City and take Salem with me." Oscar replied.

"To see Hannah?" Theodore chuckled.

Oscar didn't deny it either.

"Hannah should still be moved by you, right?"

"No," Oscar remembered, feeling a bit helpless. "I've been to Kensbury City two or three times and didn't see her every time. This time, with Salem, maybe there's hope."

"Good luck."

"You should leave work early too." Oscar said. "I saw in the news that Little Bunny had some trouble. If you want to win her back, help her."

"Okay." Theodore nodded.

"I'll go first."

"Bye-bye."

Oscar left.

Theodore felt melancholy again. He always felt like he was doing something wrong now for Oscar's trust in him was so great yet he was doing illegal things behind his back.

But he knew very well that if he didn't help Little Bunny rescue Addison, she would carry guilt towards Addison forever. Finally, Theodore picked up the phone and dialed, "Find someone else to take responsibility and unify their statements. Addison took drugs while not sober due being maliciously framed by someone else."

"Yes sir." The other end received the order but still had doubts, "Sir are you really going to do this?"

"If anything happens I'll take responsibility."

"That's not what I meant, I just feel..."

"Just do it like this for now. Find someone else responsible for it all and arrange everything for them so they keep their mouth shut tight."

“Yes sir.”

Theodore hung up the phone with a heavy sigh once again thinking about how many things were done in secret before. But since he walked on a righteous path all these years, he had never used his power illegally until today. He wondered if one day he might really die at Little Bunny’s hands. After finishing everything necessary at work, Theodore left the office, thinking about how Little Bunny was waiting for him at home. Despite his bad attitude earlier on, he didn’t want her to wait for him too long or even starve herself without him there.

His driving speed was faster than usual as he headed home, only to find an empty room upon arrival. That made he frustrated. He laughed at himself again. He always took Little Bunny’s words seriously. But she was just being perfunctory with him. Their intimacy was just a formality, even when they went to bed together or when she treated him well.

Feeling tired, Theodore lay on the couch and waited for Little Bunny to come back. He didn’t know how long he had been waiting until he heard the sound of the door opening. It must be Little Bunny coming back. But Theodore didn’t move and kept lying there, feeling someone approaching him. It was a familiar scent. It must be Little Bunny who came closer and carefully covered him with a blanket.

“I’m back,” Theodore said as he opened his eyes suddenly, scaring her off guard.

“Did I wake you up?” asked she.

“No, I wasn’t sleeping.” Replied Theodore as he sat up from the couch.

“When did you come back?”

“A few minutes ago.”

“Did you have dinner?”

“What about you?”

“Not yet.” Said she.

Theodore just stared at her.

“My agent called me to record a statement about Addison’s incident, which affected many endorsements and brands associated. Hence they needed me to make an official statement quickly before things got worse for their business deals. I thought it would only take half an hour but ended up taking longer than expected because my agent wasn’t satisfied with the videos, so I took some time. You said you’ll be late so I didn’t call you again.” She explained.

“Um.”

“I’ll warm up the food.” Little Bunny said and went to the kitchen. She felt a bit embarrassed.

Theodore watched her leave towards the kitchen area while wondering what kind of relationship existed between them. Was there any hope left for their future together? What was going on inside her mind? Was she trying too hard just to please him or something else entirely different altogether?

As Little Bunny heated their meal in silence, she was lost deep in thoughts herself. With that statement earlier today under duress from her agents, she could preserve her reputation. But in doing so, she had to sever ties with Addison. If Theodore didn't help Addison, she would become the ungrateful one. However, she didn't want to ask Theodore anymore. Upon reflection, saving Addison was a violation of regulations and as someone in such a high position like Theodore's he couldn't abuse his power. He had his own concerns and she shouldn't force him.

After thinking about it all day today, she finally understood that owing something to Addison was just something that needed to be done for now. In the future, things would return back to normal between her and Theodore.

Little Bunny finished cooking the food and called out enthusiastically from the kitchen table, "Theodore come eat!"

Theodore got up from the couch and walked over to join her at the table, where everything was already set up nicely with utensils laid out neatly on top of it all.

"I heard you like these food so I learned some recipes online." Said Little Bunny excitedly while placing dishes on top of plates before asking, "Please try them. If they don't taste good, let me know so I can improve."

Theodore simply looked at her, who seemed intent on using food as a way of tempting him.

"Go ahead," urged Little Bunny.

Theodore picked up his fork and took a bite of dry-fried pork, which were crispy outside yet tender inside with an intense flavor from red chili peppers mixed in perfectly throughout each bite making them incredibly satisfying overall. It tasted even better than what most restaurants could offer.

He couldn't reject Little Bunny anyway, especially when he saw how much effort she put into preparing these dishes just for him and the chilli made her eyes tear up.

"I've taken care of Addison's situation." Said he.

Little Bunny froze completely.

"How did you manage that?" asked she.

Theodore chuckled softly before replying, "How else do you think?"

At that moment, Little Bunny felt an inexplicable pain deep within her chest, realizing how much indebtedness she owed towards Theodore.

Chapter 1174 He Loves You Too Much

At this moment, Little Bunny didn't know what to say. Theodore had used his influence for her, and she couldn't find the words to thank him enough. She was conflicted because she didn't want to ruin Addison's career, but at the same time, she felt like she had done something terrible to Theodore.

