### Reborn 331

### Chapter 331

"You don't even care about your life for Karen's sake. I don't even know what to say. Karen isn't such a petty person." Venus said and turned to ask Karen, "Isn't that right, Karen?"

"If I had known that Hannah could not eat mushrooms, I would not have served her with it." said Karen quickly. She knew Hannah's behavior was intentional.

Hannah put the matsutakes in front of her, aimed at leading her to pickle one for her.

Hannah's moves today piqued her. Once Karen vented her rage, Hannah would be regarded as a victim. Karen didn't expect Hannah to be so smart. She met her match for the first time.

"It's okay. I'm just a little bit allergic to the mushrooms. Don't worry, Mom. Don't feel guilty, Karen. I'm just glad that you are here. I want you to come over more often. I live alone with Oscar, and the house is too quiet. I wish you could come and have some fun," Hannah said. She put this embarrassment behind her.

She wanted to enliven the atmosphere, relieving Karen's embarrassment, which reassured Venus.

She recognized Hannah as a good daughter-in-law. She smiled, "Alright, I'll bring Karen to visit you. The doctor also suggested that she walk around more when she was in good condition. There's a perfect place right now, so I'll bring her over more often."

"Okay." Hannah agreed.

Karen even wanted to strangle Hannah when she noticed her delighted look. Hannah was a better actress than she was.

When Hannah looked at Karen, who was holding back the anger, her smile became more obvious.

The best way to deal with a scheming one was to take the path they chose!

Sure enough, Karen wanted to leave after lunch. She might know that she could not get any benefits here, while Hannah embraced her mother's love.

Venus knew she did not like to stay outside for too long, so shortly after lunch she told Hannah she wanted to take Karen away.

Hannah did not make them feel awkward. Anyway, she satisfied Venus.

"Well. I failed to keep you and Karen." Hannah appeared to be somewhat reluctant.

"Karen and I aren't going to work anyway, so we can come over more often when you're in leisure time. When you and Oscar have a baby, you'll move back to the villa. I can take care of the baby for you too."

Hannah felt a little shy again.

Before she could speak, Oscar said, "Hannah's parents also want to take care of our child."

"..." Venus was not happy.

"Hannah's parents have only one daughter. I've taken her away. I shouldn't let their daughter's child be taken away too. So I plan to let them take care of the baby first."

He naturally talked about this as if Hannah had been already pregnant.

"Then you are supposed to give birth to two babies." Venus was persuaded by his son.

"Okay." Oscar nodded.

Hannah was a little speechless, for her opinion didn't seem to matter to them.

When did she say she planned to be pregnant?

Venus was so happy when Oscar said they wanted two babies. She added, "Now we go back."

"Please wait for a minute." Hannah hurriedly ran to the back garden, quickly holding two bunches of flowers wrapped up.

Venus was puzzled.

"The flowers were from the garden I'd led Karen to visit. I think Karen likes it, so I asked Max to wrap two bouquets, one for you and one for Karen."

"Look, how thoughtful you are!" Venus took it with joy.

No woman doesn't like flowers, except Karen.

She could not keep calm this time. Nevertheless, she had to take it.

"I'll walk you to the door."

"Well," said Venus.

Hannah and Oscar sent them to the car. Both sides waved goodbye. When the car completely disappeared in front of Hannah, Hannah was relieved.

Finally, Karen had gone away.

"Good performance!" Oscar whispered to her.

Hannah looked at Oscar.

He was a man who would do nothing, Hannah thought.

When it came to someone important to him, he was very defensive.

"Do you know Karen is ill?" Hannah complained.

"Otherwise she won't take medicine when growing up." Oscar was calm.

"…"

Actually, Hannah referred to the fact that Karen had a feeling for her own brother.

"Go back to the room." Oscar stretched his arms and embraced Hannah.

Hannah wanted to break away but finally gave up. In any case, the final will be as Oscar wishes. Hannah did not want to waste her energy.

"This is the right time to take a nap." Oscar murmured.

Hannah's body was visibly stiff. She was not ready to give her body and mind to Oscar.

She went back to the room with Oscar.

"Take a shower," suggested Hannah.

Oscar took a deep breath and kept tolerant.

"You take a shower in this room. I'll take a shower in the next room. Come On!" said he.

"..."

The next second, Hannah saw Oscar walk out of the room.

'Couldn't he wait two days? He still had a sling on his arm.' Hannah complained to herself.

Hannah went to the bathroom with some apprehension

When she finished the shower, Oscar was already sitting on the bed, waiting for her. His eyes sparkled when he was watching her come out in her bathrobe.

Hannah was completely overwhelmed by his eyes, which turned green like a wolf saw its prey.

"Come here." Oscar called her.

There was a palpable excitement in his voice.

Hannah walked over.

The Adam's apple of Oscar fluctuated up and down. His eyes were fixed on Hannah's body in a bathrobe. His slender fingers approached her belt, and he was about to unbuckle it.

"Oscar, I'm on my period."

"..."

Oscar was bruised by her words. That was a bolt from the blue for him.

He just looked at her, with fingers frozen in her belt. The expression on his face was indescribable.

Hannah felt somehow this guy was a little devastated. But she didn't mean to let him down because that was something she could not control.

"How many days?" asked Oscar.

"What?"

"Your period?" Oscar gnashed his teeth.

"Seven days is the norm."

7 days, 158 hours, 10080 minutes, it would be a torture to him.

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Oscar's hopes were dashed and he was upset.

Hannah found it hard to comfort him but she did not mean to turn him down this time.

The next morning, they recovered after two days' rest and they went to work separately.

When they were having breakfast at the table, Oscar looked at the phone and a number suddenly appeared: "9060".

Hannah frowned and asked, "What does it mean?"

"9059." Oscar continued.

Hannah wondered whether Oscar was in a trance.

"9058."

"Are you possessed?"

"No." Oscar put down his phone and looked up at Hannah. "I'm timing."

"Why are you timing?" Hannah wondered. She could not figure out what Oscar was thinking.

"To see how long until your period ends."

Speechless, Hannah found nothing to say and lowered her head to eat. She refused to say a word to Oscar.

Noticing her look, Oscar chuckled with affection for her.

They went out together after they finished breakfast. Jimmy sent Oscar first because he was supposed to follow Hannah to work.

Hannah looked at the bandage on Oscar's hand. "Are you sure you could go to work with this? If you take a few more days off, they won't complain you."

"They told me to go."

Hannah frowned.

"The election results would be announced today, and they would let me take office, I supposed." Said Oscar.

Since Charles had quit, it was possible that things would go as he anticipated. The City Hall had a reason to take advantage of the news and start to hype.

The car soon arrived at the site. Oscar got off the car.

"If the result came out, please tell me." Hannah exhorted.

"Okay." Oscar sounded obedient.

Then Hannah let Jimmy drive away and she looked back, seeing Oscar, who was standing in the back of the car, watching her leave.

Hannah could not help but grin. The little things Oscar didi for her sometimes make her feel happy. On the contrary, what Charles had done to her in the last life were not a patch on what Oscar did for her in this life.

