

Reborn 391

Chapter 391

“That’s impossible! There’s no way you can fool me, you liar! Sandra and I, we are meant for each other! There’s no way she would collaborate with Charles to trick me!” Wayne argued with confidence.

Hannah jeered, feeling sorry for his stupidity.

“Wake up! Look at yourself! Why do you think Sandra would have her eye on you? Money? Power? Or your handsome look? Sandra becomes who she is today just because she has been dating with Charles. It has nothing to do with her personal capacity. For God’s sake! Use your brain! It can’t be more obvious why she would get close to you!”

“Shut up! Shut your bloody mouth!” Wayne couldn’t calm himself down, “Presume what you have said is true, then how come Sandra is also arrested?”

“That’s because she is a fool too! Even though she knew it well that Charles had been using her, she didn’t keep her wits about her. And eventually you guys are made scapegoats for him.”

“No, I don’t fucking trust you!”

“It doesn’t matter whether you believe me or not. After all your life has been ruined by yourself, and I don’t have a saying on it.”

Hannah didn’t want to waste her time anymore. She just came to taunt him, revenge him the same way as he had done to her in her previous existence.

“Before I leave, I’ll kindly remind you that anyone commits the crime of leaking confidential business information, according to law, shall be punished with imprisonment of more than three years. And in your case, ten years is definitely possible!”

“Hannah!” Wayne shouted, gnashing his teeth. He knew that would be an end of his whole life.

“Wait! Wait! Please don’t go! Save me! I can’t have myself being in prison for that long! No matter what we’re family! And I’m the only male descendant in the Cooper family! If you’re not gonna save me, our family will be hopeless!”

“Wayne, do you know what is the silliest thing you have done in this life? Not being tricked by Sandra, but being too arrogant and superior all the time. Wasting both time and money rather than doing something useful to make yourself a better person.”

Hannah’s words were harsh but true. Wayne felt extremely embarrassed.

For such a long time, he had been having a condescending attitude towards everyone. He didn’t perform well in academic work, nor did he ever bring anything to the table. His special identity boosted his confidence and deluded him into self-satisfaction. It was not until that very moment that he realized that he was weak, unable to defeat anyone, let alone Hannah.

“Besides, even though you’re the only male heir in the Cooper family, so what? Who would take you seriously except your parents and grandma? You might mean something to them. But you’re nothing in my eyes!” Hannah said.

“Enough!” Wayne couldn’t stand it anymore. He had never been humiliated like that before. He knew it well that he was not capable, but it didn’t mean he wanted to hear it directly from others, especially Hannah.

“I don’t want to waste my time speaking with you.” Hannah was not interested in comforting his broken heart. Then, she turned around and left, leaving him stamped with rage.

Failing to let Hannah help him out, Wayne was crumbled. In fact, he knew what Hannah had said was truth, including Sandra’s cheating on him. He just didn’t want to admit it.

No!

He couldn’t wait for doom!

He couldn’t let himself be in prison in the next ten years!

If so, he would die.

...

Hannah didn’t care about Wayne’s collapse at all. Those with a tragic ending must be troublemakers themselves. There was no need to feel sorry for him. She could forgive those who were being stupid but not those who were evil.

Hannah went out of the detention house. On her way back, she encountered Esther, drowning herself in sadness.

Esther had never imagined that her husband and son would be sent to prison one after another. The moment she saw Hannah, she was exploded, for she heard that Hannah was the one who was behind everything. She walked up to Hannah and was about to hit her.

Hannah noticed her intention and gave Jimmy a look. Jimmy stepped between them immediately and controlled Esther.

“Let me go! You dirty bastard! Let go!”

“Don’t let her go!” Hannah ordered. Her face dimmed while hearing Esther’s shouting.

“You son of bitch! What did she give you? Did you sleep with her? Is that why you’re being so obedient to her” Esther was acting like a psycho, defaming Hannah.

Hannah was at the edge of explosion. Even Rose was angered by Esther’s filthy words, hoping to slap her in her face.

And the next moment, Hannah walked towards Esther and slapped her in her face, hard.

Esther’s face turned red the next second. Utterly surprised by that, she glared at Hannah with unbelieving eyes.

“You whore! How dare you!”

A second slap was hit in Esther’s face.

“Are you crazy? How dare you! I’m gonna kill you!”

Again, Hannah smacked her. She remained silent, and kept slapping Esther in her face until she stopped swearing at her. Being slapped a few times, Esther became intimidated. She stared at Hannah furiously but didn’t dare to say anything.

Hannah rubbed her hands, feeling a little bit hurt. It turned out that hitting people would get hurt. She wondered how psychopaths thought when they enjoyed hurting others while it also hurt themselves.

“Are you going to swear at me or not?”

Esther was angry but didn’t dare to say a word.

“My mum has been bullied by you and grandma in the previous years and these slaps is a lesson for you. If I ever hear or see that you’re being disrespectful to my mum again, I promise you that will be the end of your day.” Hannah threatened.

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Esther gave Hannah a look of malevolence and she could kill her for it. But now, she had to swallow everything. She couldn’t figure out why Hannah would become so tough that she could not be easily humiliated at this moment.

When Hannah was a child, she always followed her parents trembling with fear once she returned to Lorie’s house. No matter how much Esther or her children bullied, abused or even occasionally pinched her, Hannah just hid and didn’t dare to cry or complain.

To her surprise, Hannah stood in front of her so arrogantly now. Therefore, she couldn’t help being frightened and worried, and she dared not lose her temper at all.

“Go to visit your son! He was jailed and sentenced to ten years. After these years, probably you’ve been dead.” Hannah went away decisively without another word.

Rose was really shocked by her domineering and always felt pleased working for her. She thought that woman in front of her deserved it and Hannah was doing the right thing. She felt elated as if she had witnessed a victory. Rose took a long time to react and caught up with Hannah. And Jimmy let Esther go only when there was a safe distance between her and Hannah, and he caught up with Hannah too. Then they drove away.

Esther scowled in the direction which their sedan left with her swollen face. Hannah, she was a bitch! Feeling broken to the extreme, she really wanted to tear Hannah up. But she had to grin and bear it because her son was all that matters now. Thinking of Wayne being jailed, she lost her mind and rushed to the detention center.

When she saw him, she cried so hard, “Wayne, look at what you have done! Something illegal! Now you are in jail, I don’t know what I can do in the future.” Looking at him, she cried her eyes out, releasing her grievance from Hannah just now.

“Mum, I don’t mean to do that!” he burst into tears when he saw his mum. He was spoiled by her since childhood. For instance, she always helped to take responsibility for all the mistakes he made. Now it was the same.

“Oh, my boy! What could I do in the future? Your father was in prison, and so did you.” she was so angry that she almost stopped breathing.

