

## Reborn 361

### Chapter 361

Hannah dialed to Manuel as she finished the call with Susan.

"Hi Hannah. How are you?" Manuel said in a peaceful tone as usual. There seemed to be nothing that could make a difference for him.

"Susan called me just now and she told me she has made an official ending with Henry." Hannah directed to the subject, other than beating around the bush.

Manuel wore barely a hint of smile.

Hannah did paid a lot of efforts in pairing him off with Susan.

"I heard her call from Henry just now."

"Anyway, that's what we want, no matter how."

"Hope so." Manuel said with a smile.

"I just want to leave a reminder with this call. As Henry was notified that Susan carried a baby. You must be careful, just in case."

Manuel received her kindness and said, "I will, thanks."

"Anyway, congratulations," Hannah said with a smile, "well, I could not imagine that you would have a baby so soon."

The emotionless face melt into a smile whenever he heard of the baby.

"Me, either."

"Take good care of her."

"Of course." Manuel said without a stop.

"Fine, I have to go for a meeting."

"OK, see you."

As the call was over, Manuel directed his sight to the bedroom.

He left out of instincts. He just shunned the love between Susan and Henry. Now he suddenly realized that he needed a shift. Hannah was right. He had more to do. He pulled himself to the bedroom.

Susan sat on the bed, resting herself by the headboard and playing games. But the game got her more cranky. "Why there is no any backup for me? Haven't you seen that I became their target?"

A freezing voice of her mate responded on the phone, "Who do you think you are, 0-8? Who the hell would like to support you?"

"I can grow stronger. Calling for SUP!" Susan said in furry.

“No. To follow you is to be slain.”

“How about just surrender now? We are wasting time for being damaged like that!”

“No surrender!” Susan was furious.

Then the phone was snatched out off her hand.

“What’s wrong with you, Manuel?” Susan was exploded.

Didn’t he see that she was on the edge by her ally in the game?

Why did he show up just at such fucking moment?

Then, she saw Manuel was playing the game right away. And he muted the phone.

“what’s up with you?” Susan felt a surge of anger as seeing the man focusing on her game.

But the man skipped her question but asked, “Who is hunting you?”

“None of your business! Can you play a shoot? Give it back to me!” Cranky Susan said.

“Is your enemy in the jungle?” Manuel inquired, with his agile fingers beating on the screen skillfully.

“Return it to me!” Susan ordered.

Then a voice slipped from her phone, “Well, well, well! What a counterattack! Maybe all about luck?”

Her cold-blood ally was still making fun of her. But Manuel had no reply. He concentrated to the screen. With a deep frown, Susan posed her head to figure out what was happening.

It was so incredible that Manuel could kick off a counterattack given her poor experience. What an amazing man!

Several rounds later, the assassin from the enemy became scared after being KO by Manuel for times.

“The SUP refused you, right?” Manuel asked.

Susan was so surprised by Manuel’s terrifying attacks that she could only make a reply after a while.

“Yes,” she said.

“Fine.” Manuel said.

He moved to the side of the SUP, and showed a face to the enemy on purpose. As the enemy drew near, Manuel left. Then the lonely SUP was slashed and KO just in seconds.

“Fuck! Why did you leave me alone!” The SUP cursed.

Surely Manuel turned a deaf ear and headed away to the enemy’s jungle.

Manuel’s damage ability soared to the top just in minutes. The enemies in the jungle just gave up their intention to VS Manuel all the way. They were even for once got slain by Manuel who skipped over the turret.

“Are you drugged?” An enemy cursed by typing words. He must freak out under Manuel’s storm of attack.

Manuel replied by typing, “My woman is not for bully.”

Susan was annoyed.

Who was he talking about? Who was his woman?

But she could not denied that Manuel’s operation did have her elevated. Of course, Manuel won the game on his own in the end. Then he returned the phone to Susan.

Susan cast a glance at Manuel before the word of victory on screen attract all her attention. She browsed quickly the result of the game-up to 50% of output. She would not believe it if she had not seen by herself.

“So you are a top gamer, aren’t you?” Susan asked. She was surely in surprise.

“Sometimes I just played with my friend.” Manuel said peacefully.

“Who?” Susan could not constrain her curiosity.

“Someone you don’t know.” Manuel dodged.

“Girls, right? I won’t mind it.” Susan said casually.

“A friend. Male, instead.” Manuel explained.

Susan raised her head, watching the man in front.

“I can be your company if you love the game.” Manuel shifted the topic.

“No, thanks. We are not at the same level.”

“No prob. My friend’s level is not so high, either.” Manuel said with a smile.

Why did he look so gentle?

Damn.

That must be a girl, the friend.

Susan put down her phone, thrust herself into the duvet, and said, “I’m weary.”

“All right,” Manuel responded. So now he was going to leave the room as per her expectation. However, the man suddenly put himself to the bed too.

Susan was shocked. She would have protested it, but compromised at last. She had no idea why she behaved so contradictory before the man.

The room was quiet again. Manuel was a decent man indeed. He would not passed the center line of the bed by himself.

So as for her leaning to him so intimately this morning, it must be her who clung onto him. She was not what she used to be when she was slumbering. With all these in her mind, she failed to fall asleep though she tried hard to.

Pregnancy was just about eating, sleeping and sometimes playing just for killing time. Such days seemed endless. Susan was left disconsolate.

Maybe the man besides was the factor to drive away her taste of sleep. She just lied still with her eyes shut, until, after a long while, she felt the man behind made a sudden advance to her.

And then she fell into his arms, feeling a big palm covering on her low abdomen. With a nervous tense in her body, she just let herself into the warm hug, other than pushing him away.

The arms summoned her taste of sleep finally. She had no idea how they developed to what they were now. They just grew to a couple like this bit by bit. And obviously, she got used to it.

## **Chapter 362**

Hannah made a stretch before her table.

The clock showed 10 o'clock again.

What another harvest day! She got a full schedule every day.

As she stood up to call Jimmy to send her home, then her phone rang.

"Hello, Theodore." Hannah answered it.

"This is about Wayne Cooper that you requested my investigation before."

"So, any news?"

"He has been closed to Sandra Stein during these days."

"How closed?"

"They have slept together." Theodore put it straight.

Hannah wore a hint of shock on her face. So conscience was a word out of Wayne's dictionary. Sleeping Sandra was a signal that he had already colluded with Charles.

Did he lose his memory and forget who caused his sister's death?

"Can you please make a video record? I need a proof." Hannah did not beat around the bush.

"All right," Theodore promised.

"Did you find any clue showing that Wayne has gotten in touch with Charles?"

"Not yet," Theodore denied.

"Can you please pay attention to that?"

"Do you mean Wayne ganging up with Charles already?"

“Wayne is the traitor spoiling the project of South Bay New Town.” Hannah concealed little about what she knew to Theodore because Oscar said him deserved her trust. So she trusted him.

“I will keep you in loop if I find any story between them.”

“I just need a proof.” Hannah said directly.

No need to waste any time on it.

“Get it,” Theodore promised before he hung up the phone.

Then he dialed to Oscar and told, “Charles might target at the project of South Bay New Town.”