Hannah and Jimmy soon arrived at the Cooper building and she walked into her office.

Rose followed her.

For the first time, she didn't report the work as soon as he opened her mouth. Instead, she said, "Ms Hannah, I do admire your husband Oscar's heroic deeds."

Hannah glanced at her and sat down in her office chair, her brows slightly raised. "Have you had a lot of free time lately?"

"No," she replied. "I just can't hide my feelings."

"Are you sure you're not brown-nosing?" asked Hannah.

"Fifty percent at the most," Rose said with a straight face.

Hannah chuckled. She knew Rose was not so boring after all. Sometimes she thought Rose had a lovable personality. Hannah cleared her throat and said, "Report the work please."

"Yes," Rose replied, "During your absence from the company, the work of several departments has been carried out according to your requirements. This is the most important work progress for each department. Please take a look."

Hannah browsed the documents.

"Recently, the Municipal Bureau of Land Management is working on a major new city construction project—the planning for South Bay New Town. It has been announced that there will be a tender in the near future. I have made a preliminary check. The transaction for this project will probably mount to ten billion. So it should be the most important program for us." Rose continued.

"Yes," Hannah agreed, "I was aware of the project when I left Kensbury City. It was a huge deal, and if it went through, it would bring us a huge profit. So success is not an option."

"Although we can't be so arrogant, we have to say that we are experts in urban construction. There should be no one more suitable than us across the whole country. It's about the look of a city, and I personally think we have a good chance of winning the bid."

Hannah shook her head. It was too early to say, she thought.

Although she had asked her father to give it up in the previous life, Cooper Group might not have succeeded in the end due to the fact that Charles was treacherous, and that they would never have imagined the sinister methods the Sawyers would use. So it was very likely that they would be the losers in the end. But she advised her father to give up the project, thus they managed to avoid a lot of bad things.

In this life, everything was unknown.

"Do you think something would come up?" Rose asked.

"We should be careful," Hannah said. "Tell the public relations department to ask for the bidding plan from the bureau. Inform me immediately if there's any news."

"OK," Rose said, "Still black coffee?"

"I don't drink coffee today. A glass of lemonade with more sugar, please."

"Are you pregnant, Ms Hannah?"

Hannah almost spurted out, "What do you think?"

"Oh. I assumed you were pregnant because you wanted something acidic."

"I said more sugar." said Hannah.

"I'm just speculating." Rose felt wronged by Hannah. "Besides, you've been married for a long time. Isn't it normal to get pregnant?"

"Less gossip. Or I'll give you more job!"

Rose closed her mouth and turned to leave.

Hannah was a little annoyed since there was always someone who kept talking about pregnancy and giving birth these days. Even if she slept with Oscar, she did not want to have children. A decision on giving birth of a child should be based on careful thinking.

Hannah lowered her head and concentrated on work.

At 11 am, she received a call from Oscar.

"Oscar." Hannah was somehow excited. She told herself that she was just looking forward to the news of Oscar's appointment. After all, the better Oscar developed, the better it would be for her.

"We have good news and bad news. which is the first one you are ready to listen to?" Oscar said.

"What do you mean?"

"I came to work today and received two pieces of news. Which would you like to hear first, Hannah?"

"One of them is bad news." Hannah raised her eyebrows. She felt inexplicably nervous.

"Bad for me."

Hannah was a little silent.

"Tell me the good news first." She rejected to hear the bad news.

"I was appointed. The appointment will soon be published, at most half an hour."

"What's the bad news?" There was still a bad news, so the good news was not as exciting as she might think.

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"The bad news is I'm appointed as the chief administrative officer in the River Town." Oscar told her.

Hearing that, Hannah totally froze. It meant that Oscar would be sent to another city. It was called a promotion, but the result was that Oscar would be sent to a faraway place. It sounded like a relegation.

They were giving Oscar a hard time, weren't they?

She had a guess that Charles must be plotting something big before. It was unlikely that Charles would easily let Oscar get what he wanted. This man just had an average ability, but he was frighteningly sinister.

"Are you mad?" Oscar asked. He tried to please her.

"I knew you'll be annoyed, so I told you this in advance before it is officially announced. Otherwise, I'm worried that you'll be too angry and make your period last a longer time." Oscar was joking. He had already been schemed against like this, but he was still in the mood to joke.

Hannah did not know what to say. But she felt it not right to lose her temper at Oscar at this moment. After all, it was not his fault. On the contrary, he was the victim.

She tried her best to calm herself down and said, "It's not your fault. Charles's too cunning."

"Indeed. He's too insidious." Oscar couldn't agree more. There was neither anger nor displeasure in his tone of voice. He was just stating a fact.

Hannah admired Oscar's attitude. If it were her, she would have been mad.

"When will you leave?" Hannah asked. She did not want to quarrel with Oscar over this matter, so she was also trying to relax herself.

"A week later. I applied for it." Oscar said with a smile, "After all, I want to enjoy the agreed bonus before I leave."

Hannah was not sure if she should be glad that she could at least give Oscar some comfort. After all, in her eyes, compared with his career, what Oscar expected more was to consummate their marriage.

Hannah even doubted if she had become a siren. In the former life, Oscar was very devoted to his work in the later stages. But he was obsessed with love in this life.

"I'm not going to disturb your work anymore. See you tonight." There was still a smile in Oscar's tone of voice.

Hannah didn't know if this smile was forced by him. She answered, "See you tonight."

After hanging up the phone, Hannah could not pretend anymore. She almost exploded with rage. She cursed Charles for being a despicable guy. She was angrier than having been dealt with by Charles!

In her eyes, Oscar risked his life to get the promotion, but ended up being tricked by Charles like this. In no way could she swallow this irritation.

In a blink, she thought of the redevelopment of the South Bay New Town.

She must let Charles and his family have it!

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Half an hour later, the news that Oscar was appointed chief administrative officer was reported and then was soon on the top search. Everyone agreed with his promotion, saying that he deserved it. The public also said that Oscar was the kind of talent people in the country needed, both talented and patriotic. A short time after the news was released, the entire internet was full of congratulations to Oscar.

No one noticed that the workplace written on the official appointment letter issued by the City Hall was not in Kensbury City, but in the River Town, a relatively poor city. And it took a five-hour flight from Kensbury City and four-hour flight from the capital. In short, it was a distant city. For Hannah, it was rather far away.

In Hannah's entire life, plus the extra ten years she had lived in her previous life, she had never been to the River Town. She even had no idea what it was like. She did not know if the eating habits of that place were the same as that of Kensbury City. She was worried about whether Oscar could get used to the life there alone.

Hannah read the news, feeling very furious.

The whole internet was congratulating Oscar, while she just wanted to kill Charles. Whenever she thought of Oscar's "forced smile", she felt inexplicably and unspeakably terrible.

She read the news for one more while. When she was about to put down her phone and went back to work, a piece of news suddenly popped up.

