

Reborn 451

Chapter 451 A Moment of Panic

"You'd better think it over, 'cause we're on the same side!" Charles threw down his words and hung up immediately. He didn't put it plainly and let Henry guess what he wanted to express.

After laying his phone down, Henry thought a lot. He could choose to be an ally of Charles because he could take advantage of Charles. But, as for doing something illegal for him, Henry hesitated. If he refused Charles he wouldn't be able to exploit Charles Sawyer anymore. Moreover, Charles might even stand in his path.

Henry was clear that people like Charles would seek revenge for the smallest grievance. So, if he turned Charles down this time, he must die awfully.

Amid hesitation, the door of the room suddenly opened. Henry's expression immediately changed, from grim and cold to mild.

He lightly smiled at Susan and asked, "Susan, what are you doing here?"

"My dad irritated me." Susan was almost falling apart. As long as she thought of the way Manuel had swaggered before her, Susan was furious.

"Just let it go." said Henry soothingly, "You know that your dad has a great affection for Justine. Your dad tried to be nice to Manuel now because of her. Don't be angry."

"I'm so mad because he would do anything for that woman, you know! Just the same as in those years, he didn't come to see my mom last time because of Justine. This thought pissed me off!"

"Sweetie, don't be angry about it." Henry tried to calm her and said, "Anyway, getting mad won't solve the problem."

"Why are you so generous?" Susan looked at him, "Manuel has robbed you of your position."

"I don't think it matters what position I hold. The point is that I do a good job and, you know, let your dad be satisfied with my work. I don't care about anything else, and you don't have to defend me."

"The more you said like this, the more guilty I'll feel."

"You don't have to be guilty of anything. I had nothing back then, but now I'm working at a company that ranks one of the top 3 in the country. I appreciate it. You don't have to think too much." Henry stood up from the office chair and hugged Susan.

Susan was touched by his generosity. She thought he would be sad and didn't expect that he would comfort her. However, he was the one who should feel the worst.

"Go back to work." Henry released her arm and said, "Don't get caught by your dad, or he'll complain that you don't work hard."

"OK." Susan nodded.

Henry smiled at her.

Walking out of Henry's office, Susan went back to hers. Thinking about it and feeling bitter, she phoned Hannah. As always, she would think of Hannah as soon as she was in hot water.

Being filled with indignation, she told Hannah the thing from beginning to end and asked, "Do you think Manuel is mean?"

"I think you're meaner." Hannah said bluntly.

Susan was almost pissed off, "Hannah, do you understand what I just said?"

"It's none of your business that Manuel works for your family's company, OK? You divorced him, so he's supposed to avoid every occasion you showed up? Sis, Don't you think you're being a little bossy?"

"But it's my family's company."

"It's your family's company, but it's not yours. It belongs to your dad." Hannah said slowly, "Have you done anything for the company? Have you helped your dad run it? So, It's your dad's company, and you aren't qualified to ask your dad not to let Manuel join in it."

"..." Susan was speechless because of her words.

"Susan, you've divorced Manuel. And if you want to let him go, you'd better learn how to treat him without any emotion. He's not your husband anymore, so you have no right to lose your temper with him." Hannah said clearly.

But Susan felt uncomfortable after hearing what Hannah said.

"Think about it," said Hannah.

Since Susan had chosen this path, she had to bear a lot on her own. Hannah thought what she could do is making sure Susan wouldn't suffer the repeat of her last life.

Hannah stood up from the office chair and came up to the French windows in the corridor. Looking at the skyscrapers out of the window, she felt somewhat lost, for a little moment.

What could she change in the future?

How far could she change these things?

She had no idea about these questions.

Hannah ended her mood of melancholy by taking a deep breath. At least, she wouldn't bend to fate in her this life. Going back to her seat, she picked up the internal phone and said, "Rose, contact journalists and publish the fact that I have finished the takeover of the Bead chain e-commerce platform."

"Yes," Rose answered.

Hannah stretched herself for a second. This time, she wanted to panic Charles first and make a clean sweep of the Sawyer Family!

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All the media outlets were reporting that the Cooper Group bought the Bead chain e-commerce Platform for 5 million.

Charles felt nervous the moment he saw the news. And he felt something was wrong because Hannah did it at this point. The fact that the Sawyer Group was building an international e-commerce platform had been known by Hannah. So he couldn't believe it was a coincidence that she had suddenly done such a thing.

Was she was trying to compete with him?

Thinking of the project of South Bay New Town, he had been in a competition with the Cooper Group and won, Charles wondered if Hannah was trying to get back at him in the same way. Anyway, it was so ridiculous that she used an e-commerce platform worth 5 million to compare with a 2 billion one. Even if Hannah was great, he couldn't believe that the e-commerce platform abroad would choose to cooperate with such a local small-scale one.

He thought Hannah was throwing straws against the wind. Even if he had figured it out, he still couldn't feel relaxed. After all, now Hannah was too strong for him to take her lightly. Besides, the Sawyer Group was suffering a financial strain now. Charles had to rely on international e-commerce to increase the value of Sawyer's shares, so their capital flows could also be smoothed. Hannah didn't want him to feel good, so she had a hand in now!