As they sat quietly at the dinner table, Theodore could sense her emotions shifting. He knew that he had gone above and beyond for her and hoped that it would make a difference in how she saw him.

While eating his meal, Theodore said with a hint of playfulness in his voice, "From now on, you should stick with me and not think about other men."

He meant that he helped her because he wanted her for himself. This made Little Bunny feel better because it gave her some balance in their relationship. At least, now she knew there was a purpose behind his actions rather than just being selfless.

She quickly nodded in agreement saying, "I promise I won't leave you as long as you don't push me away."

"Good." Replied Theodore.

He wasn't sure if he should be happy or not about this situation but ultimately, he had Little Bunny by his side.

The next day Addison was released from custody due to lack of evidence against him. The official explanation given by authorities stated that Addison had been set up while under the influence of drugs, which caused him to test positive during detention. After several days of observation, it became clear he did not have an addiction problem nor any prior drug use history. Therefore, no charges were filed against him.

This news caused quite a stir online as those who previously accused Addison were forced into silence after being proven wrong publicly. His reputation which once suffered greatly had now been restored even more so than before. The public was calling for apologies owed towards Addison.

Upon release from jail, one of the first things on Addison's mind was calling Little Bunny.

Little Bunny didn't want to put him through, but since she intended to explain things clear with him so she finally answered the call.

"Hi, Addison."

"Little Bunny! I'm out!"

"I saw the news."

"Thank you. Was it Theodore..."

"We shouldn't talk about this anymore." Little Bunny interrupted him.

It was a violation, and it was best not to bring it up again.

"Okay," Addison understood. He just wanted to express his gratitude, which was genuine. In fact, he also wanted to apologize. If he hadn't intentionally mentioned it that night, Little Bunny wouldn't have gone to do drugs or helped him in the first place. He had taken advantage of her kindness.

"Don't call me again in the future." Little Bunny said bluntly.

"Is this because of Theodore's condition?" Addison asked.

"It doesn't matter. What matters is that I want to be with Theodore."

“He forced you into this.” Addison insisted, feeling even more guilty now. If it weren’t for his own career advancement, she wouldn’t have been ruined like this. In fact, he regretted being released today; he had been brainwashed by Yuna, his agent.

“No, he’s nice to me.”

“I know you’re saying that just to make me feel better...”

“Addison, I didn’t answer your call today just to accept your thanks. I wanted to clear things up between us once and for all. Last time I admitted that what I said hurt you on purpose because I was afraid of retaliation from Theodore, but this time everything is sincere.” Little Bunny spoke seriously.

Addison pursed his lips and listened quietly as she continued speaking, “Now that you’ve come out safely, we can consider our debts paid off. There’s no need for any guilt or obligation between us anymore. We can be honest with each other. Let’s move forward or say goodbye if necessary regarding our past naive relationship. As for Theodore, I won’t deny that although my feelings for him aren’t love yet but at least now I feel like I can develop an emotional connection with him and try my best.”

As Addison listened on painfully aware of what she meant. She didn’t love him anymore but would try liking someone else instead. They were done forever.

“Goodbye, Addison.” Her voice echoed deeply as if sealing their fate together.

This goodbye signified letting go of all their emotions towards each other completely. Addison tried hard not let himself get too emotional as he replied, “Take care of yourself, Little Bunny”

After the lesson she learned, Little Bunny didn’t dare to do anything that might offend Theodore. She put down her phone and felt a little bored. But when she thought of Theodore, her mood inexplicably improved. She checked the time and called him, “Will you be home for dinner tonight?”

“No,” Theodore replied, “I have a dinner party.”

“Will you be back late?”

“It will be a little late.”

“Oh, okay. I’ll wait for you at home.”

“Um.”

She hung up the phone feeling a bit disappointed. She suddenly wanted to cook for Theodore and eat with him. Last night he ate a lot of her homemade spicy food, which made her suffer from pepper fumes during cooking. But seeing how happy it made him made everything worth it.

“We can leave now.” The agent said to her.

Originally there was supposed to be a dinner party in the evening but Little Bunny said she had something else to do with Theodore. Her agent didn’t dare to stop her and immediately took her back.

In the car, the agent couldn’t help asking, “Are you okay with Theodore?”

“What?” Little Bunny was confused.

“Theodore got Addison out, didn’t he?”

Little Bunny remained silent.

“You begged for this with Theodore.” The agent asked again.

“I used to think that maybe you and Theodore were... I used to think he isn’t serious with you, just like how he treats others. But now I feel like it’s not like that anymore. Theodore helped you so much and still stayed with you. Maybe he has no feelings for you, just like he wants possession of women as men do. So satisfying your needs is enough. Or maybe he loves you so much that he is willing to suppress all his emotions just to be with you.”

“Don’t say any more,” Little Bunny actually didn’t want others talking about her relationship with Theodore. “Theodore and I are still like before, not what everyone thinks.”

“Nah, now I think he loves you too much.”

Chapter 1175 Progress

Little Bunny didn’t know why. As she listened to her agent’s words, her heart began to beat faster. It was like here were some emotions stirring inside of her. But she didn’t dare think too deeply about it.

The car arrived at Theodore’s upscale villa as the agent chattered on and on. When they got out of the car, the agent reminded Little Bunny, “Treat him well. You’ll be able to move sideways with him by your side.”