It read "Does Oscar get a promotion or will he be sent to the borderland?"

Hannah paused for a moment. For a second, she thought that she had lost her good judgment because of anger before.

She had completely forgotten that Oscar was in the limelight recently and that they could take advantage of it to resist. She hit herself on the head, thinking that she had lost her head due to anger.

She hurriedly clicked on the news and read the content.

The general idea of the news was that Oscar was promoted to be a senior official through his own strength and the support of the entire country. It was originally thought to be the recognition of the City Hall and an encouragement to members of the aristocratic families to be like him. Unexpectedly, such a role model would be sent to the poorest city in Northfield when he received the credit. It remained a question whether the City Hall was trying to train Oscar or to waste his talent. If their intention was to let Oscar gain some experience, they should give him a time limit, instead of directly sending a promising talent over just like this, leaving us wondering where the future of the talents we were looking forward to was!

Soon after the news was released, it caused a heated discussion and quite a stir. The public had been congratulating Oscar before. At this moment, this sudden news incurred a profound fear in their heart.

As everyone could see, Oscar did get promoted, even rising through two ranks. However, he did not get any benefits from the promotion. On the contrary, he lost the opportunity to seek a development in Kensbury City because of the promotion. How could this be considered a promotion? It was actually a disguised demotion.

Soon, it incurred a wave of public opinion on the Internet.

At the beginning, the City Hall was questioned. Then, some people said that someone was deliberately dealing with Oscar. Finally, it was directly pointed out that Charles was the culprit. Someone said Charles kicked others while others were down and blamed Charles for being despicable.

Someone said Charles pretended to be a good person and quit on his own, but he secretly played tricks and dealt with Oscar. There were even people who said that Charles had a strong backer in the City Hall. Therefore, though he did not rank first in the civil service exam, the treatment he received was different from the others.

The whole internet even required Charles to give a clear reply. Besides, the public requested that an explanation must be given to Oscar.

A news about Oscar's appointment turned into an online war. No one wanted Oscar to end up like this. It was impossible to be accepted. People urged that an explanation must be made. Otherwise, a terrible scene would be made in the City Hall.

The City Hall held on for only four hours. Then, it took immediate action on the public relations crisis.

The first leader of the City Hall made a face-to-face explanation to the media, "We did make the arrangements for Oscar after careful consideration by all of us in the City Hall. We're not going to send Oscar to the borderland like the people said on the internet. It's impossible for a talent like him to be sent to the borderland. We'll cherish an elite like him. As for why Oscar is sent to the River Town, it's just like what some have speculated. It's to train him. Letting him go to a faraway place to work will be more helpful to his future development. Of course, these details were not written in the appointment letter, so it misled the public. We're sorry for it. I hereby make a promise in front of the whole country. In principle, Oscar's work in the River Town will not exceed half a year. He will be transferred back to Kensbury City based on his performance and achievements in half a year."

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At the press conference, the first leader finished speaking and then bowed deeply, seemingly feeling very sorry for having caused such a stir.

He probably did not expect that it would incur such a wave of public opinion that almost made him lose his job. He didn't have a choice but give a public explanation.

When Charles watched the video, he was so angry that he almost broke down. He had intended to take this opportunity to send Oscar away. In his opinion, even if Oscar won this time, he could still send Oscar far away from Kensbury City and not let Oscar appear in front of him anymore. This was another way to destroy Oscar's career path. Once Oscar was transferred to the River Town, it was out of the question for Oscar to seek a career development. No matter how well he performed, he was only in a small city. Even if he was promoted to be the top leader of the city, so what? Oscar could not pose any threats to him at that time. Oscar could only watch as he rose through ranks to higher positions.

He just wanted to give Oscar a blow in the face when Oscar believed he himself had won, so that Oscar would know that even if he succeeded, when in front of Charles, he wouldn't be able to get any benefits.

Unexpectedly, the public opinion forced the City Hall to come out and add a limit to Oscar's work in the River Town. It meant that Oscar could return in half a year.

He might not be able to be promoted to be a senior official within half a year. At that time, he would still be the one who would lose face!

What's worse, Oscar would have a better development in the future after his work in the River Town. Thinking of what might happen next, Charles's face darkened badly.

For the first time, he began to doubt if he was really much worse than Oscar. Otherwise, why were his schemes always destroyed by Oscar? He was even wondering if he was unable to defeat Oscar.

But soon he denied this idea. It was unlikely that he could not defeat Oscar. Oscar was nothing, who just got lucky recently and had a certain development in his career.

He had such a huge backer. It was impossible for him to let Oscar get his way! In addition, there was half a year. Who knew what would happen to Oscar in the River Town in the coming six months? As long as he had time, he could try various ways to prevent Oscar from ever returning to Kensbury City, Charles thought to himself.

He gritted his teeth, trying to suppress his anger.

In contrast to Charles's rage, Hannah was extremely pleased.

After knowing the City Hall's final arrangement for Oscar, she had a strong urge to applaud Oscar.

How smart was this man?

In her previous life, she was too shallow to know about this guy.

Oscar's ability to react fast, deal with public relations, and lead public opinion had simply reached the peak. If Oscar were to seek a career in the entertainment circle, all the so-called entertainers would have to kowtow to him.

As she was pondering, her phone suddenly rang.

She looked at the incoming call, her joy having already been transmitted to Susan through the phone.

Susan wrinkled her nose in disdain, "Look at you. So smug."

"How do you know I'm smug?"

"Because I'm jealous? I'm jealous!" Susan said loudly, "Damn, how on earth did you get your eyes on Oscar in the first place? We were in the same car crash. How come you're the only person who chose Oscar after your brain was hurt? Why wasn't my brain hurt? If my brain were also hurt, maybe Oscar's mine now!" "Though Oscar is good ... "

It must be noted that what Oscar did today was extremely smart.

Hannah was a person who never admired others, but she admired his way of handling this matter from her heart.

"Look, how dare you say you're not complacent?" Susan interrupted Hannah.

Hannah found it tiring to communicate with Susan.

"Oscar has been a jerk. How did he manage to whitewash his reputation? I've forgotten what Oscar was like when he was a jerk. I feel the Oscar I know is just a good man who is handsome, capable, righteous, patriotic, and dedicated to his work. In addition, he's super nice to his wife! I think that compared with Oscar, Charles is trash."

"Is he really who as you describe?" Hannah was a little speechless after hearing so many adjectives. But on the inside, she was very delighted to hear that.

"Yes, Oscar's that good a man. Hannah, you've got a treasure. Cherish him."

Hannah chuckled. It was an involuntary smile, which didn't be noticed by herself.

"I'll cherish him. You should cherish Manuel, too." said Hannah.

"I call to congratulate the promotion of Oscar. By the way, congratulate him on his survival in the Langley Town and wish him good luck in the future. Why do you mention Manuel? You've spoiled my happiness." Susan was very unhappy.

"It's true. Manuel is also very excellent ... "

"I don't care. Anyway, I don't want to hear his name." Susan interrupted Hannah.