“Why did you say so?” Oscar inquired.

“I just called Hannah who told me that Wayne has become Charles’s accomplice.”

Oscar frowned at hearing this.

“Hannah is much smarter than I expected. As I expected, with her help, our goal can be achieved 3 years earlier than our plan.” Theodore said in respect.

“Charles won’t be easily outwitted. It shall need time to put him in a trial. For the time being, secret investigation is what we can do.”

“Don’t worry,” Theodore nodded, “How about Hannah...”

“I got to go.” Oscar interrupted.

“I haven’t finished yet.” Theodore said, annoyed.

He just wanted to share with Oscar a deep analysis on Hannah.

“We can talk about it next time.”

“Are you busy now?”

“Hannah is calling me.”

“...” Damn.

Oscar just cut the phone right the way.

Watching the phone, Theodore could not help but got cranky.

What the hell!

A man in love had no space left for a friend.

Sitting alone in the private room of the nightclub, he was getting lousy. There must be someone to company him inside the room. Now he was alone since from a long time ago.

What a boring night for a lonely man.

Theodore put down his leg and was leaving the private room.

Indeed, he would never reject a woman throwing herself on him. He watched the drunk woman cling to his clothes, and begged with a touch of seducing, " Please, please take me away from here..."

She said with tremble, which seemed someone was coming after her.

Money could make a good actress out of a woman. But luckily, he always had interest to play with such actresses. He put the woman into his arm and said by her ears in low voice, "My pleasure."

The woman grasped his clothes firmly, just as if he was her last hope.

What a diligent actress.

Theodore took her to his car. Inside the car, the woman did not lose her grip to his clothes. She couldn't help but keep trembling. She seemed to be suffering and bearing.

Theodore frowned and said, "Girl, stop your playing. You do attract my attention."

But she was still shivering. The impatient Theodore raised her face and said, "I said no more...Uh!"

His lips were sealed by the woman's kiss. It was too hot to take any reasonable reaction. This was a woman deep in luck. Her desire deprived him of the least control.

After a long seducing kiss. Theodore pushed her away and said, " Let's continue after we come to the hotel..."

But the woman snaked onto him. And she set off a new round of seducing attacks by all means...

What the hell.

As experienced as him, he never met a woman like that before. Theodore's defense turned useless anymore. He ordered his driver to part the car and wait outside. A sedan began its shake like a boat in a rapid flow. This sexual journey started from nearly the midnight, and made a halt till the dawn came.

As the sun rising, Theodore felt like his energy were sucked out from him. He never experienced like that before. He tried to move a bit, but the woman was still pressing on him.

Damn it.

That might almost kill him. He pushed her and tried to wake her up, "Hey, wake up, lady."

The woman, in a daze climbed up from him. When she saw the man underneath, she made a sharp scream.

"Ah!"

The scream almost dislodged Theodore's soul out off him. He covered the woman's mouth by hand, and said, "Haven't you finished your yelling from the night?"

The woman stared at him terrified. Tears streamed out from her eyes like a pouring rain. Theodore was left wordless and annoyed.

He begged, "Your play shall be over, OK?"

The woman watched him with tears pouring down.

“How much? Say it and I pay for it!” Theodore’s patience was wearing thin.

And the sobbing woman seemed calm down a bit, so he removed his hand from her mouth.

The woman stopped her screaming. She just shrank and settled down herself at the side, wrapping her naked body with hands.

Theodore took her clothes up and ordered, “Put it on. I have the driver come back.”

After a glance at him, the woman reached for her clothes and wore them on without a word. Theodore put on his too. But their clothes were a bit torn after last night, a night of passion and carnal love.

Theodore opened the car door. His driver had been standing and waiting outside for a whole night. As seeing the door opening, he said respectfully, “Morning, Mr Wold.”

“Drive back home.”

“Yes.”

The driver finally resumed to his seat.

Well, what a loving night.

“Where are you heading for?” Theodore asked.

The woman uttered an address. Then Theodore ordered his driver to send her first, and said, “Tell me your account number.”

The woman watched him like a stone, with puzzle on her face.

“I meant your bank account!” Theodore said in his least patience.

How come this actress were still in the play?

The woman bite her lips and refused, “No need.”

Theodore could not believe his ears.

“I said no need,” The woman repeated.

“Well, if you want to renew my impression or badger me by request for no coin, you will find that a vain hope.” Theodore said ironically.

“I don’t,” The woman said firmly.

Theodore always had least patience on women.

Fine! Then just as her wish. She would not get a chance if she wanted to blackmail him.

The sedan arrived at the first destination. The woman got off without a word or look. Theodore did not cast a glance at her before the car pull away.

He lowered his head and found a trace of blood on the backseat. He watched it a while and removed his sight, erasing them from his heart.

There should be someone to take her first time, him or other man. It made no difference.

This was nothing rare!

### **Chapter 363**

Little Bunny returned to her dorm.

She was not herself. But she still needed to pretend nothing happened and back to her life.

The dorm was shared by 3 girls. Each of them has her own room. This was only for those with some reputation. Otherwise, they would only share a room with others, by settling down in bunk beds.

Her roommates, Caroline and Gabby, were all in the living room when Little Bunny came back. They were doing yoga, while one watching TV. At the sight of Little Bunny, the warmhearted Caroline asked, "Why didn't you come back to the dorm last night? I tried to call you, but you missed it."

She did not answer.

Gabby teased, "how could she answer your phone when she was busy to please her boss. I heard that her agent found her a small role in a play, then of course she must be a calling girl to pay for her coming role last night. So what the hell you were worried about?"

Little Bunny headed straight for her room without any explanation. Her room door was closed with a bang.

Gabby did not stop her teasing while looking at Little Bunny's room, "How come a bitch still care others' comments? If she did not sleep with the boss, how could she win the spokeswoman for Cooper Group, and kicked off the live stream promotion, leaving alone making a trending topic? Now a bitch pretend to be pure as a virgin. Are you kidding me?"

"Come on." Caroline stopped her, "Each of us has the same story. Before we made our reputation, we had to seize the opportunities by sexual deals, except those having powerful connections. You are not the exceptional, what gives you the strength to mock your ally?"

"I was not making fun of her story, but her denial to what she has done." Gabby said as she crawled up from her Yoga mat, "It's shameful for a bitch yelling for a chastity prize."

Lying on the bed, Little Bunny was overwhelmed by Gabby's satire, due to the poor sound-insulation performance of the wall.

True it was. None of them could escape the fate to trade their chances with their bodies unless they had powerful connections.

She attended a dining ball invited by the owner last night. Her agent implied her for times. But she did not agree and just pour down every glass of wine when she was pushed for a drink. Getting drunk was much better than sexual trading. However, she was drugged secretly by somebody. When she found it, she rushed her way out and caught a man to take her away. But it turned out...

Sexual trading must be a better option, if only she knew what happened later.



Then the ringing bell drew her attention. She just got it charged just now, for it was out of power last night.

As she received the call, she heard her agent howling, "What's up with you, Little Bunny? Where did you go last night?"

"I came back."