She herself was not clear enough about the reason why she stayed with Theodore.

Was it a compromise that she couldn’t resist? Gratitude for helping save Addison? Or did she do it willingly?

No matter what reason there was, Little Bunny felt that now she was truly devoted to following Theodore and hoped they could get along well together.

So whatever reason there might have been before no longer mattered.

Theodore returned home late after a dinner party in the evening. The lights were still on inside his house when he saw Little Bunny curled up asleep on the couch. Although his house wasn’t cold, sleeping like this would make her more susceptible to catching a cold.

Didn’t she know how to cover herself with a blanket while watching TV?!

At this moment, Theodore mistakenly thought that she had fallen asleep while watching TV since there was still a variety show playing on screen.

He had felt dizzy earlier but now he moved more carefully so as not to disturb her sleepiness. He walked over next to her and bent down preparing to carry her back into their bedroom for sleep when suddenly Little Bunny opened her eyes and looked right at him.

Theodore instinctively pulled back his hand as if he had done something wrong before. In past times, because of how much disdain she showed towards him, he dared not to act rashly in front of her.

Little Bunny reached out actively grabbing hold of Theodore's hands. Since she had been waiting for him, both of her hands were ice-cold without any blankets or covers around them.

When Theodore touched her hands, he frowned tightly and instinctively wrapped her hands in his and asked, "Why are your hands so cold?"

"I fell asleep waiting for you," said she groggily, looking at Theodore.

"Next time when you watch TV bring an extra blanket." Said he.

"Okay." She nodded and then asked, "Have you had dinner yet?"

"You haven't eaten yet?"

"Nope, I already ate earlier."

"I ate and had some wine tonight." Theodore said, "It's better to go to bed early."

"Then I'll go and fill the bathtub for you."

After saying that, Little Bunny hopped off the sofa and quickly walked into the room.

Theodore didn't have a chance to stop her before he saw her run away.

Actually, he didn't need her to please him so much. They could live a normal life, just like any other man and woman.

Theodore also got up and returned to the room. After he loosened the tie and took off the suit, Little Bunny got out of the bathroom. She saw Theodore threw his clothes everywhere. Then she picked up those clothes and said, "You can go."

Theodore watched her and walked into the bathroom.

Lying in the bathtub with a massage function, he felt so comfortable. The bath unwound the his fatigue after a long day of work.

Theodore closed his eyes and soaked in the bath. Since he had had a few drinks, he felt a little drowsy and sleepy. Suddenly, he felt someone slip in. When he opened his eyes, he saw Little Bunny lie next to him with pink cheeks. She wore nothing.

Damn it.

Theodore was getting excited. Although he was exhausted after a busy day, his body was still energetic and so honest that it even scared him.

He was almost overwhelmed by his desire now. And he heard Little Bunny said shyly, "I allow you to."

At that moment, all of his desire for her was released. Even if Little Bunny was reluctant, he couldn't afford to care about her anymore. Then he directly pressed Little Bunny on the bathtub.

In the room.

A blazing inferno of sex was endless that night in the bathroom.

When they returned to bed, both of them were so tired. Theodore fell into a deep sleep soon. Suddenly, he felt Little Bunny next to him stand up. Theodore opened his eyes and watched as Little Bunny sneaked away.

“She must have gone to take a shower.” He thought.

Theodore was somewhat ironic. He turned over and continued to sleep. Even though, he was having a bit of trouble falling asleep again.

Later, Little Bunny returned to the room. He closed his eyes and pretended to be asleep. But then he heard Little Bunny calling him, “Theodore, are you asleep?”

He opened his eyes and look at her.

“I remembered I made some soup tonight, with honey in it, it can be soothing. Come on and have some. Or I’m afraid you’ll be uncomfortable the next morning.” Said she.

Theodore was truly touched. No one had ever been so attentive to him before. His father didn’t care about him as long as he didn’t die. It was not easy for him to survive this long.

Theodore got up and took the soup from Little Bunny. He took a bite and the sweet, soft taste made his eyes red.

“Is it good?” Little Bunny asked expectantly.

“Yeah, I love it.”

“That’s great, I made it for the first time.”

“Don’t you wanna eat some?”

“You go ahead.”

“We can eat together.” Theodore scooped a spoonful for her, who drank it happily. They ate like a couple sharing food.

Theodore thought that if they could always be this happy, that would be great. If Little Bunny really loved him, that would be even better.

“Little Bunny, I will treat you well.” Theodore suddenly said softly.

Little Bunny felt her heart racing. She replied, “I know.”

“Oh, my dad is turning 65 on Saturday.” Theodore said casually. “If you’re free we can go celebrate with him together since he doesn’t like big parties but just wants some close friends around him. I already invited Oscar and Manuel.”

Theodore seemed nonchalant but was very nervous about whether or not Little Bunny would agree.

“Okay,” she replied without hesitation even though she knew she might have to take time off work if there were any conflicts in her schedule. But because of her relationship with Theodore, her agent often let she do what she wanted.

“Great!” Theodore breathed a sigh of relief. “It’s getting late, let’s sleep.”

After returning from the kitchen, Little Bunny crawled back into bed where Theodore held her in his arms. He hugged her soft body tight, smelling her unique scent. That was enough for now at least .