Hannah pursed her lips. It seemed that Susan's prejudice against Manuel could not be alleviated in a day or two.

"Stand treat!" Susan suddenly moved to another topic.

Susan's thoughts were so elastic that it was difficult for Hannah to keep up.

"What?"

"I said you should stand treat! Your honey gets a promotion. Aren't you going to stand treat and celebrate?" Susan said righteously.

"Which restaurant do you want to go?" Hannah could only agree.

"You know."

Susan meant Heroic, the restaurant she always went to, the food of which was not Manuel's taste.

"How about another place?"

"Why?" Susan sounded unhappy.

"Oscar can't handle spicy food."

"A local person in Kensbury City can't handle spicy food? Do you believe it?" Susan did not believe it.

"Taste is a personal matter. What's so surprising about that?" Hannah tried to muddle through.

"Then, what's your recommendation?" Susan compromised.

"How about the Grain and Field? They also serve some non-traditional dishes. We can order both spicy dishes and not spicy ones."

"All right, then." Susan was not the kind of person who didn't care about others at all, "There's no time like the present. How about tonight?!"

"Need it to be in such a hurry? I haven't told Oscar yet."

"Oscar always listens to you. Does it matter when you tell him?" Susan firmly believed that Oscar was obedient to Hannah.

She thought no one was as lucky as Hannah, who had happened to meet a good and decent man by chance.

"Do you mind if I invite a few more friends?" Hannah asked.

"Do you mean Theodore?"

"Include him." Hannah did not tell her everything.

"No problem, of course. We're going to celebrate Oscar's promotion. It will be better to invite more friends."

"Fine. Let's say tonight for now. I'll call you back later."

"Waiting for your news." Susan told Hannah before she hung up the phone.

Hannah smiled, feeling unspeakably happy, as she suddenly needed to call Oscar again.

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Hannah clicked on a familiar phone number. It got through in no time.

"Hi, Mrs Wells, what can I do for you?"

"Can't I call you for nothing?"

"Of course, you can. I'm just a little flattered."

"You're the one behind today's news, aren't you?" Hannah asked. As a matter of fact, she already had an answer in her heart.

"Are you satisfied with it?"

"I'm wondering Charles should have blacked out because of anger."

"If he's not dead, it could not be said to be a satisfying result."

Hannah did not know what to say. This was quite ruthless.

"So, do you specially call me to praise me for having angered that guy?" Oscar asked playfully, his voice extremely deep and attractive.

"Of course not. I won't do such a boring thing. Moreover, annoying him won't make me happy. I'll only be happy if he's dead!" Hannah gritted her teeth.

"I really love your attitude."

Hannah was hit on by Oscar again. She cleared her throat and decided to get straight to the point, "Susan asks me to invite you to dinner tonight and offers to celebrate for you."

"Who?"

"Susan."

"I refuse. I'm not going." said Oscar.

Hannah was irritated by his answer and she almost couldn't utter a word.

"Why do you have such hostility towards Susan?" Hannah said after a few seconds.

"Because she's mean to Manuel." Oscar wouldn't try to conceal the fact that he had a close relationship with Manuel now.

"Even Manuel doesn't mind it. Why do you mind?"

"I'm a righteous man."

'Screwed righteous man! You're just picking on Susan.' Hannan thought to herself.

"Anyway, I've made an appointment with Susan. It's fine if you don't want to go. I'll go with Theodore, Jimmy, and Manuel. Anyway, it's just an excuse to drink. It doesn't matter if you're not there." Hannah said deliberately.

"Don't you remember you're during your period? How can you drink? Do you want to die?"

"What's the place?" Oscar suddenly agreed. He failed to insist for a second.

"The Grain and Field. I'll come to pick you up with Jimmy when I get off work."

"OK." Oscar responded, With a little unwillingness in his voice.

"It's settled, then. See you later."

"Tell Susan that I didn't accept her invitation. I do it only for your sake." Oscar clarified.

Hannah did not bother to respond to Oscar. She had only one word for him, Childish.

At half past five in the afternoon, Hannah got off work. It was the first time for Hannah to end her work in a day exactly on time. She was a little anxious. Even Jimmy was a bit surprised.

They drove to the City Hall. Oscar would get off work at six. She arrived ten minutes early. Hannah did not urge Oscar, but waited for him in the car at the gate.

As she waited, she played with her phone. She was reading today's news. The more she read, the happier she felt. So she was entranced by the news. Until someone knocked on the car window. She looked up and saw Charles.

To be honest, she did not feel like talking to Charles. However, she then thought of his humiliating defeat today, so she suddenly felt that it was not bad to say a few sarcastic words to him.

Who let him play tricks against Oscar and made him leave Kensbury City for half a year?

Thinking of the fact that she and Oscar would have to live apart in two different places for half a year, she was furious.

Hannah opened the door. Charles was a little astonished as he did not expect that Hannah would directly get out of the car. He just couldn't help but come over when he saw her car. It was out of his instinct.

Charles secretly gritted his teeth and stared at Hannah because he found that this girl was growing more beautiful. Compared with the past, the difference seemed to be that she had gained more confidence, which gave her beautiful appearance more charm, and even a strong aura. She was completely different from the submissive woman in his memory.

But what he showed was a look of disdain, "Come to pick up Oscar?"

"Could it be that you think I'm here to pick you up?" Hannah said sarcastically.

Charles's face dropped. Then, he slowly acted as if he didn't care, "Don't get me wrong. I don't miss you at all, so you don't have to say those sarcastic words to me."

"These are also the words I want to tell you. I don't have any feelings for you at all."

"You're quite realistic." Charles said coldly, "Seeing Oscar have made a certain achievement, you begin to wag your tail to please him? You know, you're the kind of women that men hate the most, cheap and boring."

Hannah was about to retort.

"Whether she is interesting or not, she's my girl. Do you think I need you to tell her what to do?" Oscar's voice suddenly came from behind.

Hannah smiled slightly. So she didn't have to waste her breath now. Oscar would be able to piss Charles off with only a few words, she thought.

The next moment, Oscar went over and held Hannah into his arms intimately. Hannah did not refuse and even took the initiative to approach him, showing their intimacy.

"Still that remark. Whether a girl is interesting or not depends on the man. You're useless yourself. Don't put the blame on the girl."

"You..." Charles's face was ghastly pale.

He had just spoken a word, but Oscar cut in directly, "By the way, there's one thing I'd like to remind you. According to the population statistics, there are more men than women in the world now. In the

future, there will be many men who can't find a wife. You had better improve yourself. Otherwise, if you become one of them in the future, you'll bring shame to your family. You see, it's very important to have a kid! Charles, be careful."

After saying that, Oscar did not give Charles any chances to speak. He just got into the car with Hannah. Then their car drove away in front of Charles.

Charles was so angry that he clenched his fists and trembled all over. Seeing how complacent Oscar and Hannah were and how intimate they were, he had a strong urge to tear them into pieces!