At the thought of her dead daughter, she broke down again.

“Dear Mum! Hannah could help me. Go to find her!” he said excitedly.

Esther cried more loudly, “Don’t expect her to help. Did you see my face? She beat me right now, and I wanted to kill her.”

“Mum, go to find grandma!” he said immediately.

Under the circumstance, he got fast thinking, seeming to be inspired by something.

He couldn’t be in jail anyway. Even if he must be in jail, it couldn’t be 10 years! Now he was sure that Hannah could help him reduce the sentence. He must be kicking himself why he was against her at the beginning since now he realized that he was no match for her.

“Your grandma?” Esther calmed down for a while, wiping away her tears.

“Grandma cannot bear to see me really in trouble now, as I am the blood of the Cooper family. Let her go to ask Miguel for help. Miguel was not a hard-hearted person, and he would help us although grandma crossed the line before. Hannah would listen to her father, so it was up to grandma!” he said very excitedly.

Esther just stared at him for a long time, and then said, “You’ve got a point there, but...”

“But what?” he got anxious completely.

“But you knew what I did to your grandma. I vented all of my anger to her during this period. To tell you the truth, I just treated her like an animal. That’s impossible.” Esther was also regretful.

If she knew that Lorie was useful, she wouldn’t leave any room.

“It doesn’t matter. Grandma is so conventional that she won’t just see me die. You ask for her sincerely and humbly, and she would help me certainly. Mum, I’m counting on you, please!” he said and cried at the same time in despair.

Esther knew it was the only way to help her son, so she made up her mind, “Alright, I’m going back to ask for her.”

“Mum, hope it was good news.”

“Right.” she left the detention center hurriedly. In any case, she must keep her son safe and sound.

...

Hannah went straight to the company from the detention center. She was waiting for the contract from the Sawyer Group. Once it was signed and reported it to the board, then she would move on to other

things. Keeping improving was the key way to gain a footing in the business. She carefully optimized a development plan for the company.

Suddenly, the phone rang. She glanced at the screen and connected, "Dad."

"Go home. Your grandma came here." She compressed her lips getting repressed.

Wayne was wise enough to threaten her father through Lorie, she thought. She saved what she made and agreed, "Okay, I'll be right back."

Putting down the phone, she walked straight out of the office.

"Ms Hannah," Rose called her.

"No need to follow. I'll deal with my family matters. If someone from the Sawyer Group brings the contract here, give me a call and I will be back soon."

"Yes." Rose answered.

She watched Hannah leave. She couldn't move her eyes away from Hannah. In Rose's mind, Hannah was drop-dead gorgeous, and not only had a perfect figure, but also had strong abilities. Was God playing favorites on earth? Hannah was better than anyone else in the world, Rose thought. And she was wondering whether Charles was regretful to break up with Hannah, while Oscar should be happy as a dog with two tails.

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Hannah walked into Lorie's house with Jimmy. She had to say that she was fearless as he was around. She was wondering if Oscar assigned Jimmy to the job, for he had expected she would be single-handed and need an assistant.

Hannah heard Esther absolutely crying and shattering as she was walking into the hall of the manor. She had never seen her so sad even when Miguel was sent to prison. One can imagine her son was more important to her. As soon as she appeared, Esther became quiet at once. She got teary-eyed looking at Hannah and seemed pathetic.

Hannah didn't take a look at her but turned to her parents directly. Miguel waved to her, "Hannah, come and sit down."

She nodded and sat down next to her father. Jimmy stood behind her.

"So, what's the matter that you came to see us today? Stop crying, that won't solve any problems." Miguel showed the poise of the head of the family.

Esther was sobbing, supporting Lorie with her hands to sit on the sofa too. She said, "I just went to visit Wayne. The mistakes that the stupid boy made had a bad influence on the company. But I really didn't expect him to be so confused. When his father went to jail, I told him to be obedient and especially listened to you. I told him a thousand times! How could I know that he would be seduced by Sandra, such a bitch!

While talking, she seemed disappointed, angry and uncomfortable. Tears rolled down her face uncontrollably and continually. This acting skill couldn't be practised in one day or two.

"If it were not Sandra, that bitch, Wayne wouldn't have been confused and tricked into stealing the business plan. How could he be so smart to do such things?" she cried and kept saying, "He knew he had done something wrong when I saw him. He promised he would definitely correct his mistakes. He would be obedient to you in the future, he will regard you as his father since Roger was in jail now. I hope, Miguel, you can forgive him this time. If he did the same things next time, I must kill him, let alone you."

To show her determination, she knelt on the ground from the sofa directly. Hannah was speechless. Although Esther was a malicious woman, she was still a mother, who would do anything for her son. Esther's words and moves would win the mercy of her parents, Hannah supposed.

Yet Hannah would not be softhearted and she was insensitive to this now, for she had experienced all disgusting things in her last life.

She had to say this was the best decision Wayne had ever made. If he had been so smart, he wouldn't have lost so tragically. Hannah didn't say anything. At this point, she decided to respect her parents' choice. After all, even if Wayne was imprisoned for a year or more, it didn't matter to her, although she couldn't get what she wanted.

"Miguel and Michelle, I knew I've been really mean to you guys, and I also talked behind your backs. I was not a good person. In fact, I was really jealous of you guys loving each other, not like me and Roger. As you all knew, he kept a mistress in a love nest who gave him an illegitimate daughter, Mary. I've been enduring it all these years, and I was so jealous that I did wrong. Michelle, I realized my mistakes and apologized. Forgive me, please!" she swallowed her pride and knelt toward Michelle, holding her hands to beg her to forgive.

Michelle got softhearted but turned to her daughter since she got dependent on her habitually.

Hannah said, "Mum, it was up to you."

She didn't want her parents to feel so sorry about that. Moreover, if her parents were really cold-hearted, there were not any differences between them and, Esther and Roger.

With her daughter's permission, Michelle said, "I want to leave that right where it is. I didn't think much of it. Get up off your knees."

"No, I won't." Esther said promptly, "What I've done in my life made me have no right at all."

"All right. It was water under the bridge. Get up." Michelle tried to pull her up.

However, Esther didn't get up either. She said, "Let me keep kneeling down for a while and I'll feel better."

Michelle didn't try to persuade her anymore.

Esther said to Miguel again, "Miguel, please forgive Wayne and let him off the hook. He was unforgivable, but he already realized he was wrong and would change himself from now on."

Actually, Miguel was getting softhearted. But Wayne behaved so odiously, he didn't forgive him immediately.

Esther appealed to pathos at once, "My daughter had passed away and my husband had gone into jail. If my son also went to jail, I had nothing at all. It was my own business. It had nothing to do with you and I had to face it on my own, but..." she said and cried more violently. She also pulled Lorie, who didn't make a sound from beginning to end.