Chapter 1176 Birthday (1) Laird Gets Angry

Little Bunny followed Theodore back to Kensbury City on Saturday. Since she divorced Theodore, she rarely came back because of her dislike for Theodore, which also made her distant from Nicholas.

When she saw Nicholas at home, Little Bunny felt guilty. She shouldn’t have burdened an innocent child with adult problems. Besides, she was now determined to be with Theodore and planned to spend more time with Nicholas.

Nicholas was happy to see his mother and quickly started playing with Little Bunny. Theodore watched their interaction and wondered how foolish he had been in the past not to cherish such a happy time. He left Little Bunny and Nicholas at home while he went out and messed around. Now, he regretted it deeply.

“Theodore, come with me to the study.” Laird said sternly after greeting Little Bunny.

Theodore followed Laird into his study as the door closed behind them. Laird’s face became even colder as he asked directly, “Are you handling Addison’s case?”

Theodore was surprised by this direct question since no one else should know about it except for him due to his father’s involvement in the matter before. However, since Addison had been released without charge despite evidence of drug use being present, someone must have tampered with it, most likely Theodore himself under scrutiny from others’ eyes.

Laird knew immediately that something was wrong when Theodore remained silent. Then he slammed his hand on the desk loudly enough that scared Theodore.

“Do you have any sense of propriety? Our family is supposed to assist the Wells family in stabilizing their reign over our country. We are here not just for ourselves but also for our nation! You are abusing your power!” Laird scolded him.

Laird’s anger scared Theodore. However, there was nothing else left but listening quietly as his father scolded him harshly.

“Turn yourself in!”

There were no gentle words or tones used by Laird when ordering his son what needed doing next.

“Whatever the law decides, that’s how it should be decided.” Laird said bluntly, showing no tolerance whatsoever.

Theodore couldn’t help but speak up. “Dad, I know I was wrong in this matter and I know I abused my power. I was hesitant about what to do but in order to satisfy Little Bunny, I chose to do it. One reason is because I admit that I wanted her and used these despicable means to get her. The second reason is because Addison did use drugs for the first time and according to Northfield’s laws, first-time offenders are usually punished lightly. Although it may be a light punishment for an ordinary person, it has a huge

impact on him as an artist, and he paid too high a price for it. After thinking about it carefully, I gave Addison a chance.”

“That’s still breaking the law!” Laird didn’t listen to Theodore’s explanation at all.

“I know you might think that what I’m going to say next is me threatening you before you make me turn myself in but before you do that, let me explain some things to you. First of all, right now Oscar trusts me the most and sees me as someone who can really help him maintain his position of power; if something happens to me then Oscar loses his right-hand man, which would not only hurt him personally but also go against our family mission of supporting the Wells family. Secondly, if you make me turn myself in then Oscar will find out beforehand. Once he knows he might choose not stand by. That would put him in an impossible situation, where he cannot handle things fairly or justly as a leader should be able to.” Theodore spoke quickly with clear logic.

In fact, he had never been simple-minded. It was just that there were two extremely clever people around him so he rarely had any need for deep thought himself. Whenever he seriously considered something or did something carefully there were never any mistakes made. Today each point Theodore made hit Laird where it hurt most.

Laird looked fiercely at him, unable even uttering one word at this moment, since Theodore had backed him into such a corner with his words alone. He could not allow his son’s wrongdoing go unpunished. But because of Theodore’s words just now, he was left no way to refute him.

“Dad, I admit that I did wrong in this matter. Besides turning myself in, I am willing to accept any punishment.”

After all, if he turned himself in, Addison would be exposed again. His career in entertainment had come to an end again. He didn’t want to disappoint Little Bunny.

“Punishment? How do you think I should punish?” Laird asked coldly.

“I am willing to be governed by the laws of the family.” Theodore said, and then suddenly knelt down on the ground.

Since there was no way to force Theodore to surrender himself, he would follow the family rules. Then Laird got up and picked up an iron whip in the study.

Theodore gritted his teeth. Though he had made many mistakes from childhood to adulthood, he had rarely been beat by this iron whip. But he knew how much pain there would be in the end.

Just as Laird raised the whip, he said, “Today is my birthday, the guests will come to my house later. If you are covered in bruises, it would be a laughingstock and difficult to explain to others. Let’s talk about it after today.”

Theodore nodded, knowing that his father would never give up on this matter.

“Write a commitment letter first.” Laird commanded.

Theodore looked at him.

"If you make the same mistake again, I will no longer consider your so-called three points and will report your criminal activities to the official authorities for strict punishment!"

"Okay," Theodore said without hesitation.

He would never do such a thing again in the future. His self-esteem, conscience and faith did not allow him to do so.

Theodore wrote a well-crafted pledge. After Laird was settled, Theodore left the study.

At this moment, there was a cheerful sound in the hall. Without doubt, Susan arrived here.

It was still early. Susan watched as Theodore follow behind Laird with a gloomy expression. She smirked and said, "Did Mr Wold beat you up again, Theodore?"

Theodore glanced at her.

"She usually looks silly, but sometimes she has surprisingly sharp eyes!" Theodore thought to himself.

It seemed like nothing could be hidden from Susan.

Chapter 1177 Birthday (2) Hannah's Arrival

"Aunt Justine, Uncle Edward." Theodore ignored Susan and greeted Justine and Edward politely.