In the car, Hannah seemed to turn her head and took a glance at Charles. She just wanted to know how angry Charles was. The moment she turned her head, someone became unhappy.

"Is he more handsome than me?"

Hannah was speechless. She turned around and looked at Oscar, "Are you the king of jealousy in the world?"

"Don't take one more look at him in the future." This guy didn't deny it at all. He even made a request.

"Not even just to laugh at him?"

"No."

"You're too bossy."

"If I look at other girls, will you be unhappy?"

"You've had many girlfriends in the past, haven't you?"

How dared he say that now?

"Once I remember that you've had so many girlfriends in the past, I feel it's unfair for me." Hannah suddenly felt a little unhappy. She didn't care about it before. But now, she cared much about it.

"Should I find a few more boyfriends? Otherwise...Mm."

Hannah stared at Oscar with her eyes wide open, being kissed passionately by Oscar.

Jimmy, who was sitting in the driver's seat, had been used to it.

He could even hum while driving, silently, of course.

#### Chapter 336

Hannah's lips were swollen. She glared at Oscar, looking at his contented face.

He even said shamelessly, "It's not unfair at all."

It was so unfair for her. In the present life, she didn't have any boyfriends, except for Oscar. But he had had a dozen of girlfriends, who had been exposed by the press. She had no idea how many unexposed girlfriends he had ever had.

The more she thought about it, the more vexed she got. Hannah simply turned her head to another side and refused to talk to Oscar.

Oscar was in quite a good mood. Seeing that Hannah was angry, he just left her alone. Hannah was looking out of the window, while he was looking at her.

After arriving at the restaurant, Oscar and Hannah walked in, one after the other.

As soon as they entered, they saw Susan sitting there. Hannah doubted if this girl was doing her work properly. She was always so punctual for appointments.

"I've been waiting for you for a long time. I'm starving to death." Susan would naturally engage with everyone, including Oscar. She didn't greet him, just as if they were old friends.

Oscar didn't like Susan, so he ignored her and just sat down.

"By the way, didn't you say that Oscar's friends will come? Where are they?" Susan was careless and couldn't notice that Oscar didn't like her.

"Jimmy goes to park the car. Theodore and... They should arrive a little later." Hannah didn't tell Susan that she had invited Manuel. If she did, Susan might leave at once.

"Make a phone call to urge them." Susan complained, "How can they not come on time to eat?"

When Hannah was going to make a call, the door was opened by the waiter. Susan looked over. And the delight on her face was rendered into sullenness the moment she saw Manuel.

Manuel saw it, yet he pretended not to see it.

"Why do you invite Manuel?" Susan's voice was not loud but it could be heard clearly by everyone.

Theodore was pushing Manuel's wheelchair.

"I told you that I would invite a few friends. Weren't you very happy to do that?" Hannah said innocently.

"You did it on purpose." Susan gritted her teeth.

"I just thought that if I invite more guests, there would be more fun. I don't have many friends. So does Oscar." Hannah explained.

Susan didn't believe what Hannah said.

"Everybody's here now. Let's start." Hannah said.

Then, she arranged for Manuel to sit beside Susan.

Susan glared at Hannah. Considering that there were other guests here, she swallowed what she wanted to say. Hannah sat down next to Susan, and the person sitting next to her was Oscar. Then, it was Jimmy and Theodore.

Altogether six people, everything was perfect.

"Toast the reunion first." Theodore took the initiative to toast, trying to liven things up.

Everyone picked up their glasses.

"Wait." Oscar said, "Hannah is not feeling well these two days, so she doesn't drink."

"Not feeling well?" Susan gave them a meaningful look, "Could it be that she's pregnant?"

Hannah was speechless.

"No, she's just in her period." Oscar explained. As he spoke, he asked the waiter to pour a glass of warm water.

"I thought I was going to be a godmother soon." Susan joked.

"If you want a child so badly, why don't you just have one with Manuel?" Theodore cut in.

"Can you not say such a scary thing?" Susan was so scared that her face turned pale. It could be seen how much she feared such a thing on her face. Manuel just watched all this, not showing any emotion.

"You don't know chalk from cheese." Theodore commented.

Susan wanted to retort.

"Come on, everyone. Cheers." Hannah hurriedly tried to smooth things over.

Susan held back her anger. She told herself that it was for Hannah's sake, so she picked up her glass and had a drink.

Things were going well. Although neither Oscar nor Theodore liked Susan, Susan was a cheerful person and didn't mind it at all. So they got along quite well. If Manuel were not around, Susan would be happier.

Susan took her glass and offered a toast to Oscar, "Hero, congratulations on your promotion."

Oscar ignored her kindness, which made Susan a bit embarrassed.

Manuel also raised his glass, "Congratulations."

When Susan was about to refuse Manuel, she saw Oscar pick up his glass and speak to Manuel, "You can't handle alcohol. Don't drink too much."

"I see." Manuel nodded.

"Do you two know each other?" Susan asked. She had the feeling that they two had an unusual relationship.

"Yes, of course. He's Hannah's best friend. How could I not know him?" Oscar spoke calmly.

"Isn't Hannah's best friend me?" Susan's face was serious.

"So I know you, too."

Susan was confused. She thought that what Oscar said made sense. But she still felt that there was something strange.

Before she could think carefully about it, Oscar suddenly gulped down his wine. Susan hurriedly followed. So did Manuel.

During the dinner, they were mostly drinking. At first, they took turns to toast and drank together. Later, it became a platform for Susan and Theodore. None of them two would admit defeat.

Hannah knew it. It would be easier for Susan to click with Theodore. They two kept drinking nonstop.

"You don't have to worry. Susan drinks a lot. Even if she gets drunk, she'll still be alive and kicking the next day. Don't worry." Hannah told Manuel.

At this point, Susan had switched seats with Manuel. Now Manuel was sitting next to Hannah while Susan was beside Theodore.

Manuel knew it was useless for him to worry. Susan would not listen to him after all.

"Have more food. I ordered some non-spicy food." Hannah said.

"You chose this restaurant, didn't you?" Manuel was well aware that Susan would instinctively choose Heroic when she invited others to meals. Therefore, the moment he heard the name of the restaurant, he knew that it was Hannah's proposal.

Hannah smiled slightly and said, "When Susan falls for you, she will think for you."

Manuel showed a bitter smile. After all, it was out of the question that Susan would love him.

"That day will come." Hannah was very certain.

Manuel gave a perfunctory nod. He probably didn't allow himself to have much hope.

The dinner was over at about ten o'clock in the evening. At that time, both Theodore and Susan had been drunk. They didn't get along well with each other in usual times, yet they called each other good friends and wished they had met earlier at the end of the dinner.

They held hands and were unwilling to part with each other. In the end, they even became sworn brother and sister in front of everyone.

Both of them would kick themselves after they woke up this time, Hannah supposed.

# Chapter 337

Hannah and Oscar went home together. Theodore got a ride in their car. Manuel and Susan called chauffeur service to drive them home.

Susan was completely drunk, feeling that her head spun dizzily.