"Came back? Are you kidding me? How could you come back after you took the pills? Just tell me the truth. Who did you sleep with last night?"

Little Bunny did not reply this question.

"I think I made it clear enough to you when we signed on the contract that going out with a man is not permitted during the valid period as said on the contract. So tell me if you are falling in a secret love with someone?"

"No."

"No?"

"I am not telling lies."

"If not, where did you go last night?" Her agent became cranky.

Then she said, "I can take it for tonight. You can make an appointment now."

"No need any more!" The furious agent rejected, "I have received the call from the owner who informed me that they have another option. So your role has gone."

Little Bunny got emotional as hearing the news.

"No chance for anyone who goes against the company's decision." The agent threatened. Then he cut off the line.

Little Bunny put down her phone, lost in thought. Since for her turning down such invitations, her roles have been replaced time after time. Except the spokeswoman for Cooper Group, she had not caught any opportunity to show up in any film or TV program yet. She had lost her exposure for even a long time. Without exposure, no one was willing to cast a role for her. She became doubt for her choice of this career.

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Half month later, Hannah started her presentation with the contract she had prepared for the South Bay New Town Project. The presentation went pretty smooth. Hannah did pay a great deal effort in preparing this creative planning. Except for those innovative ideas, she had shown in the planning what she had learned from the top international metropolises and improved her scheme in detail. After her presentation, the meeting room was overwhelmed with a storm of applause.

The presentation was so successful that it won the admiration of the audiences who was totally surprised by it.

Some ideas about the high technology was never heard before, but Hannah could make it clear by detailed explanation. So this was not the pie in the sky. The presentation was approved by nearly 100%.

Until some one stood out with an objection. He suggested, "Thanks for a fabulous proposal, bold but practical. It can be top of my list of the schemes I have heard for so many years. I believe it is hard for the bureau to say no to us. But for such a perfect proposal, I should say our quote seems too low."

That made sense. Someone were persuaded and fluctuated.

The quote of 10 billions for construction cost seemed not fit for such a perfect planning. The planning sounded worth for more than 15 billion at least.

"I have made a thorough consideration for that." Hannah added, "If we have a different owner, I will agree that this quote is too low indeed. But do you ever have a second thought? We are searching for cooperation with the government. Construction of a new town was somehow a charity project. At the beginning, I did ever pursue for abundant financial benefit from this project. But what about afterwards? What we can earn from this project after it is done? Does the financial reward from this project really do good for Cooper? As I learned, a new leader has come to the bureau recently. This will be the first project in charge by him. He must naturally want a good fight in this project. So why not we just give him a platform to develop his impact? If he can grow stronger under our help, he must repay us in the future. And besides, we can build up a healthy image in the public since we run a successful charity project. In conclusion, financial benefit shall not be our only pursuit in this project, but more sustainable ones."

Her remark was so earnest that won over the whole board. This time no one objected any more.

"Miguel, your daughter is amazing. I do admire for the big map in her vision! Your little girl is much visionary than us who has spent decades in the career. What a respectful youth!"

"Thank you. I'm flattered." Miguel said modestly. His eyes was filled with pride. Though he knew his daughter was smart enough, he was surprised too by her wisdom and ambition during the presentation.

Hannah used to show least willingness to work in Cooper Group, but she made a great coup as she started her career here. She was a windfall for him.

"If there is no other comment, then let's put to the vote." Miguel said with confidence.

This time the board approved the proposal totally.

Miguel announced, "I would like to state here the project is officially kicked off now. Hannah, don't let us down."

"I won't," Hannah said honestly.

The meeting was over. Hannah went back to her office.

Rose followed and asked, "Ms Hannah, has the board passed the proposal? Do they think that our quote is unreasonably low?"

"No, they approved it," Hannah put it straight, "I will go for the bid next Monday, and ask Wayne to come with me."

## Chapter 364

Rose thought she might have misunderstand it.

She confirmed again. "Do you want me to inform Wayne?"

"Yep." Hannah nodded her head. "I'll give you the scheme. If Wayne asks you for it, tell him you cannot give him for the time being because the final sales quota is still undercover."

Rose didn't understand why Hannah didn't want Wayne to know the final quota since he was to attend the bidding.

It was Hannah who was to reset a new quota in the scheme which was known by her and Rose, except for the board.

Given this, Rose supposed that Hannah was keeping an eye on Wayne. But she couldn't figure out the reason for Hannah's offer to take Wayne with them.

"You can tell him you have the scheme when you refuse to give it to him." Said Hannah.

Rose felt like she could not follow her point anymore.

Were they shooting a spy movie which was full of twists?

"Just do what I said." Hannah didn't explain why. "You may go."

"OK." Then Rose left the room.

Hannah gave a scornful smile, swearing she must have the Sawyer family pay a double cost!

On the other side, Rose knocked on Wayne's door.

"Come in."

Rose came into the office and reported to Wayne. "Mr Cooper, Ms Hannah asked me to inform you that you need to go with her to the bureau for the bidding next week. She has just submitted the construction scheme of South Bay New Town, and it has been passed by the board."

"Me?" Wayne was surprised.

"Ms Hannah said it's you."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm sure of this." Said Rose.

Wayne still doubted, but he agreed. "OK, I see. Let me know the exact time to go on Monday, and I'll go with her."

"Yes, sir. If there is nothing else, I'll be going."

"Wait a minute." Wayne stopped Rose. "Was the scheme submitted in the original version?"

"No," said Rose, "there were some changes."

“Where has been changed?”

“Ms Hannah reset a more compelling bidding price.” Rose gave a true answer.

“How much is it?” Wayne asked at once.

“I’m so sorry sir, I cannot tell you. Ms Hannah keeps it as business confidential information.” Rose replied, “The scheme has been locked in my safe, and I won’t take it out until Monday.”

Wayne pursed his lips, knowing they wouldn’t let him know. Hannah must be keeping a close eye on him. She should take him for show than for bidding.

Hannah once appeared to be so generous in front of the senior executives, so now it was her time to keep the promise in case of being talked about behind her back. Wayne could not deny that she was much more clever than he once thought.

“OK, you may go now.” Wayne asked Rose to leave.

After she left, Wayne called Charles at once. “The scheme was changed. The sales quota might be different from the one I gave you.”

At present, Charles was reading the scheme and he was shocked by Hannah’s proposal for the planning of South Bay New Town. It was no doubt to be a leading construction concept which was over ten years ahead of others in Northfield!

How did Hannah come up with such a modern and pragmatic construction scheme?

When did she become so competent that she was even head and shoulders above him?

Thank god, he had adopted her scheme before rather than arrogantly making it himself. He must have been defeated utterly if he had done so.

Hearing Wayne’s words, Charles said. “How much is it now?”

He knew Hannah wouldn’t reveal any related information so easily. He had been doubted about this since Wayne got the scheme without lifting a finger. However, it was trustworthy now after hearing what Wayne said.

“I got no idea. No one knows it except Hannah, her assistant Rose, and the board.” Wayne answered.

“How about trying every means to get it?”

“It’s risky. The directors only cater for those in power. My father is in jail so they won’t take me seriously. We might let the cat out of our bag if I asked them the sales quota now.”