Justine and Laird had some contact over the years. After all, they were both among the oldest members of the Wells family. When Laird had a birthday party, they came together.

"Come sit down," Theodore warmly invited them while deliberately ignoring Susan. Susan pouted. Why was Theodore becoming more and more like a sycophant? She had never seen him so socially adept before.

At that moment, she also saw Little Bunny come in with Nicholas into the hall. Little Bunny politely greeted the elders before smiling at Susan.

"Hi, Susan."

"Theodore forced you to come here, didn't he?" Susan blurted out without any filter.

"Susan!" Justine's face darkened as he called out to her.

Susan rolled her eyes. She always seemed to be getting scolded for speaking her mind.

"Don't mind, Mrs Phillips." Little Bunny quickly said with a smile on her face. "I like Susan's personality, she says what she thinks."

"As for me and Theodore," she continued, "let me explain it to everyone here. I came voluntarily to celebrate Mr Wold's birthday party. I came here with a will."

"What do you mean?" Susan was surprised.

"That's what I mean," Little Bunny replied shyly while blushing slightly since it wasn't appropriate for her to say too much in front of everyone else present there.

Susan wanted to ask further questions but other people entered at that moment.

“Oscar!” Justine warmly welcomed her nephew, who arrived along with Salem and Una.

She was even happier than when she saw her own son. And of course, she intended to interrupt Susan.

Everyone rushed forward upon hearing Justine’s voice calling out Oscar’s name.

Salem and Una were hugged tightly by Justine, who couldn’t bear letting them go from within her embrace.

“Auntie.”

“Auntie.”

Salem and Una sweetly called out while making Justine feel ecstatic inside.

The courtyard of the Wold family became even livelier due to all these people coming together. Meanwhile, Susan sat chatting away next to Little Bunny.

“You weren’t forced by Theodore, right?” asked Susan again. She just couldn’t believe that Little Bunny would fall for Theodore.

“No.”

“Do you like Theodore?”

“No, but, I don’t hate him anymore. He’s really nice to me.” Little Bunny told the truth, “So, I’m willing to be with him.”

“But there is no feelings between you. You won’t be happy!” Susan insisted.

She didn’t believe Theodore would love Little Bunny as Manuel loved her.

“Feelings can be cultivated.” Little Bunny smiled and continued, “I used to feel disgusted with him, but now I don’t have that feeling at all. I think time may change something.”

“Damn it, I think you’re just sunk, you even began to like him.”

“Theodore, bastard! How could he date someone as brilliant as you, he’s too lucky. ”

“No, um, Theodore is good. Apart from the things he did before, he is handsome, powerful, and kind to me, and many women would like a man like him.”

Susan laughed loud, noticing Little Bunny’s change.

Little Bunny flushed a bit.

They kept talking and laughing. Susan was easygoing and she could become friends with anyone as long as she liked them.

Suddenly, Susan noticed someone familiar coming through the front door.

Was that Hannah?

She saw Hannah's face.

And at that moment, everyone saw her. Hannah showed up here with her parents. Hannah could also feel everyone's gaze.

She didn't want to be here today at first, but Laird made a call to her father, and Miguel couldn't refuse so they promised to come to the birthday party. Miguel and Michelle then persuaded Hannah to come with them by telling her that Salem would be here.

Hannah knew as long as Salem was here, Oscar would be here too. During this period of time, Oscar had come to Kensbury many times. But she refused to see him every time. When he stayed in Kensbury for a week last time, she avoided him as well, since she just had a facial surgery, which caused her face swollen for a few days. She was not only avoiding Oscar but everyone.

Besides, she indeed didn't want to have too much involvement with Oscar. But she felt guilty to avoid Salem as well.

Today, she was finally persuaded by her parents, and her face was almost better, so she promised them to attend the party.

She knew her parents wanted her to remarry Oscar. But she didn't understand why her parents defended Oscar after all these years.

"Hannah!" Susan called out to Hannah, excited. She ran straight towards Hannah and hugged her tightly like a child. Salem was standing beside them, thinking that Susan looked more like his mother's child as well. "Hey, auntie, she's my mom!" Salem thought to himself, feeling jealous.

Hannah felt a bit embarrassed since Susan refused to let go of her.

Susan hugged Hannah for long, then let go and looked at her face. Her voice was still loud as she said, "Hannah, you had surgery on your face!"

"Can you please speak more quietly?"

"I think here, the tip of the nose needs to be adjusted a bit more. There's a difference compared to your original one, which looked better with its tip." Susan examined and evaluated.

"We'll talk about that later." Hannah said in a low voice.

"Okay, okay." Susan nodded quickly.

Then she held Hannah's arm affectionately and entered the hall with her.

Upon entering, Hannah saw Oscar standing there, whose gaze was fixed on her face without even blinking an eye.

Chapter 1178 Birthday (3) Taking Advantage of Whom

"Hannah," Oscar called out to her, moved by her appearance. He thought he would never see this face again since the moment Hannah fell into the sea. But God must have favored him greatly to let him see his soulmate again, alive and well in front of him. His eyes turned red with tears as he gazed at her.

Hannah shifted her gaze away from Oscar and pulled Susan along with her, leaving without acknowledging Oscar's presence. Despite Hannah's cold demeanor towards him, Oscar was grateful that she was still alive.