Hannah was surprised that Esther was the only actor today, and Lorie didn't say a word.

Esther thought of Lorie. She understood clearly that Lorie's words were much more effective than hers.

Lorie glanced at her, and then looked at Hannah and her parents. Miguel didn't have the heart to refuse his mother. In other words, he was waiting for her to decide. Once she said a word, he must agree to help Wayne. He couldn't ensure they would acquit Wayne of guilt but he was capable of reducing the sentence to about a year. He could ask the judge for putting on probation, so Wayne didn't need to go to jail and there would only be a criminal record left.

Now Miguel also looked at Lorie. Before today, they hadn't met or contacted each other because of the conflicts. They both seemed embarrassed to face to face suddenly.

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There was silence for a few seconds in the hall.

Esther stooped crying too. She was winking at Lorie at this time to let her talk. But Lorie didn't look at her at all. She was looking at Miguel, with weary eyes, and the rims of her eyes started to burn. Miguel saw her red-rimmed eyes, and there was nothing to insist any more. Although she didn't treat him well over the years, his father told him to be more tolerant of her as he was dying. The blood is thicker than water, after all.

He sighed heavily and said, "All right, I would try my best to help him. He embezzled business secrets, but which were ours. As long as we forgave and interceded for him in court, it had no problem to sentence him within one year. Later, I would ask my lawyer to come over to analyze the case properly."

After hearing what he said, Esther finally relaxed. As she expected, they were softhearted and they would help her anyway. But she didn't give up her scheming personality. If they could develop well one day, she would never be softhearted to Hannah and her parents, she thought to herself.

However, there was another extremely grateful attitude apparently, "Miguel, Michelle and Hannah, thank you so much! When Wayne came out of jail, I would definitely let him change himself and be obedient in the future..."

"I don't agree!" Lorie suddenly interrupted her thrilling voice.

Esther was stunned for a second, then turned to her.

Eyes red-rimmed, Lorie looked terribly grave.

"Mum, what's wrong with you?" Esther hurriedly stopped her, "Miguel agreed to help Wayne, you didn't worry about it."

Lorie looked at her with a cold stare and sneered at her, "Esther, did you really expect me to help you to this point?"

"What are you talking about? Don't you always tell me to bring you here to plead for Wayne? He is your only grandson. You can't bear to let him go to prison, but what do you mean now? Mum, you were too sad to be rational when you heard he was in jail. But Miguel promised to help him, so didn't worry about it."

"Shut up!" Lorie's face fell, looking very stern.

Esther was frightened by her roar. Miguel, Michelle and Hannah were also surprised by her sudden response. Everyone was looking at Lorie, who suddenly stood up from the sofa and walked towards Miguel. Then she knelt down at once.

Miguel blanched with fear. How could his mother kneel down for him? He quickly supported Lorie and knelt down too.

"Mum, what are you doing? Get up, please! I promised you. If you don't think a one-year sentence is good, I will try my best to get him a reprieve. And he won't suffer in prison anymore. Please stop kneeling and get up quickly." Miguel scrambled and obviously shocked by her behavior.

Lorie looked at his son with falling tears, "Miguel, I treated you badly before because I have been misunderstanding you that you robbed all the family property. I biased everything toward your eldest brother, thinking their family treated me best and you were heartless. Now I know that they are really brutal."

"Mum," Miguel didn't know what to say or why she burst into tears.

"I was wrong and saw their true colors. I finally knew that your brother and his family used me to get Cooper Group from you, but they never treated me well. Now I was no longer useful, they just beat me and abused me. Miguel, you didn't know how Esther treated me all this time. I wish I was dead..." Tears fell down crazily.

Esther listened to her complaint standing nearby and was blue in the face. She quickly knelt down again and said, "Mum, how could you say that? We didn't live well because we didn't have money. How could I give you the glory and wealth you want without money? I could only serve you a humble meal! Sometimes when you were clamoring for expensive food that we couldn't afford, I only said several words about you. But I couldn't help it..."

"Beast!" Lorie shouted to Esther, "Fortunately I was not a dotard. If I was, no one can expose what you've done!"

"Mum, I knew that you wanted to come back here. It was fine whenever you wanted. I won't stop you from living with them. I would come back to see you frequently with Wayne..."

"Stop talking nonsense!" Lorie became angrier at her unreasonable wording intentionally.

Lorie rolled up her sleeves and showed her bruised arms. They looked so frightening.

Miguel got mad when he saw that. Not only he but Michelle and Hannah were also shocked by her suffering.

Hannah knew Lorie didn't live well with Roger's family and she hadn't thought to save her because she brought it on herself. However, she couldn't believe Lorie could be tortured to this point. What Hannah thought was just some verbal abuse, but something like this.

At this moment, Hannah just looked at it and kept being an onlooker in the end. It was hard for her to be softhearted for them.

"Did you see it, Miguel? I was abused by Esther. She was the one who abused me! It was all over my body besides my arms. She pinches me every day in a variety of ways. I was not allowed to cry out in pain. If I did, she would pinch me even harder." When Lorie thought of what happened to her, she couldn't help crying, "Besides these, they ask me to cook for them every day. If I didn't cook well, they throw the food on my face. She commanded me to wash her feet, and face and mop the floor. All this time, I've been like a slave, tortured crazily by their family!"

The more Lorie said, the more excited she became. Probably, she found the opportunity to vent her anger finally.

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Hearing Lorie's words, Miguel seemed to flip.

"Is that true?" He asked Esther.

Esther gritted her teeth, unable to utter a single word for quite a while. Of course it was also because what Lorie had said was true. She never expected that Lorie would tell these things to everyone. In her mind, Lorie's fondness for Wayne was just blind, without any principles. After all, in their generation's mind, passing on the family was more important than anything else, and there was no way that she would give up on Wayne like that!

Wayne naturally thought the same thing. He always felt that no matter how he treated Lorie, she would just cherish him and help him unconditionally. He simply did not believe that she would go to this extent.

When Esther came to visit Lorie, she made many requests on behalf of Wayne, and Lorie promised Esther everything she asked for. Lorie said firmly that no matter what would happen, she would not let Wayne suffer in prison, and that since Wayne was the sole heir to the Cooper family, she would not allow her family to be destroyed like that.

Lorie had lied to her, Esther thought. Much to her surprise, Lorie would have come to backfire on her at the last moment. Esther was so mad that her face was hideously twisted. At this moment, she was eager to beat Lorie to death. As usual, she was dying to strangle her!

"Please get up, mother." Miguel helped her up.

Looking at her son, Lorie could not hold back her tears. She said, "Miguel, I have been reflecting a lot during this period. I have been thinking about how much of a mess I have made in my life. When you were younger, you were smarter and more capable than Roger. But just because I had a bad relationship with your father, who liked you, so I didn't treat you well. And gradually deceived by Roger, I treated you worse. You, on the other hand, were always kind to me. The more I think about it, the more I regret it."