“How about greasing Rose’s palm then?” Charles asked.

“It’s impossible. Rose is loyal to Hannah, she won’t be bribed.”

“Then we can only steal it.”

Wayne was scared. “How?”

“Where do they put the final scheme?” Charles asked.

“Rose has it. It’s impossible for us to bribe such a person Hannah trusts so much.”

“Go steal from Rose.” Said Charles, “Where do you usually put your schemes?”

“We won’t save them on the computer except for the confidential ones, which will be downloaded in a USB and locked in safes.”

“Does Rose have the key?” Charles asked.

“Yes.”

“Does she take it wherever she goes?”

“Probably yes.”

“I see. I’ll manage to get the key, and you keep your powder dry to get the scheme.”

“I’m afraid...”

“Don’t be afraid!” Charles said, “Do what I say and we will succeed.”

Wayne was still slow to answer.

“Wayne, would it still be possible for you to be promoted to your father’s position if Hannah succeeded in her program? I can tell you for sure, that Hannah must still stay in her position as the vice-president of Cooper Group if she succeeds. Only when she failed will you get the chance to win your position back.”

Wayne gritted his teeth. “OK, it’s a deal.”

“Wise choice.” Charles praised him and said. “You now sneak into Rose’s office to find the safe. At the same time, you need to check whether the camera is working. If it is, get it breakdown by all means, or you will be caught.”

“I’ll try to make it.”

“Let’s get started tonight.”

“Won’t it be in a hurry?” Wayne was surprised.

“We’d better settle problems as soon as possible.” Charles was sure of this.

“Fine.”

“Let’s start with what I said. Call me if you meet any trouble.”

“OK.”

Charles hung up and smiled wickedly. He relaxed before as he once looked down upon Hannah. But now, knowing her ability, he won’t. He would beat Hannah utterly!

## **Chapter 365**

It was 3:00 pm and Rose knocked on the door.

“What’s the matter?” Hannah was working.

“Today the security of the Comprehensive Department will be upgraded. They want us to know that their staff will be working with cameras in our company after work, and we’d better keep personal valuables safe.”

Hannah was alarmed and she began to smell a rat.

“Ms Hannah?” Rose called her as Hannah clammed up.

“OK, I see. You may go.”

“Yes.”

Hannah called Theodore immediately after Rose left.

“Anything I can do for you Mrs Wells?” Theodore seemed to be a bit annoyed. Indeed, Hannah had called him for help several times these days.

“Can you buy me a hidden camera?” Asked Hannah.

“Dude you can buy it anywhere. Are you serious you want my help?”

“Yes, I’m serious. I feel like I’m being watched, and it’s dangerous to take action. I need your help or I might lose more than gain.”

“Fine. I’ll buy one for you.” Theodore compromised.

“When you get it, put it in a bunch of flowers and send it to me in the name of Oscar.”

“How cautious you are.”

“My opponent is not weak after all.”

“OK.” Said Theodore.

Hannah put down the phone. She still could not get relaxed.

At the same time, Charles got a phone call from Wayne.

Wayne said, “Everything is done. I asked the Comprehensive Department to upgrade all cameras in the company. There will be no camera working tonight.”

“Well done.” Charles said, “Hannah has been watched by me, and I’ll let you know if she takes any action. Just go ahead to do your job.”

“OK.”

A bunch of flowers was sent to Hannah at 5:00 pm which drew the office’s attention. When receiving a bunch of 99 red roses, Hannah believed Theodore was a bit over the top. She didn’t expect he would send her a such big bunch of flowers.

Wouldn’t it attract others’ attention?

Scolding in her heart, Hannah was still satisfied with these beautiful and gorgeous flowers. Hannah believed every woman must have a favor of these things. Theodore must be an experienced girl hunter. She really looked forward to the day when Little Bunny captured this playboy's heart.

Hannah found a greeting card noting: "My love for you is like the wind which has gone thousands of miles, never being exhausted, never asking the return date. From Oscar."

Hannah smiled. Theodore knew well how to send flowers by Oscar's way. She took out the card, undid the flowers and found the camera in it.

All of a sudden, Oscar phoned Hannah.

She picked up the phone and Oscar said. "Do you like it?"

Hannah was astonished.

"The roses." Said Oscar.

"It was you?" Hannah asked.

"Do you think I will allow another man to send you flowers?"

"..."

What a possessive man.

"Do you like it?" Oscar asked again.

"Sure."

"I'm glad about that." Oscar said, "Talk to you later. I'm going to the meeting."

Oscar hung up the phone. Hannah was pondering while looking at her phone.

Oscar was busy, but he would still give her surprises. He would tug her heartstrings every time.

"Ms Hannah." Rose knocked on the door.

Hannah got her mind back.

"Come in."

Rose walked into the office. "I'm here, Ms Hannah."

Hannah called Rose after receiving the flower.

"OK. Help me install this camera around your safe. Remember, keep it in a hidden area in case of being found by others." Hannah said as she took out the little camera.

"Do you think there will be someone stealing our documents?" Rose was surprised.

"We have to keep ourselves on our toes."

"OK." Rose replied immediately. She felt what Hannah said was all true. She only needed to take action as required.

Wayne had a phone call with Charles in the office. Charles urged him to take action tonight.

After Charles finished his words, Wayne said. "Hannah seemed to be in a stable relationship with Oscar."

Charles became alert. "What do you mean?"

"It's a pity for you to break off the engagement with her. You should have been tempted by Jane if we had acknowledged Hannah's competence."

"Stop it. I have no interest in Hannah and I never regret it." Charles said with a cold tone.

Wayne didn't believe it. Now every man wanted Hannah, he thought.

"Every woman knows Hannah just received a bunch of flowers from Oscar, and you know, women gossip a lot. They gossiped about the relationship between Hannah and Oscar, and you. Surely you are compared with Oscar by them."

"Wayne, you need to know what matters the most now! What's wrong with you to eavesdrop on the gossip?" Charles was in a bad mood.

"What I have to say is that never have pity on Hannah when she fell from the power." Wayne continued.

"I'll let her live in hell!" Charles gritted his teeth and hung up on him.

How comfortable her life is, how miserable it would be!

...

Hannah left the company at 9:00 pm as usual. She received a phone call from Rose when she was in the car.

"Ms Hannah I am robbed. I parked my car in my house and I, I..." Rose stammered on the phone, obviously scared.

"Calm down, Rose." Hannah called her name, trying to comfort her. "Is everything OK with you?"

"Yes I'm fine, but my bag was snatched and I have my safe key in it. I'm afraid something has come up. Do I need to go back to our company to have a check?" Rose tried to calm herself down.

"No." Hannah said, "Call the police right now."

"Will it be OK with that? I'm afraid someone snatched my bag on purpose. I've never been robbed before." Rose was anxious.

"Call the police. I know how to deal with it."

"OK." Rose nodded her head. She called the police immediately and waited for their arrival in anxiety.

On the other side, Charles called Wayne, "I've got the key. Now you can go to our appointed place and someone will send the key to you."

"OK." Wayne was experiencing a high level of stress.