Susan whispered in Hannah's ear as they entered the hall, "Are you afraid I'll see your precious Oscar cry? That's why you dragged me away."

She couldn't help but want to witness a strong man like Oscar break down in tears.

Hannah had no words for Susan's preferences. She released Susan and squatted down before Salem, who looked upset that his godmother had taken his mother away from him.

"Mom!" Salem cried out loudly despite feeling unhappy.

"Do you recognize me?" Hannah smiled slightly at Salem because she thought he wouldn't remember what she looked like since their last meeting when Salem was too young to remember anything clearly.

"I do," Salem nodded quickly. "You look exactly like our family photo."

Hannah felt surprised.

"I have pictures of you, mom. Dad told me what you looked like before."

She never expected that Oscar would do that.

"Aren't you scared? Even though Mom looks different now?" Hannah asked gently.

"I'm not scared." The little boy said confidently while touching Hannah's face with small hands. "I love Mom no matter what."

This warmed up Hannah's heart immensely. Even Susan couldn't help but commented, "If you dad had your little mouth, he wouldn't have been single until now."

Hannah glared at Susan, who pouted her mouth.

"It's getting late, let's get started." Laird called out to everyone. "Come on over and sit down."

Hannah held Salem's hand, while Una offered hers for Hannah to hold. After a moment of hesitation, Hannah took Una's hand. The one she hated was Lillian but not this little girl. Besides, she was grateful towards Cian. When she saw Una as Cian's child, she didn't feel any rejection.

Everyone sat around the outdoor table in the courtyard. Laird raised his glass and said, "Thank you all for coming to celebrate my birthday. I never thought much about getting older but Theodore insisted that we should gather together every year to celebrate it."

The atmosphere was good with plenty of drinking going around, while the children ate quickly before running off to play together.

Salem, Una and Nicholas were about the same age, so they quickly became friends while Susan's child was still too young to join in on their games. Susan's child had always been held by Manuel all the time until she fell asleep and was placed in a crib in the living room with Edward staying by her side.

Laird had drunk quite a bit so he excused himself from sitting at the table, and Hannah's parents also left soon after leaving the young alone.

Hannah actually wanted to leave early but Susan wouldn't let her go.

"You can't drink anyway." Hannah said to her.

Susan couldn't drink due being still breastfeeding her baby.

"I don't need alcohol. I can watch you guys drink instead. Come on everyone, let's do rounds! Starting from the oldest person here!"

"Who is our oldest?" Theodore asked foolishly before suddenly remembering Oscar who was half a year older than him. "Oscar is our eldest! He is half a year older than me!"

"Alright then," Oscar said without hesitation as he picked up his glass of wine. He started from Theodore then Little Bunny followed by Manuel then Susan and finally ended up at Hannah.

Oscar poured himself full cup of wine while Hannah only had less than half left in hers. When she reached for bottle, intending refill it, Oscar grabbed hold of her hand stopping her abruptly.

And with such ambiguous actions, everyone else stared wide-eyed and smiled meaningfully. Hannah could feel the eyes of those around her on her. She was a bit speechless and said, "I don't want to take advantage of you."

"I'm willing." Oscar's magnetic voice was very pleasant to listen to. Even Susan felt goosebumps all over her body from their conversation. It sounded like they were flirting with each other.

She decided to take back what she had just said about Oscar not being as good as Salem in terms of talking, because it seemed that Oscar was actually a master at flirting.

Hannah blushed when she heard Oscar's words in front of so many people. She said, "Let go."

Oscar saw that Hannah was getting angry so he let go of her hand. But he felt like something precious had slipped away from his grasp.

Hannah filled up her glass again while everyone else went around the circle drinking their shots one by one, until it came time for Hannah's turn again.

She had already drunk quite a bit and couldn't handle much more alcohol, but since everyone else had gone around the circle, she couldn't refuse either.

"I'll help you," Oscar offered kindly.

"No, thanks." Hannah didn't even look at him when she spoke before filling up another shot glass for herself and downing it quickly before moving onto the next person in line.

When it came time for Oscar's turn again, he said to her, "You shouldn't drink too much."

"I can't drink anymore." Oscar added, intending to stop her.

"Pace yourself." Said Hannah. She didn't want to be the one who was skipped.

Oscar poured himself half a glass of wine and raised his glass.

“Thank you for letting me take advantage of you.” Said he.

Then he downed his own half-shot quickly. Hannah who just stared at him silently. Susan laughed hysterically beside them, realizing how good Oscar was at flirting with women.

Chapter 1179 Birthday (4) It Wasn't Just a Dream

Hannah gritted her teeth and downed the drink. Susan started a game of drinking and gambling. Manuel couldn't handle his liquor either, so he quickly stopped Susan. But she was not easily persuaded, so Manuel had no choice but to carry her away. Susan was startled at first but then began to punch and kick Manuel on the shoulder. “You jerk! Let me go! You think you're so strong? Let me go... if you dare to make me pregnant again...”

The scene became chaotic, but everyone was used to Susan's behavior by now. Theodore saw that Susan and Manuel were leaving, so he took Little Bunny with him without saying goodbye. He wanted Oscar and Hannah to have some private time together. Hannah watched as everyone left and got up to leave herself.

“Hannah,” Oscar grabbed her arm.