"Bro, I can drink more. Let's go to another place and continue to drink..." Susan was mumbling.

It was the first time for Manuel to see people to find a brother or a sister after getting drunk. Perhaps no one else in the world would do something like this.

Susan was making noise all the way home. Finally, they reached their destination. With the help of the chauffeur, Manuel sat in the electric wheelchair. Then, the chauffeur helped Susan up and put her in Manuel's arms.

Susan was so drunk that she didn't have any strength to support herself at all, just leaning against Manuel without any resistance.

Manuel even began to cherish the moment when Susan was drunk. He carried Susan into the house.

Tia saw them and rushed forward, "Mr Johnson, is Mrs Johnson drunk?"

"Yeah. Help her back to her room."

"Yes." Tia followed Manuel.

Arriving at Susan's room, Tia was going to help Susan so that she could have a good rest. Susan suddenly pushed Tia away and rushed into the bathroom, starting to vomit.

They saw her huddle on the floor, lean against the toilet, and vomit badly.

"How much did Mrs Johnson drink? She vomits a lot." Tia asked worriedly.

She did drink quite a lot. But it seemingly was not enough to make Susan so drunk. He had known how much she could drink a long time ago. He was sure that Susan shouldn't be drunk.

Susan continued to vomit.

"Go to get some honey water for her." Manuel spoke to Tia.

"OK." Tia nodded and then went out.

Manuel pushed his wheelchair and got a little closer to Susan, gently touching her back so that she could feel better.

Susan vomited uncontrollably again. After she finished throwing up, she said uncomfortably, "I feel I'm dying."

"Are you feeling so bad? Shall we go to the hospital?" Manuel asked in a low voice.

Her face was ghastly pale, which made Manuel worry a lot.

Tia came in with a glass of warm honey water, "Mrs Johnson, drink some honey water, and you'll feel better."

Susan looked up, took the glass, and took a sip. Soon after she swallowed it, she threw it out.

"How much on earth did she drink?" Tia was very anxious.

Manuel said decisively, "I'll take you to the hospital."

"No." Susan said after finishing vomiting, "I want to sleep."

As she spoke, she stood up and she was swaying from left to right.

Manuel and Tia hurriedly went to steady her.

After Susan steadied herself, she pushed them away, walked out of the bathroom, and lay down in bed.

She closed her eyes, no longer making any movements.

Manuel and Tia just looked at Susan. Seeing that she seemed to have suddenly fallen asleep, they didn't know what to do.

"Let me help her wash the face." Tia suddenly realized what she should do and hurriedly said.

Manuel nodded. Then, he suddenly said, "I'll do it. It's late at night now. You can go back to your room and have a rest."

Tia was going to say that she was not sleepy. However, she then realized that Manuel might just want to spend more time with Susan. So she said, "If you need any help, please let me know."

"ОК."

Then, Tia left Susan's room.

Manuel pushed his wheelchair and approached Susan's bed.

Susan's sleep posture was particularly poor, not looking like a rich lady at all.

Manuel helped her take off her coat. She went to work in the day, so she was dressed in formal clothes. Under her coat was a slim white shirt. She wouldn't be comfortable in this shirt.

Manuel hesitated for a moment, finally making the decision to take it off for her. After all, he had already seen her nudity. He just wanted Susan to sleep more comfortably. Thinking of this, Manuel unbuttoned her shirt.

Manuel was a little astonished as he saw the bruises left that night under the shirt. He had thought that he was the only one still with those bruises. Unexpectedly, there were some left on her body, too.

He tried hard to look away. After quickly taking off her clothes, he helped her change into clean pajamas. Then, he wiped her face, hands and feet with a hot towel. Finally, he covered her with the quilt.

After doing all this, Manuel let out a long sign of relief. He was suppressing something and trying to relax.

He turned around and was about to leave after making sure that Susan was fast asleep. Then, he suddenly heard Susan mutter, "Water. I want some water..."

"Honey water or boiled water?" Manuel asked.

"Water. I want some water ... "

Manuel remembered that Susan threw up soon after she drank the honey water just now, so he went to get a glass of warm water for her.

He clutched on to the wheelchair for support and managed to sit on Susan's bed. Then, he helped her sit up. Susan leaned feebly against Manuel and drank the water Manuel gave her.

Being thirsty, Susan finished a glass of water.

"Do you want some more water? I'll pour it for you." Manuel asked.

Susan shook her head. Manuel put the glass down and was going to help Susan lie down. At that moment, Susan grabbed his arm to stop him from making any movement, muttering, "Sleep beside me tonight."

Manuel was obviously tense. His Adam's apple moved up and down. For a second, he thought he had misheard. Then, he heard Susan repeat, "I want you to sleep beside me."

There was a hint of begging in her voice. Manuel contained his emotion and said "fine" in a deep and low voice. He was just worried that he would get too excited and scare her.

Susan got the satisfactory answer, so she let go of Manuel's arm and lay down in bed. Manuel slowly lay down beside her. He planned to accompany Susan until she fell asleep. Then, he would go to take a shower before coming back to keep her company.

He just looked at Susan, who was having a peaceful sleep. When she was asleep, she didn't repulse him at all.

Under the circumstances, It was hard for Manuel to restrain himself from asking for more. Before, he thought that it was enough to share a bed with Susan. But now, he wanted to touch her fair face. When he realized what he was doing, his fingers were already on Susan's face. For the first time, he had the feeling that Susan was around and within reach.

He suddenly remembered the first time he saw Susan. At that time, he went to meet Edward with his mother, and met Susan who came with her father.

He thought that Susan was so cute at first sight, with a round face and pink cheeks, looking like a little apple. He had been desiring touching her face since then.

After so many years, his wish finally came true.

# Chapter 338

Manuel started recollecting his first meet with Susan.

At that time, Susan hadn't grown any hostility against him because she didn't know that her father would marry Manuel's mother. From her perspective, the first meet with Manuel was like a simple one between friends. However, her energetic and adorable look sowed a seed of love within his heart, which kept growing as time went by.

When Susan started to argue with others to defend him, he found himself in love. Ever since Edward married Justine, Manuel always got despised because he wasn't a highborn originally. Most of those kids from the upper class insulted him for being humbly born, while mocking that his mom used to be a mistress of his stepfather and thus he should be called as a bastard. Actually, Manuel had been used to it. Back into the old days when he lived with his mother alone, he got insulted in the same way. There was always someone else calling him bastard, to which Manuel never talked back.

His mom had raised him to be a gentleman never quarreling with rude people. Nor would he bring himself troubles. His mom had imparted the rule of tolerance to him ever since he was young. Indeed, bearing great future, both Justine and Manuel had been of great tolerance. That was why Manuel never talked back even if others started insulting him at a very young age. Of course, he also bore great tolerance to the fact that the one he loved never loved him.

Once upon a time, some kids from the upper class was mocking him again. Susan happened to hear that. Then she started to defend him, "Manuel is my brother. Whoever insulting him means to offend me! And I will tell my dad about it. Once my dad tells your dads about it, you all will be punished!" As a girl from the Phillips, one of the top four families, Susan was still awed by people regardless of her mischief. Ever since that happened, fewer people dared to insult Manuel.