Ten minutes later, Wayne got the key and went back to the company instantly. He kept himself away from the guards and began to climb the fire exit stairs. He didn't take the elevator so he was exhausted when he finally got to the 23rd floor. He rushed into Rose's office and opened the safe right away-as expected, there was a USB in it. He carried it into his office and copied the scheme into his USB. When all was done, Wayne rushed to put it back and lock the safe.

Everything was running smoothly and he thought no one would know his action tonight. However, he didn't realize he had been caught on camera by Hannah.

### **Chapter 366**

The car was heading for the villa, with Jimmy and Hannah inside. Jimmy drove slower than usual.

Wayne's action was exposed clearly on the camera app on Hannah's phone, and she had saved all the evidence.

As Hannah quit the app, she called Theodore, "Now you can investigate who gave Wayne the key. It'll be fine to just keep photos, and don't alert them."

"OK." Said Theodore.

Hannah had informed Theodore in advance that she had appointed their men to wait for Wayne on the ground floor.

As she expected, Wayne showed up at the gate of the Cooper building and drove away immediately. Their men cooperated so well to follow him in batches that Wayne didn't even realize he had been stalked. He pulled over at a dark corner and went off. Wayne went to another car that was waiting for him. He tapped on the window and there was a woman in it. They kissed for a while until Wayne gave her the things and then, they parted.

Wayne went back to his car and drove away, while the woman drove her car in an opposite direction.

Seeing the car off, Theodore stopped stalking. He called Hannah, "The person who met with Wayne is Sandra. I've got photos in my hand."

"Great."

It seemed Charles was not so dull. He didn't get too many people involved to avoid unnecessary problems.

Hannah hung up and said to Jimmy. "You may speed up now."

Things come to an end tonight.

"Yes, Mrs Wells." Said Jimmy.

Hannah received a phone call from Rose on arrival at the gate of their villa.

"Ms Hannah, I've found my bag. The police caught the robber on the way so my bag was returned. Everything is here."

"Where are you now?" Hannah asked.

"I just left the police office. The police are driving me home."

"Go back to the company and check whether anything is missing in your coffer."

"Right now?" Rose was puzzled, having no idea why Hannah changed her idea.

"Just do what I said."

"Yes."

Rose asked the police to drive her to the company, but she didn't notice someone was stalking her.

Seeing Rose walking into the company, the stalker immediately phoned his boss.

"Mr Sawyer, she has been back to the company."

"I see." Charles said, "Your work is done."

"Yes sir."

Charles hung up and smiled wickedly. Hannah was astute enough to have someone go back and check, he thought.

If it were someone else, Hannah might have won. But her opponent was Charles Sawyer, who was a lot more designing than her. He has an accurate calculation of her actions, so he had put all things back.

This time, she would find nothing, and she might even not be doubtful about this "accidental robbing". She would suffer from her wisdom! He couldn't wait to see Hannah going crazy on the day of bidding! Charles thought it to himself.

...

Hannah went bidding with Wayne and Rose at 9:00 am on Monday. To avoid information leakage, she printed the bidding documents on the same day, affixed her seal and took them to the department.

"To be honest, I have no idea you will take me for bidding." Wayne said to Hannah in the car.

Hannah glanced at him and said, "We are family after all. Cooper Group runs such a big business and it's impossible to just rely on me. So I want you to fulfil yourself by gaining more experience."

"I thought you couldn't forgive my father."

"The past has gone, I would not care about it." Hannah replied lightly, "So I promise my father and I will accept you as long as you can let go."

"OK. I'll prove my determination with actions.

"Deal."

It was not suspicious of her detached attitude. Wayne didn't say more, though he couldn't help observing her. He couldn't understand her. Sometimes he was quite puzzled about whether she was cheating or not. Hannah was unpredictable and always kept him guessing.

They arrived half an hour earlier at the bureau. The bidding was expected to start at 10:00 am, so the attendants led them to the lounge for rest.

There were five enterprises for bidding today, three of which were accompanying-bidding enterprises, and the rest two were Sawyer Group and Cooper Group.

Lee, Martina and Sandra attended the bidding on behalf of Sawyer Group, while Charles didn't show up. Martina put on a long face as she saw Hannah. She wished Hannah would be inflicted with the suffering she brought to her family.

Hannah noticed her fierce eyes, but she didn't give a fig for she didn't want to waste her time on such an insignificant and weak person. However, she did take a glance at Sandra at the same time, who appeared to be nervous at first when she realized that Hannah was looking at her. But she calmed down quickly and gave her a polite smile for respect and friendliness.

Hannah smiled a bit, thinking that Sandra was spoiled by Charles. It seemed she didn't take her warnings seriously. Hannah turned her gaze away, noticing Wayne couldn't take his eyes off Sandra.

What a silly man. He wouldn't have come to a good end though he sold the Cooper family out to win the favor of Charles in her last life, Hannah speculated.

She moved her eyes. At the same moment, a staff came in and invited them to the site for bidding. Everyone followed to the room and handed in the bidding documents for assessment, waiting for the announcement of the final result.

In the meeting room, assessors were whispering. About half an hour later, there came a result. It was much earlier than they had expected since it should have taken longer for discussion under normal conditions.

One of the officers announced, "In accordance with the standards of grading for bidding, creative design accounts for 30%, duration of guarantee for 20% and tender price for 50%. As a result, we scored A Group 73 points, B Group 81 points, C Group 85 points, Cooper Group 95 points and Sawyer Group 100 points! So congratulations on Sawyer Group!"

It caused an uproar when hearing the result. Everyone had been expecting the name of Cooper Group. As far as they were concerned, Cooper Group was professional in this sector, so they thought Hannah, as a dark horse, would strain every nerve to win this project.

They never had conceived it was Sawyer Group that won the project with full scores.

As everyone thought, there was a good show going on.

## **Chapter 367**

Rose couldn't believe it was true when hearing the result, literally shocked and nervous.

This project was a must-have for Cooper Group if everything went well, given the perfect scheme and the most favorable price they presented. Accordingly, there was only one reason to explain their failure, the bidding was rigged.

Hannah stood up and asked the officer politely, “You scored us 5 points less than Sawyer Group. I really want to know why.”

All the people present were watching her. They never expected that Hannah would ask this question without preamble. Others in her situation would feel extremely awkward, but Hannah didn’t. She seemed pretty composed.

“Well, someone can’t accept the truth.” Martina sneered.

“No.” Hannah turned around and looked at Martina, “I just want to be sincerely convinced. I’d like to know we scored 5 points less than Sawyer Group so that we can learn from the better.”

“Pfff.” Martina laughed scornfully. She believed Charles won’t lose to Hannah.

“Can I get the answer?” Hannah asked the staff.

They discussed for a while, and one of them stood up and said, “ In the spirit of fairness, we would announce the detailed scores of the bidding documents for you. Also since there is no objection to the results of the other three groups, I’ll only announce Cooper Group why you lost the 5 points. As a matter of fact, both schemes are appealing, and we hardly could make a decision between yours because both schemes are overall the same, particularly in the creating part. However, Sawyer Group’s documents stand out in their sales quota, resulting in 95 scores in Cooper Group and 100 scores in Sawyer Group.”