“Mother, it is over.” Miguel comforted her. He didn’t want to see his mother buried in remorse and sorrow.

“No, I’m going to say it all today. If I don’t make it clear, I’ll feel uneasy. In fact, several times at Esther’s place, I wanted to talk with you. But firstly, I was under Esther’s constant watch and could not leave her house. If I did anything against her, I would be tortured by her. But I was too ashamed to come to see you again. I have done so many wrong things to you. I don’t know how to face you. The most regrettable thing I have ever done in my life is to turn a blind eye to your filial piety. Instead, I believed in the false display of affection of Roger’s family.”

“It’s okay, mother. I don’t care anymore. Now that you can see how good I am, I’m very happy. The past is truly behind us. Don’t think about it anymore.” Miguel took his mother’s hand and stressed, “Just live a good life in the future. Let bygones be bygones!”

When Lorie heard what Miguel said, she could not be more remorseful. She hated herself to the utmost for what she had done at the thought of the revenge that she had suffered from Esther’s family during this period, and Miguel’s tolerance towards her at the moment.

“Mother, what about Wayne?” Miguel hastily changed the subject for he could understand his mother’s self-reproach, and did not want her to keep getting caught up in it and feel terrible.

“Wayne...” Lorie was a little hesitant. She had always spoiled him since his childhood. She gave him all the good things and all her love. Basically, she gave him everything, ignoring all the other granddaughters.

“Mother,” Esther hurriedly knelt over to Lorie, “Wayne is your only grandson, the only male descendant of the Cooper family. Only he can continue our family’s bloodline. If he is ruined, how can the Cooper family thrive in the future? Mother, don’t act on impulse. Don’t blame Wayne for what I have done to you. He is innocent. He is innocent! Everything is my fault. You can do whatever you want to me and even kill me. But please let Wayne off! You must let Wayne off ...”

“Like mother, like son!” Though Lorie hesitated for a few seconds, she became firm in her thoughts and said, “If you can do this to me, so can Wayne! And I remember very clearly that it was Wayne who let you do this that day! When he saw what you were doing, he just watched and didn’t think of helping me at all. He just looked on coldly. Do you think I can still retain any affection for him?”

“But Wayne is the only heir to the Cooper family, and by doing this you are destroying the Cooper’s legacy!” said Esther.

“Esther,” Hannah interrupted. She stood up from the sofa and walked in front of Esther, staring at her in a condescending manner.

Esther just watched her, who hadn’t done anything yet. But Esther became extremely frightened of Hannah. Obviously, Esther was trembling with great fear and anxiety.

Hannah announced, “Women can also pass on a family. Isn’t it just a surname? In the future, the surname of my kid will be Cooper!”

Dumbfounded, Esther gazed at Hannah. It was after a long while that Esther retorted, "It is not just about the surname. Family succession is all about the men in the Northfield for thousands of years. It has nothing to do with women..."

"But how can you make sure that Wayne will have a boy?" Hannah countered with a question.

"His wife will keep having a baby until there is a boy!" Esther replied.

"There is no such thing as an absolute!" Hannah concluded, "So how can you guarantee that Wayne will be able to pass on the family!"

"Hannah, you are being unreasonable..."

"I'm just stating a fact." Hannah said in a cold voice. At this moment, she didn't want to talk nonsense with Esther.

Hannah turned around to say to Miguel and Lorie, "At least one of my children's last name will be Cooper! I can do things like passing on my family! Since ancient times, all it takes is just a family name, which can be passed on continuously, nothing more. Besides, nowadays, men and women are equal. And women can do what men can do, too!"

Miguel was naturally overjoyed to hear these words from his daughter. In fact, as for passing on the family, he personally respected the traditional thoughts, but did not attach great importance to having an heir. Otherwise he would not have just had a daughter back then. He could have had another son. However, Hannah's words still made him feel relieved. If he could have a little granddaughter or grandson with his surname, he would be moved and happy.

Miguel looked at Hannah, "Do you really think so? Will Oscar agree?"

"He will." Hannah was categorical. Oscar wouldn't fuss about it. She just had the confidence that Oscar would support all her decisions.

But if the father of her children were Charles..., Hannah sneered at this thought.

Chapter 396 We are a Family.

"What a remarkable cognition!" Lorie made it loud suddenly. What Hannah had said won her recognition.

"Hannah, you did change my stereotype of women. I had thought that women are not as good as men. I mean by ability. Northfield has always been ruled by men, as well as those big groups in which men are the only qualified inheritors. So that's why I was born with that stupid prejudice and Wayne could always have my favor. Now, I realize how wrong I could be. You do be much wiser than my grandson who was nothing but a fool before you." Lorie added, emotionally.

Indeed, the reality woke up the old lady, both her realization and emotion.

"Hannah," Lorie said, holding Hannah's hand, "I have recognized how ridiculous my ill-treatment to you before. I feel awfully sorry about that and I will correct it. Can you forgive me?"

"My dear! You're my grandma, so it was so natural that you had some criticism about me. And it should be me to apologize for my ignorance and contempt for you. So I beg for your forgiveness."

"You make me shame! The ignorance and contempt you mentioned, are the result of my unfair treatment. That's what I deserved." Lorie added, "You cannot imagine how regretful I am now."

“Just as dad said, we need to let go of the unpleasant past. From now on, let’s enjoy a warm family life. Past is past. And we still have a bright future ahead.” Hannah said friendly.

“A family? Am I still your family member?” Lorie was touched.

“Of course, we are a family!” Michelle added, “Mum, that’s the truth that nothing can change. Here will be your home. Just stay and live with us. I will order the maids to clear up a room for you.”

Lorie was so touched by Michelle’s warm suggestion that her eyes got red. The kinder they were, the guiltier she got.

“Come on, Mum. No more crying.” Michelle said with a gentle smile, “we are always sharing every emotion from you, your upset and joy. So cheer up.”

“Well, fine. No more crying.” Lorie said in a gentle tone. She dried her tears. Then she turned around to look coldly at Esther beside her. With her kindness vanished, she shifted to an icy tone, saying, “Wayne will be judged by laws. And Miguel won’t have a hand in that case. That’s what he deserves. No one can escape from the final judge.”

How could Esther accept it?

She begged with a shaking head, “Mum, please, please! Wayne does recognize his fault this time. He will learn the lesson...”

“A lesson could be learned only if the student has one.” Lorie said mercilessly, “With his sincere recognition, he might have a right start ten years later.”

“That is impossible, mum. Ten years is so long that Wayne might fail to catch up the society again. How can he return to a normal life after a decade in jail...”