After that, Manuel grew clearer feelings for Susan. Though Susan had ever helped him, she never loved him.

When in high school, he thought Susan might start growing affection for him. However, it was at that time that Susan got into a relationship with Henry. He still remembered after being kissed by her for the first time, he spent a whole night writing a love letter for her. It took him a month to muster up courage to hand it over to Susan. However, before he could do so, he saw Susan walking past him while hand in hand with Henry. She even didn't cast a glance at him when walking past. If she did, she might have noticed the tears within his eyes. And she might have noticed the pink love letter he was clenching. At that moment, she simply walked past him with Henry in happiness. She missed him. After that day, Manuel tore the love letter into pieces.

He lived his own life peacefully while watching the affection between Susan and Henry growing day after day. He noticed Susan smiled more often when staying with Henry. After he graduated from high school, he went abroad to study. After three years of torment, he decided to spend his time somewhere else far away. During the four years of study, he didn't miss Susan that much. But of course, sometimes he did miss her. Every time he talked to his mother on the phone, he would be told that Susan was in a nice relationship with Henry. Of course, he knew his mom didn't mean to disappoint him. She just wanted to let him know there was no way he could build a relationship with Susan. He simply listened and responded with silence every single time.

After he graduated from college, Justine told him to come back. After all, it would be ridiculous to leave his own mother alone just because of another girl. Actually, in his fourth year of study, he seldom missed Susan. He spent much less time looking at her photos. At that time, he had set up a game office with his classmates. The busy work took away his time and reminiscence of Susan. When he set off to return home, Susan's photos had been locked into his drawer. He might have totally forgotten about his crush on Susan, he thought to himself. That was why he chose to return.

Even after four years, Susan still remained hostile when seeing him. She probably hoped that he could spend the rest of his life in another country. Manuel simply ignored her hostility while bearing the best wishes to the relationship between Susan and Henry.

When hearing that Susan was eager to marry Henry but Henry still hesitated about it, he deliberately talked to Henry that he would strive for her love once again. Of course, he didn't mean to break them

apart. Instead, he wanted to facilitate their marriage. However, it was during that period of time that he noticed Henry's plot.

Staring at her, Manuel wanted to ask why she didn't take action since she also noticed herself that she had the same crush on him. If he had confessed his love to her a bit earlier, he wondered perhaps she would have accepted it. She would have never fallen in love with Henry later.

Manuel got closer to her face. Insatiable, he wanted to approach to kiss her.

"Henry..." Susan suddenly murmured.

Manuel felt like being frozen.

"Henry, don't leave me..." though she was murmuring, her voice was clear enough for Manuel to capture.

Manuel stepped back to flinch away from her bed. Perhaps even if he had confessed his love to her earlier at that time, she would still have fallen in love with Henry. Nothing would change, he believed. Her feelings for him were not a kind of affection but a simple youth crush. She had never truly fallen for him. She only fell for Henry.

Manuel closed the door to leave. Though he remembered Hannah told him to be brave, it still took struggling efforts.

The following day, Susan opened her eyes, with a bang of headache haunting her. Staring at the ceiling, she felt dizzy, having no idea where she was. She struggled to stand up herself, feeling deadly thirsty because of hangover. But it felt much better than last night. She remembered she didn't drink too much. Thus, she had no idea why the hangover felt so strong. Nor could she remember how she returned home and got onto the bed on her own.

She looked down at herself, suddenly noticing that she was wearing pajamas.

Shit! Who helped to get her changed?

Tia? Or Manuel?

But as soon as she noticed that Manuel would never have the courage to do so, she felt free from worry.

# Chapter 339

Since there was nothing for her to worry about, she got up from the bed herself. But dizziness still lingered inside her head. Retch still tortured her stomach.

Was there something wrong with the liquor?

Susan washed herself up. She opened the door and was about to pour herself a glass of water. She might need to ask for a leave to rest today. While speaking on the phone to notice the office, she walked out of her room. Both Tia and Manuel were having breakfast in the dining room. Tia was surprised to see Susan coming over, "Oh, good morning Ms Phillips, I didn't expect you to get up so early."

But Susan simply ignored her warm greeting. Tia didn't seem to care. She got used to it. However, Manuel didn't even cast a glance at her. Of course, Susan didn't seem to care as well.

After she hung up the phone, she got herself a glass of water. It was exactly the thirst that woke her up.

If it weren't for the thirst, she would have slept a little longer without headache nor a sick stomach. After finishing one more glass of water, she put it down and was about to return to her room.

"Ms Phillips, would you like some breakfast? It will make you feel better, I reckon."

Before Susan was about to turn down, her stomach started growling out of hunger. Indeed, some food to fill her stomach would probably make it better. So she walked over and sat down opposite Manuel, which was the furthest seat to him she could get. Whatever, she just wanted to stay away from him as much as she could. However, she then saw Manuel put down his fork and leave by himself.

After serving breakfast for Susan, Tia saw him leaving. She took a look at his plate, where most of his breakfast remained. She hurried to ask, "Mr Johnson, have you finished?"

"I don't have much appetite." Said Manuel.

"Okay." Tia looked a bit confused.

Commonly speaking, Manuel never seemed picky about food. Whatever Tia cooked, he would finish it all.

How came he didn't have much appetite this time?

Watching his back, Susan somehow felt a bit annoyed. She felt like Manuel was trying to keep a distance from her on purpose. Whatever, she didn't care. Then Susan continued with her breakfast. She gotta admit that Tia really cooked well. Even a simple breakfast tasted so good. She didn't expect herself to have much, yet she finished plate after plate.

Standing next to her, Tia couldn't help smiling, "Ms Phillips, if you like it, I can prepare every single breakfast for you in the morning before you get to work."

"No, thanks. I barely get up early for breakfast." Susan refused. Commonly speaking, she would have to rush out of the door as soon as she got up every morning. She hardly had time for breakfast.

"But having no breakfast will damage your stomach."

"You talk too much." Susan looked a bit annoyed.

Unhappy, Tia remained silent. Seeing that, Susan found herself a bit guilty. After all, she did serve her well. Susan cleared her voice. Of course, as proud as she had always been, she didn't intend to apologize directly. So she changed the subject to dissipate the embarrassment, "Did you help me get changed last night? Thank you."

"No, it was Mr Johnson who helped to get you changed. He carefully tended you last night." Tia hurried to explain.

Susan felt like getting choked, while Tia frowned awkwardly. Coughing for nearly a minute, she shouted, "What did you say?"

"It was Mr Johnson who tended you last night. In the beginning, I said I could do the job. But Mr Johnson told me to have some sleep. So..." noticing her face growing more annoyed, Tia hurried to add, "Ms Phillips, you puked badly last night. He really worried about you."

"You mean he had stripped me off last night?" Susan was pissed.

Damn! She noticed her bra had been stripped off as well this morning.