So it was, Charles did play a trick on the sales quota.

“Cooper Group quoted 10 billion while Sawyer Group quoted 9.9 billion. You lost your point for the 100 million.” The officer straightly pointed out.

Hannah nodded her head and said to Lee, “We had minimized the profit when we made our quota. Basically, we didn’t intend to make money on this project. So it was surprising to see Sawyer Group made a lower quota.”

“Do you think you are the only one who thinks like that?” Lee stood up, “We also have no intention to make money on this project, so we controlled our investment for construction to the least! It is our duty to construct this city as a resident of Kensbury City.”

Hannah smiled, seeming to agree with his answer, so she didn’t say more. She went back with Rose and Wayne after the bidding. She knew Wayne was secretly pleased but she didn’t say anything.

They walked out of the gate, finding the Sawyers were surrounded by reports. Apparently, the press had known the final result of this bidding and were eager to get the lasted news.

When Hannah passed by them, she heard Lee speaking to the reporters, “We are really surprised that we can get this project. Also, we didn’t expect we can defeat Cooper Group. As you know, they are pioneers in architecture, so I’m really pleased and surprised by today’s success.”

He seemed to answer the point, but in fact, he was satirizing the weakness of Cooper Group— it was a pioneer beaten by an inexperienced opponent.

“It was a surprise, but not out of our expectation. We worked hard on this project. The members of our project team almost devoted all of their days and weekends to working on it. No pay, no gain. So I’m delighted that all of our hard work has finally paid off!”

Now he implied that Cooper Group’s loss was attributed to the lack of effort.

“And our quota is pretty low this time. Our group has always been active in public service, and it’s our service to make a contribution to this city...”

Hannah passed by with a poker face. Rose couldn’t stand it anymore, even though she was good at controlling her feelings. Lee was constantly hurting them. But Rose did nothing except for leaving with Hannah. Hannah didn’t say anything after all.

Rose couldn’t control herself when in the car and she said, “What did he brag about? It’s just bidding, there’s nothing worth showing off. What did he mean by his words? He’d better stop hurting others even though he has won!”

Hannah replied with nothing.

Wayne was quite pleased. Things were going much better. He was once afraid of Hannah because of the action of him and Charles. Now, he thought that he had overestimated this woman.

Rose complained for a while, but Hannah didn’t give any response, so she stopped talking sooner. She knew Hannah must feel bad right now, and she didn’t want to bum her out.

Hannah went back to her office, and Wayne went back to his.

Wayne was so excited that he phoned Charles immediately, “We make it!”

Charles had known it before so he was in a great mood as well.

“You deserve credit. If you didn’t come up with this plan, Hannah would have succeeded again! Then I’ll be extremely angry to see her proud face! Well done. Now she must be struggling to explain this to the board. It really cheers me up to see her mess up the sure thing!” Wayne could barely contain his happiness.

“Come on,” Charles sneered, “it’s not a big deal. I can help you win Cooper Group if you keep close cooperation with me.”

“Are you serious?” Wayne couldn’t be excited more.

Charles disdained Wayne. A man like him who had a strong sense of superiority always looked down upon everyone he met. Though he did lose his heart days ago because of Hannah and Oscar, he felt like he was full of energy and confidence right now!

“Sure.” Said Charles, “Okay, I’m going to deal with my business. Don’t be overjoyed to make yourself suspicious.”

“OK.”

Charles hung up, having a self-satisfied smirk on his face. He felt extremely good to know Hannah was beaten today. After some hesitation, he phoned Hannah.

## Chapter 368

Hannah felt bad when she received Charles' phone call. She was clearly aware of what he was going to say. Undoubtedly, he must want to take a dig at her with his current "self-satisfaction" after being oppressed by her.

She didn't pick up the phone, and she said to Rose, "Tell the board I'm not feeling well so I can't attend the meeting."

"But..." Rose was put in a quandary. She had been informed to ask Hannah to attend the meeting by the board. Obviously, they intended to hold her accountable for the failure. In this case, Hannah would be criticized. But if she didn't show up, the situation would only get worse because of the attitude problem.

Rose was surprised for she always thought Hannah was the person who would never shirk her responsibilities.

"I'll call my father later. You may go out and start your work." Said Hannah.

Rose nodded her head. Before she left, she said. "Ms Hannah, take it easy. Failure does not mean anything, let alone their success is suspicious. How did they achieve in completing such a perfect scheme as a layman! And the quota is suspicious as well. Why they quoted so accurately 9.9 billion as we quoted 10 billion? It was just 100 million lower than us!"

Rose didn't think it was a coincidence. Hannah gave a slight smile, but she didn't explain to her.

"Forget about it. I'll deal with it myself. You may go now."

Rose said nothing more. She believed a strong woman did not need too much comfort from others, or she would doubt her competence.

After Rose left, Hannah called her father immediately.

"Hi, dad."

Miguel said in a low voice, "Where are you now? We are all waiting for you."

"I won't attend the meeting." Said Hannah.

Miguel frowned. He didn't think his daughter was wayward, nor would she be defeated by the failure. Although the board might complain about this, what he was to do was to back his daughter up.

"Don't overthink it, dad. I am not defeated by the failure of bidding, instead, I'm tired now and need a rest. I don't want to cheat the directors so I'd better not show up."

Miguel understood her words except for the last ones.

What did she mean she didn't want to cheat the directors?

What she was going to do?

"Dad, can I have a week off?" Hannah asked suddenly.

Miguel was shocked again for he knew clearly how workaholic Hannah was. Hannah had even been working on weekends these days. She barely got herself a rest. So Miguel was pretty surprised to know she wanted to have the day off.

“Hannah, you can have the day off whenever you want. But at the moment I’m afraid you will be gossiped about.” Miguel said immediately.

She must be described as letting herself go to seed because of her failure.

“I don’t mind it. Outcome counts most than process.” Hannah smiled.

“I’m worried about you.” Miguel had the phone call with Hannah directly despite his being in the meeting room. His daughter was the most important to him, and nothing could compare with her. He didn’t care whether he lost a project worth ten billion or not!

“Don’t worry, dad. I’m fine. I just want a couple of days off. I’ll be back to work next Monday.”

Miguel hesitated for a while and finally agreed, “OK, have a good rest. But you need to come back home for rest, your mom will be by your side.”

Hannah didn’t know how to respond to her father though he thought she was taking things too hard. But she couldn’t tell him the truth until the time to put the Sawyers on trial came. The reason why she wanted some days off was to avoid the notice of others. It was her plan to pretend she was frustrated. She would have the last laugh! As to the Sawyer family, they would be caught on the hop!

“I’ll stay with Oscar.” Hannah answered.

Miguel was stunned for a moment.

“I want to see whether he’s doing well recently. We have been apart for over a month, I miss him.”

Miguel gave a hearty laugh.

“You have your baby now! Just go ahead. Call me when you arrived. Let me know you are safe and sound.”

“OK.”