“That’s enough!” Lorie didn’t want to hear a word from Esther anymore, and added, “You’d better think about yourself than your son. As I know, elder abuse is not allowed by the law too.”

Esther’s face faded at Lorie’s words.

Lorie continued, “The marks that you brought on me are still there. I will call the police! It’s time to think about yourself.”

“No, Mum. Please don’t! No police! I am wrong, I am. Can you please forgive me? I am too old for a prison life. I cannot...” Esther was scared.

This was out of her expectation. She never expected such an ending for herself. With her husband and son in jail, and a daughter dead, she might face a lawsuit ahead.

How could it be? No way! Things should not go this way.

“Miguel, call the police!” Lorie said without mercy.

“All right.” Miguel nodded. He could not wait to put the sinful woman in court recalling the bruises and wounds on his mother.

Hannah just stood aside and watched the freaking-out Esther, a thorough loser, who lost herself and failed to save her son. She must have counted on Lorie to drag her son out of the morass. But she was wrong. And now she even fell into another. Hannah could not help turning to watch Lorie.

She did dislike her for what she had done to her. And such hate would have grown in the span of her life if Lorie was still what she used to be. But the old lady woke up finally. Lorie was an admirable lady for her decisive attitude and resolute action. When she abandoned her prejudice and woke up to reality, she showed the least mercy to her daughter-in-law and grandson.

Few grandmas could achieve so, for they still have a clue of mercy to their family, more or less. But Lorie did it, so neatly and quickly.

The police arrived at Cooper Manor soon. Esther was arrested and taken away. She was no more herself when she was drawn out by the police. She never expected a day like that. This was too much for a day.

How could she expect a day in which her family broke down like that? Esther's desperate howl had been resonating in the whole house for long after her disappearance.

"Mother," Miguel comforted, "Just settle down with us. I will handle Esther's business whatever you want. You just enjoy your days here with us."

"Well, that sounds great. I will spend my rest days here with you." Lorie responded, with tears full of her eyes, "and I won't repeat my errors since from now."

Miguel nodded and said, "Michelle, please take mother upstairs for a rest. She must be tired from such a lousy day. I will call the doctor to check her wounds."

"All right," Michelle hurried to support Lorie up from her chair. Then she led Lorie upstairs.

Watching Lorie's back moving further, Hannah was pleased by the existing result which she never expected before.

Lorie's repentance and her change of mind, allowed Hannah's parents to fulfil their filial duty, and gave them a better ending to the story, than simply putting her to death.

At least, this was easier to accept by her parents.

Turning back and finding her father finishing the call with the doctor, Hannah said, "Rose just called and told me that Sawyer has sent someone to sign a contract with us."

"What kind of contract?"

"Follow me and just find it out yourself," Hannah said with a confident smile.

Watching her, Miguel asked, "oh, another surprise for your dad?"

"Something you won't refuse."

"Hannah, my sweetheart. I have to tell you how proud I am for owning such a daughter as you. I never regret that I don't have a son to inherit. That's nonsense for the so-called male inheritor." Miguel praised, too excited to control, "It must be hell to have a son like Wayne."

"And it must be sorrow to be born in such a family as Wayne's." Hannah said seriously.

They were obviously flattering each other.

What a sort of expression of pride!

Chapter 397 As Long as They Are My Blood!

Lorie settled down in Miguel's place. And Hannah and her father went back to the office for the contract with Sawyer.

After looking through the terms in the contract, Miguel turned to Hannah with a surprised look. He was too surprised to utter a word. For Lee could not make it himself, the Sawyer Group authorized Martina to come for signing.

Martina gnashed her teeth when she signed her name on the contract. Hannah turned a blind eye to it. So did Miguel. He said as a gentle uncle, "Martina, you must be worn out from such a tiring job."

With a glare at Miguel, Martina snorted at him. She just left as soon as things were done. Martina was so angry that she felt her lung was blown up.

Watching Martina's back as she left, Hannah was overwhelmed with an unreasonable gay. She could not help but recollect her awful previous existence in which Martina looked down upon her, playing all kinds of tricks on her, and back-mouthing her, which had been the reason for her reputation going sourer later.

"Hannah, there is a board meeting half an hour later. Don't miss it." Miguel said cheerfully.

Hannah chuckled, "Dad, are you going to flaunt?"

"This is a chance no father would miss if he has an awesome daughter like mine!" Miguel confirmed her

guess, "You must join us."

"No problem."

Of course, her father's vanity must be slaked.

After Miguel left for his own office, Hannah came back to hers. After a thought, she dialled Oscar's number. That was, the man was wanted now. She just wanted to share with him about such a joyful day.

"Honey," Oscar blurted out as answering the call.

Hannah got shy about that intimate calling but she did not reject it though. She asked, "Are you swamped?"

"No," Oscar answered in his magnetic voice, seemingly showing his missing, "Actually, I cannot stop my missing for you."

"Come on!"

With chuckles, Oscar added, "May I translate your calling into a clue showing I am wanted?"

"Then I will say sorry for your inaccurate translation." Hannah denied.

"What you did is much more honest than what you said." Oscar retorted.

"I am calling you just to share with you how I pissed off Charles this time." Hannah did not cover her victory, "I just want somebody to share that excitement."

"Doesn't it prove my translation right?" Oscar said it with confidence.

"..." Hannah was left speechless by his narcissism.

But indeed, he was right.

She did miss him.

"When will you come back?" Hannah asked, giving up her pretending.

"So I am wanted, right?"

"Can you just reply to my question?" He was so fond of the wording game with her.

"Maybe, we still need to wait for half a year."

This reply did disappoint Hannah.

"I'm not planning any achievement here, which would allow City Hall no excuse to send me back ahead of time. Any achievement might put me at risk in future. And I think you are smart enough to understand what I am talking about."

Hannah bit her lips to seal her mouth.

Of course, she knew.

The more he did, the easier he would make a mistake. The only way to prevent any possible fault was to do nothing. That was the only way to stay safe and sound in the coming half year.

"Hannah," he called her so intimately.

He could always make a successful lure to her.

She felt seduced by just a simple calling.

"Just stay at home and wait for me."

"All right," Hannah nodded.

What else she could do other than wait?

"One more thing," Hannah said with a sudden recollection.

"What's up?"

"Today my aunt kept yelling for some bullshit about inheritor, by meaning that Wayne is the only inheritor for Cooper and threatening my grandma to save her son. I was so irritated that I said my children will be Cooper too. He can also be an inheritor of the Coopers."

Oscar asked, "Then?"

"Then my grandma and parents were so happy about that." Hannah said carefully, "I think I cannot eat my words for I don't want to let them down. So..."

"So what?"

"So can our first child be a Cooper?" Hannah asked.