"Probably..." Tia answered awkwardly.

Confused, Tia mustered up the courage to ask, "But Ms Phillips, you have already slept with him. Right? Isn't it something normal for him to help you get changed? Why are you so mad..."

However, before Tia could finish, Susan smashed the fork onto the table and walked toward Manuel's room. She literally pushed the door open without knocking it first, while Manuel was typing on his computer. Seeing her break in, he simply glanced at her and then continued to work.

"Manuel, how dared you get me changed last night?" Susan questioned.

Obviously, she was totally pissed off.

However, Manuel replied with his eyes fixed on the screen, "Alright, I will ask for your consent next time." His response sounded plain and indifferent. But it irritated her even more.

How could he pretend as if nothing had happened?

He didn't even look like he was going to apologize.

It was his fault that he stripped her off without asking for permission.

How dared he put on that indifferent look?

"Manuel, do you know how despicable you are?"

"What do you want from me?" Manuel stopped to look at her.

Paused, she felt like burning with anger. However, she found it hard to vent out.

"You want an apology? Or you want a written guarantee that I promise I will never strip you off again and I shall never step into your room? You want me to stay away from you?"

Susan glared at him. But she somehow noticed that he felt a bit weird today. Though he stayed composed while speaking, the way he talked somehow felt a bit aggressive. But she should be the one losing temper!

"Okay, shut up! That's it." Susan huffed.

Then she slammed the door shut. However, his fists were actually clenching beneath the table. With his lips pressed, he tried hard to quench his own anger. Long after, he focused on the screen again. Actually, working had turned to be a kind of anesthetic to numb his own emotion.

# Chapter 340

In the midst of tantrum, Susan didn't return to continue with her breakfast. Instead, she strode into her own room and slammed the door shut. Lying on the bed, she was burning with anger. She had every reason to lose temper, she thought to herself. It was she who got stripped off without permission.

How dared he put on a look that it was all her fault?

Tossing around on the bed, she made a call to Hannah, "Hannah?"

"Yes? Have you woken up from drunkenness?" Hannah was working at this moment.

"No, I haven't!" Susan huffed to answer.

"Someone messed up with you?"

"No?"

"It must be Manuel, right?"

"Who else could it be?" Susan suddenly admitted it.

"Can't you live with him in peace?"

"Impossible! I gotta divorce him someday!" Susan huffed firmly.

"What if you fall in love with him someday?"

"That's not gonna happen!" Susan gritted her teeth.

"Are you calling to tell me how determined you are to divorce him?" Hannah smiled.

"Of course not! What kind of liquor did you bring to me last night? I totally passed out. Now my head is still aching! So is my stomach. It almost killed me last night!"

"It was brandy, your favorite. I know you love it. So I especially asked for it."

"But how came it felt so awful after I drank it?" Susan was confused.

"Perhaps you drank too much?"

"I don't think so. Oh, it must be Theodore! That crazy guy kept urging me to drink. It was he who got me drunk!" Susan suddenly recalled what happened last night.

Hannah couldn't help smiling, "Come on, did you know what you had done with him after you got drunk?"

"What do you mean?" Susan was a bit surprised.

"Think about it." Hannah tantalized her.

"No way! Did I flirt with him? I gotta admit that he looks handsome. But he is not my type." Susan sounded a bit agitated. Of course, she had ever flirted with handsome guys before when she got drunk. She couldn't help wondering if she made the same mistake once again last night.

"You swore an oath to be his sister. So did he to be your brother. And you told us to witness it." Said Hannah.

Susan felt like hearing a bolt from the blue. She couldn't remember it!

"Don't you remember?" Hannah asked.

Susan seemed to have recalled a bit of it. Then she cried out, "What the hell is wrong with me? I made myself his sworn sister? Was I going crazy?"

"That's how Theodore commented about it after he woke up." Hannah smiled.

Susan got speechless.

"Alright girl, I got a meeting to attend. Have some rest if you still feel ill." After checking her watch, Hannah continued, "Hey, don't argue with Manuel. Learn to get along with him."

But of course, Susan wouldn't listen to her. She hung up the phone, sulky.

After hanging up, Hannah made an internal call, "Notice the sales department to prepare a meeting right now."

"Yes."

The construction project of South Bay New Town was now her prior target.

...

Before Oscar was leaving for the River Town, he was totally occupied. Hannah barely saw him at home. Every time she returned home after work, she had to stay alone. Oscar didn't return until she fell asleep, stinky with smell of liquor. When she woke up the next morning, Oscar had left. Hannah somehow felt a bit upset. She sighed after dumping the last piece of menstrual pad. She still remembered he once promised to sleep with her after her period. It seemed that he had totally forgotten that.

After shower, Hannah went to bed. Oscar would be leaving for the River Town the day after tomorrow. And he was still busy dealing with social occasions today. Of course, she understood that there must be plenty of social occasions expecting him before he set off. If he turned down any of them, a bad reputation about him would go viral among the upper class. So he had no choice but to attend.

Again, when he tiptoed into the room, Hannah had fallen asleep already. Hannah would keep the light on every single night. Every time he pushed the door open and saw that warm light, he felt like being surrounded by warmth, which he highly expected every single night.

He walked over to Hannah and bent over to stare at her sleeping face. Actually, he was a bit drunk tonight. Out of the concern about reputation, he barely turned down any toast. The continuous banquets during these days totally exhausted him. He simply stared at her peacefully. He really wanted to bring her anywhere by his side if he could.

Oscar gently kissed on her forehead. However, it woke her up. Frowning, Hannah saw his face and smelt the stink of liquor.

"Oscar, are you drunk again?" Hannah pushed him away.

"A little bit drunk." With his lips off from her forehead, Oscar let out an enchanting smile under the warm light.

What a perfect looking gentleman!

She found it hard to remain sober under his great charm. Before Oscar was about to continue to explain that he didn't get drunk, Hannah suddenly wrapped around his neck and offered him her lips. Their tongues soon entangled with each other. So did their bodies under the warm light.

"Wait, there are 720 minutes left." Taking a deep breath, Oscar suddenly let go of her.

Hannah paused out of surprise. Did he still insist on that countdown? She was not a robot with a button to turn on or off! She couldn't control the span of her period anyway. The next second, Oscar stood up and walked into the bathroom.

Hannah watched the bathroom with door closed. She then turned around with her back on it.

•••

When Hannah woke up the next morning, as expected, Oscar had left.

He slept late last night. Of course, his late return was part of the reason. But mostly, it took him a few hours to quench his own desire. And he left so early this morning. Tomorrow, he would leave Kensbury City. Perhaps he wouldn't return until six months later. It was such a distance. Oscar wouldn't be likely to return often.

Sighing, she got up. Before she went to wash up, she saw a note on the bedside table. She unfolded to read it: 'No social occasion to attend today. I will be waiting for you at home tonight—From Oscar.'

Hannah murmured to call his name. Her smile turned conspicuous. Not until then did she realize that a true love would bring her such great joy.