Hannah hung up and stretched herself. It was true that she missed Oscar. She missed him badly though they would text each other every day. So this time, she decided to come to see him. She was curious whether Oscar would be surprised by her arrival!

At the thought of it, she beamed a warm smile. However, her mood was killed when she received another phone call.

It was from Charles.

Hannah put it through with hesitation, and Charles seemed to be a bit surprised at this.

But later, he sneered. “The generous lady finally picked up my phone!”

“I don’t want to waste my time on a nobody.”

“Hannah, I think you are really bad at getting favored by men, aren’t you?” His voice was cold.

“I don’t mind whether I can get your favor or not. I can get Oscar’s favor anyway.”

“Oscar?” Charles seemed to be irritated, “How do you expect a man who is far away from here could give you help? You were pulverized this time, and I think he might not even give you a call!”

Hannah was a bit annoyed. It was a wrong choice to pick up his phone.

“Well, are you keeping an eye on him?” Hannah raised a sharp question.

Charles was annoyed too because she had the right answer.

“It’s just your guess.” Charles denied, “Men would love to toy with a woman like you for a short time, but it will be definitely boring as time goes on.”

“Did you get me even for once?” Hannah asked

Charles’s face fell.

“You have no right to say I’m boring since you never got my heart” Hannah taunted, “Your words are nothing but sour grapes.”

“Hannah, don’t take yourself too seriously!”

“Am I right? You can lie to anyone except yourself.” Hannah was pretty sure of this. She didn’t think Charles would have a favor for her, instead, she knew that Charles could not stand he was refused by others. He must want the things he failed to get. He couldn’t stand any failure so that he could enjoy his superiority! Charles was such an arrogant boaster.

## **Chapter 369**

“I don’t wanna waste my breath with you!” Charles said in a low and impatient voice. Obviously, he’d been annoyed by Hannah’s words but simply didn’t want to be seen through.

“I’m just calling to tell you to learn a good lesson from this project. If you keep acting against me, I swear to God that I won’t let go at that! Don’t blame me for being ruthless then!” he said straightforwardly.

So, he just called to brag about himself and threaten her.

But Hannah was quite calm. After all, to her, Charles was as silly as a clown. Then she said coldly, “Charles, watch out! You’ll go to hell and you’ll be sorry for what you’ve said.”

“What the hell did you mean? Are you cursing me!” Charles got mad in a second.

“It won’t be fun enough if you go to hell too soon.” Hannah uttered the words one by one. Saying it, she hung up the phone abruptly, thinking that she would waste her time by talking with this man for one more second.

Hannah put down her phone, cleaned up her desk randomly and then went to Rose’s office. Rose was a little surprised to see her showing up in the office suddenly.

“Ms Hannah.” she stood up instantly and addressed her respectfully.



“I’ll be on vacation for one week.”

“What?” Rose was shocked to hear that.

“I’m leaving the office now. I’ll be back at work next Monday.”

“Ms Hannah, are you...” Rose asked with anxiety. In fact, everyone else thought she was desperate.

“Try not to disturb me this week. Wait for me to come back unless it’s urgent.”

“OK, Ms Hannah...”

Hannah told her so and was about to leave.

“Ms Hannah.” Rose stopped her immediately.

“What’s up?” Hannah looked at her.

“Any work arrangements?” Rose asked. She remembered Hannah had given them tons of work when she left for vacation last time. But she felt it strange that Hannah left so hastily this time and even told her not to disturb her.

“Just finish the work in hand. That’s all.” Harrison said lightly, “We’ll get down to other works later when I come back.”

Rose said nothing and watched her leaving. She just couldn’t understand why Hannah had been simply destroyed by a project. And she found it hard to believe!

Hannah had booked the flight ticket to River Town. She packed her stuff and left with Jimmy.

She sat in the first-class cabin and scrolled through her phone randomly before the plane took off. She was checking today’s hot news. If she’d guessed right, the bid of today would be the headline. As expected, she opened the news APP and the relevant notifications popped out immediately.

‘Sawyer Group Win the 10 billion project of South Bay New Town! What a surprise!’

‘Hannah Might Answer for Cooper Group’s Great Losses!’

‘Sawyer Group: They Attach More Importance to Public Welfare on the Project of South Bay New Town, Instead of Profits.’

‘Sawyer Group Implies Cooper Group’s Flippant Attitude towards Work Leading to Their Failure in the Bid.’

Hannah clicked almost every headline and read almost all the news. Undoubtedly, Sawyer Group had stolen the spotlight in this project. After all, any twist could be a hashtag.

Hannah also read comments, saying that Sawyer Group’s stock prices had hit the limit up because of its success of the project. Besides, there was someone analyzing at great length that Sawyer Group competed with Cooper Group for the bid only out of the conflicts between the two families, and concluding that Charles must be more capable than Hannah, in spite of his moral standing.

Hannah laughed coldly, wondering if Charles had also tried to whitewash what he'd done through the success this time. She turned off her phone, not because she didn't want to read more on it, but because the plane was gonna take off. And she was cool as usual after she turned off the phone.

She wasn't mad at the Sawyers for disdaining her family, and she wasn't mad at the people for saying Charles was more capable than her, either. She just took it as a joke.

It took five hours to fly to River Town, a total strange city. Hannah had never been here before. Neither had Jimmy. They went out of the airport with their luggage. It was already 6 pm.

Hannah knew Oscar's place because he had once sent her the location of the apartment after he settled down there, and he also said she was welcomed to come and catch him cheating.

She thought it over and wondered whether Oscar was baiting her, or just implying that she should come to visit him. She admitted that Oscar was scheming enough.

They hailed a cab from the airport and headed for Oscar's apartment. Very soon, they arrived at the department compound where Oscar was living.

She couldn't deny that her heart was leaping, and simply couldn't help to get excited when she thought she could see Oscar soon. She even started to imagine how Oscar would react when she suddenly show up in his place!

Was he gonna be as excited as her?

But Hannah must stop herself from thinking too much now, otherwise, she was afraid her heart would pop out. She wheeled the suitcase and came to the door of his room with Jimmy.

Hannah rang the doorbell, and waited for a few seconds. Apparently, no one answered the door. She rang the doorbell again, and still no one came for them.

"Shall we call Mr Wells?" Jimmy suggested.

"Nope." Hannah said to turn him down. She still wanted to surprise Oscar.

"Are we gonna wait at the door?" Jimmy asked.

Hannah nodded her head and saw a coded lock on the door. She thought of it and inputted a serial of numbers. Then she heard it saying "The door is unlocked."

Hannah was taken aback. So was Jimmy.

"You know the password, Mrs Wells?" Jimmy said carelessly.

"I just guessed." Answered Hannah.

Then they went in Oscar's apartment.

Hannah knew his apartment well since she had video chats with Oscar quite often. She moved her suitcase to Oscar's bedroom naturally and told Jimmy, "Jimmy, you live in this room."

She pointed to the next-door room while saying.

“No. I’m not living here.” Jimmy shook his head.

“Why not?” Hannah was surprised to hear it.

“Mr Wells won’t allow it.” Jimmy said bluntly.

“That’s not true.” Hannah said instantly.