Though she was sure that Oscar would agree, she did worry that he would feel uneasy.

Oscar asked, "The first child of ours?" He seemed to catch a point.

"You are right. We will have 2, one for Cooper, and the other for Wells. Is it OK?"

"Of course," Oscar agreed without any hesitation.

"Really?" Hannah reconfirmed excitedly. She didn't expect Oscar could agree so quickly. And he sounded satisfied with the arrangement.

"I said yes," Oscar confirmed.

"Oscar, I..." Hannah was too touched to finish her line.

In Northfield, such a traditional country, family names mattered a lot. For a common man, he must care about his priority on his children's family name.

"As long as they are my blood, I give a damn shit care about whether he is a Cooper or Wells." Oscar teased.

"Oscar, this is not for fun!" Hannah said helplessly.

He was really good at irritation. He sounded like she would betray him.

"I have to go," Hannah said, cranky.

"Honey, I love you." Oscar leaked it out so naturally and suddenly.

What a confession of love!

Hannah felt her heart beating as quickly as the drum in rock music.

Was that a moment for her to express her gratitude for his agreeing about the children's family names?

After all, his quick promise did touch her.

Why did he turn out to be the one who was touched?

What for?

Hannah was puzzled.

Was he touched just for her promise for babies?

As a matter of fact, she never rejected the idea of having babies with Oscar, but she was indeed reluctant to do so before when they had been not in love yet. When this changed, having babies for a loving couple was naturally a routine.

Hannah felt a blow to the heart as she recalled her previous existence when Charles fed her with contraceptives without her awareness.

She responded, "Love you too."

This was the scream out from the bottom of her heart. She was in deep love with this man.

She hung up the call in a rush, for her shyness and her red cheeks.

Every time when faced Oscar, she looked like a little girl in front of her first love, even though they had settled down for so long and knew well about their love. Hannah was released from the crush long after the call was over. She decided to treat this man with all her love in their future reunion.

...

As sitting in the car after her departure from the Cooper Group building, Martina was on the edge of a fury storm.

Hannah's victorious face in her mind was the oil for a flame which could even give her the impulse to murder the victor.

When did she turn out to be what she was now, so aggressive and arrogant?

In her memory, this woman was the prey of her brother, she and her family, trapped in their tricks and hopeless to flee. What kind of magic did she have to escape from their control?

In Martina's expectation, the Sawyer Group would have been the winner in the project of South Bay New Town. However, things ran the other way around. And the Cooper Group emerged and made a full harvest.

The more she thought, the angrier she got. And the furious woman put up her phone and made a call to Charles, her brother. She yelled, gnashing her teeth, "Charles! That is too much!"

Chapter 398 A Post Promotion

Charles was on leave today, resting himself in the Sawyer Manor, so furious with butts all around the floor. Thinking about Hannah's tricks on him, he could barely constrain the desire to tear her into pieces. That was why he was tired of work.

He was trapped in the house like a fierce lion which had its prey escape.

"What's up?" Charles answered the phone impatiently.

"What gave Hannah, that bitch, the guts to show off before me? She looked so arrogant and annoying when she signed the contract. How can I bare it? What is your solution? Don't you have anything to fight back and knock her to the ground?" Martina howled.

The blaze in Charles got much fiercer than before, thanks to her yelling sister. His face was as black as the cloud before a storm.

Martina's anger did nothing to dwarf Hannah's victory but just brought him more frustration.

He shouted, "That's enough. Let's move. I don't want anybody to mention it before me since from now."

"But, Charles..." Martina could not accept.

"That's it." Charles snapped, for his patience ran out in talking about the defeat.

He admitted that he was the loser this round.

But what about next?

Next, he must send Hannah to hell on his own.

"Just do something! Anything that can give her lessons, even small. It's not your style to allow her to win them all!" It was impossible for Martina to let go.

Charles's face got darker than any before. He had no way to fight back and make her regret standing opposite him.

He gnashed his teeth. As he was going to finish the call, an idea came up with him.

With a change in his expression, a hint of conspiracy could be found in his eyes.

"Martina," he shifted his tone.

"I'm hearing, bro," Martina answered angrily.

She could not erase Hannah's victorious look from her mind. So it was understandable how eager she was to slam that bitch to death.

"Susan is Hannah's best friend, right?" Charles inquired.

"Yes, another bitch." Martina said rudely.

"We have nothing to do with Hannah for the time being, but that doesn't mean the same to Susan."

"Charles, what do you mean by this?" Martina sensed a smell of conspiracy, which cheered her up.

Dealing with Susan was an idea more exciting for her.

Why could that bitch be with Manuel, her dream man?

"Is Susan pregnant now?" Charles asked, "And I remember that you don't want that baby can see the

first light of the sun.”

“True. But Henry is a fool who has nothing to do to have Susan give up the baby. I cannot count on that silly guy. And I wonder why you choose him?”

“I chose him for his cautiousness and calmness, which has been proved well by these days when he stays calm for the news of Susan’s pregnancy. He won’t take any rash action before the timing comes. Such character is rare and you could not find it in most others.”

“Enough! No more praise for him. Without your persistent trust in him, he will barely have any chance to work with me.”

“Fine. No more shitting.” Charles added, “Now you can have my help to remove the baby from Susan.”

“Really?” she asked. Martina was too excited to believe.

“Of course,” Charles confirmed, “Now just come back home and I will show you the plan.”

“Great!”

Putting down the phone, Charles made a grim laugh.

Hannah must pay the price for what she had done.

...

A meeting was on the way inside the boardroom of the Cooper Group building.

The beautiful ending of the project, South Bay New Town, earned a high appraisal from everyone inside the boardroom.

How they strongly opposed Hannah back then, was how they felt shameful at this moment. The most was Simon who might flee out of the earth.

But Hannah just took it easy and said, “Thank you all for your recognition of my job. I did cover many details for it was not the timing. And that led to your misunderstanding. It is my fault. I would like to beg for your forgiveness.”

The remark did ease the board’s embarrassment.

“You’re right. We did misunderstand you for your concealing some news. And debates are inevitable in the business, for they are fundamental for a group’s development. But this is not personal.” One responded.

The board finally seized the chance to make a voice and ease their embarrassment.

“Since I know all your comments are impersonal, I stand here to express my apology,” Hannah added.

“Let’s put an end to this stuff. When someone here comes up with a suggestion, he or she must start for the benefit of the group. No matter if it is right or wrong, what we want is to end up good.” Miguel opened a new page for this case and changed into a strict tone, “After this, an idea called at me. Of course, this is not something new for I have mentioned it before, to promote Hannah to the vice president of the Group. Now she has been working as a temporal head which I insisted is unequal to her ability and contribution. Now I would like to officially name her as our vice president.”