“Don't.”

“I don't want to.”

“Why are you avoiding me?” Oscar asked deeply. “Do you hate being around me that much?”

“Yes, I do. So let go.”

“No,” Oscar refused firmly.

Hannah glared at him in anger.

“Is it because of your face? That's why you didn't want me around for the past two months?” Oscar looked at her face, which still had some scars that hadn't fully healed yet.

“No.”

“Do you know how happy I am right now?” Oscar said with deep emotion in his eyes as if tears could fall any moment.

Hannah shifted her gaze away from him.

“I thought I would never see the old you again.” His voice sounded choked up now.

“It's not for your sake. I just don't want to live my life pretending someone else is myself forever.”

“I know,” Oscar smiled through red-rimmed eyes suddenly filled with tears. “I'm sorry,” he apologized out of nowhere making Hannah feel uneasy inside

“For what?” Her heart stirred within her chest

“For everything that happened before... I'm sorry for putting you through all that pain.”

“That’s all in the past. There’s no need for us to bring it up again.” Hannah sounded cold-hearted as she spoke about their history together like it meant nothing anymore

“Okay.” Oscar nodded slowly while smiling even though a tear rolled down his cheek. Hannah pushed aside his hand before standing up readying herself to leave. But suddenly she felt dizzy from too much alcohol, and she felt everything around her spinning uncontrollably.

Oscar quickly and deftly pulled Hannah into his arms.

Hannah was startled, “Let go of me.”

“I won’t, cause you will fall.”

Hannah couldn’t argue back.

“I’ll help you inside and let you rest for a while.” Oscar said gently.

Oscar’s grips on her was getting tighter. If she weren’t dizzy, she would have pushed Oscar away.

The two of them hugged each other and returned to the hall.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, he went to a guest room prepared.

Susan stared at their backs as they walked away. She shook her head and murmured, “I think Hannah would be eaten up by Oscar tonight.”

Manuel gave Susan a glare. Hannah’s parents were still sitting next to her.

Miguel and Michelle smiled slightly. It was often the result they had been anticipating.

Oscar gently put Hannah onto the bed. Hannah’s head was getting more and more dizzy. Her cheeks flushed and got hot. Oscar helped her take off her coat, shoes and socks, and covered her with a blanket.

Then he went to the bathroom and wrung a hot towel for her, helping her wipe her cheeks. As he was about to touch her cheeks, “Don’t press too hard.”

Oscar was startled. Hannah suddenly became serious...

“My face isn’t completely better yet.” Hannah murmured.

At this moment, feeling drowsy and sluggish, she still knew to protect my face.

Oscar’s smile was indulgent. He tenderly wiped her face.

He felt he was just staring at her face, eyes, nose, mouth and ears for a lifetime. After looking at her for a long while, he desire turned into action. He couldn’t resist anymore as he approached those rosy full lips.

Under the influence of the alcohol, he felt he was heated up all over. His heart racing madly as if he was a young boy who felt there was some chance for romance the first time. He wanted desperately to take a bite of her lips without waking her up.

His lips were close to Hannah's. Their faces were getting closer and closer. Just as they were about to bump into each other. Hannah suddenly opened her eyes. Her hazy gaze was fixed tightly on him. Oscar was panicked while being caught. He swallowed a bit, his Adam's apple rolling up and down.

"Easy there," Hannah said. "It's not done yet."

Oscar suddenly laughed.

Did Hannah know what she was saying right now?!

"Okay, I'll be gentle."

As soon as Oscar's magnetic voice fell, he lowered his head and covered her lips with his.

Her lips were so soft that they tempted him to go deeper. But he dared not to be too presumptuous.

And just now, Hannah also said to him to be gentle. He did his best. But after kissing for a while, Oscar's heart suddenly missed a beat. He felt her tongue on his lips.

Oscar could no longer control himself and he deepened their kiss heavily.

When they woke up, Hannah didn't know what time it was. And she still felt a little headache. She rubbed her head and stood up. Just as she sat up, the door to the room was opened by someone.

Oscar appeared at the door and said, "I was about to come and call you for dinner. Are you awake now?"

"Um. Have I been sleeping for a long time?"

"Five hours." Oscar said.

Hannah was startled.

"Are you feeling better?" Oscar asked.

"Much better."

But what she thought to herself was that she would never fall in Susan's trap easily again.

"I'll give you a warm towel."

"Don't need to..."

Oscar had entered the bathroom.

Hannah lifted the covers and got out of bed. When she entered the bathroom, Oscar had already prepared the towel for her.

"Here you go." Said he.

Hannah took over.

"Can you please leave while I wash my face?"

Oscar's eyes were fixed on her face, not letting go.

“Okay,” Oscar nodded.

The moment when he was about to leave, he turned around and came near Hannah. He crouched down and kissed her on her lips. Hannah didn’t expect that since Oscar did it quick and precisely.

When she realized what had happened, he had already left. Hannah was angry, wondering if she was too kind to him. She faced the mirror and washed her face, only to see her face flushed.

She thought she must be mad at him.

But at that moment of looking down, a scene suddenly appeared in her mind of who she had kissed while in a daze. She thought it was a dream earlier. But now she suddenly realized that it was also Oscar, since she remembered the touch on her lips, which was real.

Damn it!