“He’ll take me as the third wheel.”

Hannah was lost for words.

“I’ll stay in a hotel nearby, Mrs Wells. Call me if you want to go out. I’ll come pick you up.” Saying it, Jimmy left with his luggage.

Anyway, Hannah felt sorry for him, but she chose to say nothing when she saw him leaving without hesitation.

She sat down on the couch in the living room and waited for Oscar. Normally, Oscar came back at around 9 pm. There were two more hours to go, but she was bored.

Then she picked up the phone and called Susan. She saw Susan’s missed calls when she landed but she didn’t have time to call her back yet.

As soon as she was put through, she heard Susan screaming on the other end, “I’m gonna call the police if you don’t call me back now!”

Susan’s voice was so loud that she could wake the dead!

### **Chapter 370**

Hannah rubbed her ears a little and asked, “What’s wrong?”

She guessed there was nothing wrong with Susan, otherwise, she shouldn’t have been so hilarious. “I was just gonna say that! Are you OK?” Susan said in rage, “I’ve read the news that you’ve been set up by Charles, that fucking bastard!”

Probably, that wasn’t exactly what the news had put it. At best, the media could only say Sawyer Group had stolen the show of Cooper Group.

“Where are you now?” Susan suddenly asked softly. She changed her tone of voice, sounding tender and full of pity.

“I’m in River Town.” Hannah said while appreciating the decoration in the room. The smile on her face contained love. She could even smell Oscar’s scent all over the room.

“River Town? It’s in the middle of nowhere. What the hell are you doing there?” Susan got emotional again.

Hannah was considering if she should put Susan on speaker each time she talked with her on the phone, for her voice was just too loud.

“Oscar is here.” said Hannah.

Susan seemed to have realized it and said, "Oh, I see!"

"You called me only because of the news?" Hannah asked.

"Yeah, I was worried that you'd take it too hard as it was a big deal. I read from the news that you were suddenly on vacation. Was that true? I was so worried about you. What if you can't get over it and kill yourself? Gosh!" Susan said bluntly.

Hannah rolled her eyes and said, "No worries. I'm fine. I'm just too tired and wanna take some days off."

"You want some days off or you miss Oscar?" Susan made fun of her on purpose.

"Both. You got me." Hannah admitted it naturally.

Anyway, she grew up with Susan and they were bosom friends, so there was no need to keep it from her.

"Oh my god! You love Oscar badly!" Susan said, "You even flied long distance only to see him! Was he over the moon to see you there?"

"He's still working, and hasn't seen me yet."

"I guess the first thing he'll do after he comes back is have a very hot sex with you." Susan just couldn't be more straightforward.

Even Manuel, who was sitting next to Susan, felt a little embarrassed, not to mention Hannah. He threw his eyes on Susan and got blushes on his ears.

"Jesus! Can you act like a lady!" Hannah said with her face getting red.

"Come on. Don't be shy! That's all marriage is about, right?" Susan said and thought Hannah was acting strangely.

Hannah pursed her lips and echoed carelessly, "Right! You're right. You're right about everything."

"By the way, is Oscar good in bed?" Susan suddenly got curious and asked seriously.

Manuel was totally stunned besides her, but he said nothing.

"Yeah." said Hannah.

In fact, Susan and Hannah were so close that they shared everything. In the previous life, Susan asked her if Charles was good in bed, and she told her, "It's OK."

"How good?" Susan became very excited.

Manuel pursed his lips and really felt embarrassed.

"Didn't you have sex with Manuel? Almost like that!"

"Me and Manuel? Pfff... It was nothing. Really. That night I was..." Susan glanced at Manuel, who was sitting next to her and burying his head on the phone, and thought he wasn't listening, then added, "Anyway, it was nothing!"

“Then do him again!” Hannah suggested.

“Hell no! You’re freaking me out!” Susan said with disdain.

“So, are you gonna make Manuel and yourself live without sex for the rest of your life?”

Susan was choked with Hannah’s words. Till now, she still couldn’t accept the fact that she was gonna spend the rest of her life with the man besides her.

“Forget it. What about you?” Susan sounded a little impatient but excited, and asked again, “Did he get you come?”

Manuel couldn’t take it any more, wondering if all the girls were so open or Susan was an exception. He stretched out his hand to take over the phone from Susan. While he put it to his ears and tried to talk to Hannah, he heard her saying on the phone, “Yep.”

Manuel couldn’t be more embarrassed and said after quite a while, “Hannah, it’s me. Manuel.”

Hannah was desperately abashed. Obviously, Susan was a lousy bosom friend! She was too ashamed to speak again.

“I just wanna say it’s getting late and Susan should go to bed.” Manuel said and tried hard to sound poised and cool.

“OK.” Hannah also tried hard to remain calm and said, “Good night then.”

Saying it, Hannah hung up the phone. She blushed scarlet at the thought of their conversation being heard by Manuel.

WTF! Why didn’t Susan just tell her that Manuel was sitting right next to her?

She was pissed off. So was Susan!

Susan stared at Manuel with anger and yelled, “Why did you take my phone!”

“It’s getting late.” Manuel put her phone away and charged it for her.

“Holy shit! It’s 7 pm.”

“Usually, you’re asleep at this hour.”

“I can’t fall asleep today. Give me the damn phone. I want to talk with Hannah.”

“Not today.” Manuel said, “It’s not good for the baby,”

“Go to bed.” Manuel turned off the lights and left a lamp on.

Susan turned over with her back to Manuel. She was so annoyed and wondering since when she’d been more and more obedient to Manuel.

...

Hannah put down the phone and watched TV for a while. Then she walked around Oscar’s apartment randomly. In fact, she had video called Oscar quite frequently when they were apart for the past month,

but she got an explicable feeling inside of her as she saw the furniture that she'd seen in the video. She couldn't help to think how Oscar had been used to living in this simple room, which was so pathetic when compared with his grand villa.

Hannah ordered food delivery at 8 pm. According to the delivery time, Oscar could make it home to have dinner right at 9 pm. She ordered Italian cuisines from the best restaurant in River Town, and she also ordered wine and candles. She did want to surprise Oscar.

She got the dinner ready carefully and it was still before 9 pm. Hannah decided to take a shower. The bathroom was simple. She couldn't find a bathtub in there, not to mention a massage one. Even the shower head was barely satisfactory, but somehow, Hannah was happy.

After the shower, she put on a red slip dress that she'd brought with her. The dress had flattered her fair skin and made her look more attractive. Meanwhile, she put on fine make-up quickly. She looked herself in the mirror and found she was pretty and sexy... Fine. She admitted that Susan was right that she had prepared to have a hot sex with Oscar.

Hannah held back the desire and lay on the couch to wait for Oscar to come back.

It was 9 pm sharp. But Oscar wasn't back yet. Hannah thought he might be put off by something.

However, Oscar wasn't back yet when the time was 10 pm. It had been long, thus the food was already cold though the restaurant had kept it warm at first.

Until 11 pm, Hannah thought Oscar might not be back tonight. Or, maybe he'd hooked up with some woman and was making out with her in any hotel. But right at the moment, she heard someone unlocking the door.