“I approve.” Simon was the first to stand up to vote.

Hannah laid a sight at him.

Simon added, “My doubt about Hannah came from two reasons. One was her age. She seemed too young to take up this position. And the other is Wayne Cooper. After all, Roger was our former president, and as his son, Wayne seemed more suitable for this position. However, he is fool enough and let us down. So we don’t have any excuse to stay in the era of Roger. Ms Hannah does be more qualified and a perfect fit for this job.”

“I agree too. No one is more qualified than her.”

Miguel’s proposal was approved by 100% of the board. Of course, nothing was better than recognition

in business. Miguel was pleased by that too.

After the meeting, Hannah received the official offer soon and moved to the office of the vice president. Just in half of the year, Hannah climbed up to this position with all her own effort. Roger's era was gone. But there was still one, Mary Cooper.

She was smart enough to avoid any involvement in Roger's, which let her avoid the storm. But she was Roger's blood after all. And her existence was a time bomb for Hannah.

As in her previous plan, she wanted to use Mary to deal with Wayne. However, out of her expectation, Wayne was so stupid that he chose Charles as his ally. And he ended up so poorly.

Hannah put up the internal call and said to Rose, "Hello, Rose. Please call Mary to my office."

"Ms Mary Cooper?" Rose requested.

"Yes."

"Get it, Ms Hannah," Rose said respectfully.

Five minutes later, Mary knocked on the door and came in, "Hello, Hannah. Rose told me you wanted to have a talk with me."

She looked obedient. But this was not all about her, for Hannah had seen how well she played tricks of shifting allegiances.

"Just take a seat," Hannah said casually.

"Thanks."

Mary sat humbly before Hannah. She had seen Hannah's remarkable achievement and did admire her for her rapid development in such a short time. She was not the only one who expected Hannah's fall because of the project, South Bay New Town.

But out of her prediction, Wayne messed it up at last.

Chapter 399 A Warn to Mary

Mary had a thorough plan. She did not have a hand in Wayne's business or joined Esther in her bullying of Lorie. That was because she had a clear cognition about the situation that Roger's era was over. If Hannah turned out to be the winner other than Wayne, she needed to find shelter for herself.

Then luckily, she did not back the wrong horse. Now Wayne was sent to jail where he might stay for at least 7 years if the Cooper Group did not forgive him. And Esther was taken into custody for elder abuse.

As per the lawyer she consulted, Esther might face a sentence of imprisonment for half to one year according to the law of Northfield, something like a warning punishment. But she heard that Esther seemed to suffer a mental dissociation, and a mental evaluation was in progress for her.

Esther's madness was understandable for what she had gone through these days. But this evil monster deserved a death penalty other than sympathy.

If she could, she would kill her, just like what she did to Jane. She would not let go of those who ever had abused her.

But it was Hannah, other than her, to seize the chance. Anyway, she would not be grateful for Hannah, since they were not on the same page.

As a secret daughter, what she wanted was to mount to the top of the Coopers, to become the ruler of this family. This goal put her at the opposite side against Hannah. So the better Hannah grew, the more jealous she got.

But she was not anxious.

Wayne's story told her that she must get cautious with every action she had to take. A rash attack on Hannah was not her strategy if she had another option.

She said with a smile, just like a close sister, "Is there anything I can help with?"

"No big deal, and I just want to talk with you about Wayne and Esther." Hannah talked casually.

"Wayne and Esther..." Mary looked a bit upset and added, "They deserved it. When I heard Wayne speaking ill of you, I did discourage him from such indecency but I just ended up getting a good beating. All I could do was only to seal my words. For mother's abuse of grandma, I could not bear it actually. But mother made a death threat to me if I dared to leak it out..." Mary cried out as saying.

"My cowardice prevented my rebellion even though I was clear about their ill behaviors. After my father was sent to prison, I lost the last support and became their target to abuse too." Mary could not seize her cry as saying, "Now they just got what they deserved. They were cause and effect."

Hannah watched Mary without any comments. And she put it straight and said, "I cannot offer more consolation, since you are so clear about your own situation. Mary, you are Roger's daughter and his only family left, safe and sound. But you are also a part of the Coopers. So you can have shelter from the family as long as you work hard for the company. What I can promise is a stable life without worry about subsistence needs, but may not be an exclusive one with privileges.

"I get it and I will work hard for the group." Mary made a quick response.

"That's great." Hannah nodded and added, "Then I don't have any more to tell. You can get back to your work."

"OK." Mary left modestly. As soon as she turned back, her expression changed, from which one could barely find a clue of modesty.

What she was always going after was exclusiveness with privileges.

Why did they deprive her of rights for owning which they were born to have?

Hannah watched Mary's back as she walked out. The first reason for today's talk was to test. Obviously, Mary was pleased by her existing life for no one could abuse her like before. The second is to warn. No matter whether she could receive it or not, Hannah did try all her efforts to avoid another in-house war. But Mary shall be responsible for her choice in the end.

Hannah shifted her mind from the family. She had to focus on her job.

The business of the Cooper Group ran on the track and there was no new project to launch for the time being. So it was a good time for a massive personnel turnover.

As a historic group like Cooper, all the important positions were occupied by the experienced over 50 years old, except Wayne and her. Though experience mattered, newcomers could bring vitality to the group. And that was the only way to keep Cooper aligning with the changing world.

As she planned, her phone rang. At a glance at the call, she said, "Hello, Susan."

"What are you doing now?"

"Working, and what else can I do?" Hannah answered perfunctorily.

"So now are you too busy to talk with me?"

"..."

Susan was as sensitive as Sherlock Holmes, sometimes.

"When is the last time you made a call to me? Can you remember? Didn't you know how boring life could be for a pregnant?"

"I think you have the company of Justine and Manuel, and they can offer all the pleasure you need, don't they?"

"Nonsense! They came for irritating me. My toughness is the only reason to keep me off from miscarriage under such frequent daily provocations."

"Well, I don't think it right to just say miscarriage so casually for a mum. Your baby will be pissed off

hearing so." Hannah could not help warning.

Susan sounded careless, "I don't give a damn shit care. Her existence is nothing but torture to me."

"What does she do to you this time?" Hannah asked.

"It has been 4 months since I started to suffer from serious vomiting. You cannot imagine how hard every day is for me! I have been fed up with that. The only consequence might be possibly a she-die-or-I-die."

"You cannot be more exaggerating than saying so."

"You will understand if you have a baby."

"..." Hannah found it difficult to have a normal chat with Susan.

"So talking about you, how come you haven't carried a baby in such a long time after you got married?"

Susan doubted.

"We haven't listed it into our schedule. And don't put it like a medical problem."

"Well, you have to take it seriously and maybe there is a medical problem indeed." Susan said seriously,

"Playboys, like Oscar, possibly face impaired fertility for their earlier carnal life. I am not scaring you.