It was not a dream at all.

Chapter 1180 Back to the Cooper Manor

After dinner party, everyone left in groups of two or three. Hannah was confused as she sat in a black car with Oscar instead of her parents, who had left her here after making an excuse. Salem and Una were also in the car, so it wasn’t awkward, but Hannah felt uncomfortable especially when she remembered Oscar kissing her while she was drunk and how deep it had gone.

“Hannah,” Oscar called out to her.

Hannah ignored him.

“I asked you,” Oscar said seriously.

Hannah frowned not knowing what he was talking about.

“This afternoon. You told me to be gentle.” Oscar explained, still serious.

Of course, Hannah knew what he meant but didn’t want to talk about it in front of the kids. She covered his mouth with her hand. Oscar chuckled before leaning closer for a kiss on her palm, which made Hannah pull back abruptly.

“Oscar!” she snapped loudly, causing Salem and Una who were chatting to look at them curiously.

Hannah turned away without saying anything more, leaving Salem looking at his dad with a frown that seemed to say ‘why are you bullying mom?’

The car arrived at the Cooper Manor, where Hannah got out immediately followed by Salem, Una, and Oscar.

“Your parents said that Sal and Una can spend the night here.” Said he.

“What about you?” asked she.

“I’m their father and I have responsibility for taking care of them.”

Hannah took the children’s hands and got in the house with a sullen face.

Oscar's lips curved into a smile, knowing that if she didn't want him there then she would have refused outright instead of remaining silent like this. But he couldn't get too cocky just yet. He tried hard to keep calm as they walked into the house, where Miguel and Michelle were already back home. They greeted Salem and Una warmly, making everything lively again despite being 9 PM already. The children went off to wash up before bed. Miguel and Michelle took them to take a bath, leaving only Hannah and Oscar in the downstairs lobby. In fact, when Salem and Una were playing in the living room, Hannah and Oscar didn't participate much. Now that they had finished playing, Hannah got up to go back to her room.

"Hannah,"

Hannah turned to look at him.

"Where am I sleeping tonight?"

"It's not like I invited you over," Hannah replied with a tone that wasn't too friendly, "How would I know where you're sleeping?!"

After Hannah turned around, Oscar smirked wickedly. When Hannah went upstairs, she went to see Salem and Una washing up. After they all went to bed, she planned on going back to her room.

On the hallway, Miguel suddenly stopped Hannah and said, "Hannah, come into my study. There's something I need to talk with you about."

Hannah nodded but wondered what her dad wanted from her.

Sitting inside the study room Miguel was straightforward, "You and Oscar..."

"Dad, let us solve our own problems." Hannah interrupted him directly because she didn't want them to meddle in their affairs. She could feel their idea for them together as well as their matchmaking efforts.

"Okay, okay, I won't interfere with your relationship but there is one thing that I want your opinion on."

"What is it?"

"A few days ago Manuel came looking for me."

"Manuel?"

"Yeah, he talked about the matter of Cooper Group."

"What else can be done if Cooper Group has been swallowed by him?"

"You are still upset over this matter even after so long?" Miguel laughed then continued saying, "If it weren't for how ruthless Oscar acted then he wouldn't have been able convince those people from the Collins family."

"I don't know what kind of brainwashing drug did he give you, which made everyone believe his lies so thoroughly." Hannah muttered under breath.

"Dad is just getting older. My mind isn't deteriorating yet. Unlike Charles, who is different from Oscar when it comes down whether or not he truly cares for our family."

"Can we get back on topic?" Hannah asked impatiently.

“Alright let’s get back on track here. Susan had a baby recently, you know how much Manuel loves Susan. He doesn’t want Susan taking care of everything herself especially when they have a daughter. So he wants more time off work which means someone needs help managing Cooper group.”

“Did you agree?” Hannah frowned, feeling that the matter was not as simple as it seemed.

“I had a hard time adjusting after losing control of Cooper Group a few years ago. But after spending these past few years at home with your mom, he’s gotten used to it and doesn’t really want to go back to work. So I didn’t agree right away. But this afternoon, when Manuel talked to me alone about his specific situation and how he didn’t trust anyone else to manage the company, he convinced me again. If I don’t agree, I feel like I’m letting him down. These past few years while you were gone, Manuel and Susan have often come over to keep us company and we’ve treated them like a son and daughter. It’s hard for me to refuse when he asks for help.”

“What are your plans now?” Hannah asked directly.

She knew her father’s tactics all too well. Miguel knew he couldn’t hide anything from his daughter and smiled before saying, “I agreed to help him manage the company.”

Hannah waited for Miguel. She knew her father had an ulterior motive in mind. It wasn’t just her dad or Manuel; it was Oscar too.

Oscar was truly cunning and deceitful with no prior history of kindness towards her family members whatsoever. If she refused, he could think of many ways that would force her into agreeing eventually.

“Hannah, if you’re just going to be sitting around at home anyway then why not take on this role? Help out Manuel.” Miguel said persuasively.

“What if I don’t agree?” Hannah asked angrily.

“I already agreed with Manuel. And these past few years he has been so thoughtful towards both your mom and me that refusing would make us feel indebted forever.” Miguel reasoned.

Hannah really wanted to refuse but seeing how much trouble her dad went through in trying to persuade her made it impossible for her to disappoint him in any way possible.