You'd better get him to check it up. The sooner you turn to the doctor, the sooner you can recover."

"Come on, Susan. That's enough." Hannah said annoyed.

Damn it.

Susan's remark sound reasonable...

"Just a kind reminder. Why did you sound angry?"

"OK. I have to go."

"May I regard your response as a confirmation of Oscar's fertility problem?" Susan concluded.

Hannah just wanted to cut off Susan's bullshit right away. What a naughty girl.

Hearing Hannah hung up the phone, Susan was irritated, pursing her mouth.

She was concerned about her. But Hannah rejected her kindness. Putting down the phone, Susan was seized by a strong regurgitation.

She covered her mouth with both hands at once in anguish.

Hell!

Death must be much easier than pregnancy.

Chapter 400 Susan's Irritation

Susan dashed to the toilet and pulled out all she had in her stomach.

Why did she suffer so much from the pregnancy? Vomiting became a frequent visitor. Such disorder had lasted for several months already and no one could tell when it could come to halt.

Did she need to suffer such a life until the baby was delivered?

But her poor stomach had only bile to stress out.

"Do you feel better?" A familiar voice said.

"Not yet!" Susan answered choleric.

Pressing his lips into a line while hearing so, he was overwhelmed with worry and he handed her a cup of warm water, saying, "Gargling might help."

Susan glanced at the water but did not receive it. She went to the vanity, switched on the tap and gargled with the running water. Manuel's help was an undesirable gift.

It was this man who consigned her to the existing terrible days. The thought fanned her fury to the extreme.

With a flow of strong anger ganging up with the suffering stomach, Susan poured them out to Manuel,

saying, "Why don't you just piss off and leave me alone? Your existence cannot help but make me worse! Cannot you just bring with you something constructive for my life?"

Manuel watched the cranky girl and swallowed down all her temper.

He said, "All right. I just put the water on the bedside table. And just have a rest."

Manuel wheeled himself out of the bathroom after his dialogue.

Watching the man leaving in the mirror, Susan was down.

Hell.

Why did she always be guilty after venting out her anger on him?

She felt like doing something unforgivable. Yet, fury still seized her. Susan wiped her face and returned to her bed from the bathroom.

She turned to watch a glass of warm water standing silently on the bedside table. She took it up and made a sip, to ease her thirst, other than her guilt.

Guilt was the least necessary since Manuel was the cause of these ridiculous days. Without the marriage with him, they would have had a better life.

Now she lost her love and life.

She supposed the baby in her might be born to offend her. Maybe the baby had ganged up with Manuel against her.

Filling herself with the cup of water and anger, Susan rested herself on the bed.

With her suffering stomach working with her fury, she just wondered when was the end of such awful days. She couldn't help drifting off.

When she was awake, she found the night had fallen.

Walking out of the bedroom, she found others sitting on the sofa in the living room, and Justine watching TV.

Tia sat next to Manuel who was seemingly correcting her English pronunciation. They were so close.

What a pair of...

Damn it. Why did they look like a warm family, consigning her to a position of an outsider?

Tia looked more like Manuel's wife than her.

"Mrs Johnson." Tia noticed Susan and stood up abruptly.

With a glance at her, Susan just turned around and moved to the dining hall, without any response.

Tia was baffled by Susan. She had no idea what she had done wrong but she could smell strong hostility from Susan. But of course, as a maid, she had no chance to figure out why. She followed Susan and asked, "Do you need some food, Mrs Johnson?"

"Why do I come to the dining room if food is not desirable?" Susan retorted.

"Get it," Tia said obediently, "I will serve you quickly."

With a quick answer, Susan looked rather bossy.

Tia did make timely action. Very soon, the dishes were displayed on the table. Then, Tia said modestly to Justine and Manuel, "The dishes are ready, Ms Knight, Mr Johnson."

Then the mother and son moved slowly to the table from the living room.

Susan glanced at the time on her phone. It was already 8:30 pm.

Why hadn't they finished their dinner?

Had they been waiting for her?

She barely controlled her gratefulness. Maybe that was because they were not hungry, other than for her, Susan told herself.

Recoiling at her doubts, she started her meal without waiting for others. But her regurgitation

prevented her to take much, and most of the time porridge was the only content on her menu. And it had become Manuel and Justine's only diet these days.

"Do you feel better?" Justine asked.

But Susan turned a deaf ear to her question.

"I recovered from such terrible pregnant effects since the 4th month. How come that still haunts you now? It would be better to go to the hospital for some medical help." Justine said without caring about Susan's rudeness.

"I won't go to any hospital." Susan rejected her suggestion.

"So you prefer to bear it, don't you?" Justine said irritated.

"None of your business."

"You are carrying my grandchild. Of course, I have to care. I don't care about you, but I won't sit aside and do nothing for anything possibly putting my grandchild at risk?"

"Am I putting it at risk?" Susan raised her voice, "It's it that puts me at risk! I have suffered enough! I just wonder what I had done in the previous existence that gives you all the chance to torture me like that now!"

"You're right that you did something so evil to us and you have to pay for that nowadays. So you deserved." Justine concluded.

The remarks pissed Susan off. Maybe, quarrels with Susan could bring some unusual joy for Justine. And that was why Justine seemed to be unable to live without them.

Susan slammed her spoon. Her dinner was finished. So did her appetite.

She stood up and left.

Manuel was to stop her but was stopped by Justine. Sealing his lips, Manuel watched Susan move back to the bedroom and slam the door shut.

"Don't listen to her." Justine said directly, "Your compromise will spoil her and she won't go to the hospital with you. Tomorrow, you must bring her for a medical check no matter what she yells. No one could bear vomiting for such a long time, neither the baby nor its mother. Pregnancy is rather demanding for a mother of whom we have to take more care, otherwise, she would suffer more in future."

"Get it." Manuel nodded.

"By the way, did you think that Susan left because of our quarrel? If so, you cannot be more wrong. She had a poor appetite. Don't push her. That is too much for her." Justine made some insightful observations.

Tia, standing aside, admired and said, "Ms Knight, why does Mrs Johnson fail to appreciate your considerate care for her?"

"I have gotten used to her childish," Justine said casually.

Manuel could not help laughing. The home must have become a terrible hell without such an open-minded mother-in-law.

After dinner, Manuel moved to the bedroom with some food that Susan loved usually.

She sat against the headboard, playing the game, to ease her irritation. As Manuel moved in, she did not even lay glance at him. Manuel put down the food and told her, "I'll play the game for you, and you can just take some food."

"No." Susan rejected. Her appetite was gone. The reason for her leaving just now was her least desire for eating, other than the fight with Justine.

She was not so silly as to starve herself for that dragon lady.