Charles clenched his teeth. He couldn't let Hannah take any advantage of this project. If he lost the game this time, he was afraid he would be abandoned by the aristocratic family.

He didn't understand since when Hannah had no feelings for him. And until now he had no idea when she had found what he was. He had planned everything so flawlessly.

Thinking of this, Charles's face turned cold and grim. But now the point was seeking a way to kill Hannah, Charles thought. He was eager to ruin her reputation and let her suffer a living death. Otherwise, the fierce hatred in his heart couldn't be dispelled. He had never met a person who could make him hate so badly but he couldn't find a way to torture and retaliate against her. He would make her regret what she had done.

Chapter 452 A Formidable Team: Hannah and Manuel

Three days later, Manuel phoned Hannah.

He said, "Sawyer has mortgaged 30% of its shares to take out a loan of X billion. The maturity of this loan is in March of next year. That means the Sawyer Group has to gain enough profit before March of next year according to its business standing, then Phillips Bank will continually offer loan programs to it. Otherwise, the Bank will claim the repayments according to the contract it signed, or the bank will take the 30% of Sawyer's shares."

"So you want to say that the Sawyer Group is kind of anxious now." Hannah said, "As it now stands, it is getting into a challenging year and has a low profit. But it also has a lot of expenditures which are all big-ticket."

"Exactly. The international e-commerce platform will be a lever for the group's economic stability. So we can be sure that the group will invest huge funds and cannot afford any failure in the international e-commerce platform. If the project is lost, it will be on the verge of collapse based on its present situation. It may even go bankrupt suddenly."

Hannah agreed with Manuel's view. And she couldn't help admiring him in her mind-she used to think that Manuel was an Otaku, who knew little about business. It turned out that he was technically very able. During the talk, she was aware that Manuel was ridiculously good in his area of expertise.

"So if I want to ruin the Sawyer Group, now I merely need to scuttle its plan of international e-commerce," Hannah concluded.

"Yeah, almost." Manuel continued, "By the way, good news. Now Sawyer can't withdraw any extra funds, but Charles has announced the group will put at least 1 billion into this project. So I've calculated and found that if they want to build a platform, the announcement of 1 billion won't be fake. So they applied for a secured loan in back in the absence of money. But it has already mortgaged 30% of its shares and Lee Sawyer now only holds 70%. If he mortgages his shares again, his shares will be less than 50%. According to his characters, he should not do such a risk."

"So you want to say..." Hannah raised her brows.

"What I want to say is that Charles may take the risk and operate under the table."

"So he'll do it by some special paths, like, illegal path?" Hannah surmised.

"Yes." Manuel said, "The reason why I predict like this is that I also looked into who is responsible for Sawyer's loan when enquiring about its loans in Phillips Bank. Do you know who it is?"

Manuel kept her guessing.

Hannah blinked and said with an uncertain tone, "It's not Henry, is it?"

"No. It's him."

Hannah was stunned for a second. In her last life, Charles hadn't colluded with Henry, as far as she knew. Charles was so arrogant in her eyes that he wouldn't have suborned Henry, whom he disdained.

"Have you thought about Susan's car accident?" Manuel said, "Obviously, someone is behind it."

Hannah suddenly realized and said, "I suspected Henry did it. But I didn't dig deeper because I knew you

wanted to help him and Susan be together. Now hearing what you said... I think it makes sense.”
“From what I know of him, he’s a prudent person and won’t take any risk in normal circumstances. Because he can’t afford any failure, and he can’t try to come back if a failure befalls him. So he’s extremely careful no matter what he does. However, Plotting Susan’s accident is kind of a risk, he dares not to do it if he has no accomplice.”

“Skunk!” Hannah gritted her teeth with rage and said, “Charles wants Susan to marry Henry to win him over. Then he can help Henry get Phillips Bank, and he’ll own it in the end. Such wishful thinking!”

“Yeah.” Manuel nodded.

“I’ll try to find out something disadvantageous about Charles.”

“I think we don’t have to waste time.” Manuel said straightly, “First, We’ve missed the best opportunity. It’s been such a long time since the accident, the evidence must have been removed. Second, even if we find the proof, Charles won’t be the one who gets punished. So it wasn’t important for us. Instead of doing something not good for us, we’d better focus on the projects of international e-commerce.”

“So you want to say we can simply wait?” Hannah asked.

“If Charles is cornered, he must force Henry to help him get loans from Phillips Bank by illegal means. I’ll find a way to maintain the evidence which can invalidate his loan. If Charles makes a sham loan, that loan will be meaningless. That means he has to repay it. But once the bank requires the repayment after the money has been invested by Charles, capital chain ruptures will happen in the Sawyer Group, and the group may go bankrupt.”

“And,” Hannah smiled faintly, “Sawyer also owes Cooper 2 billion. Even if the group doesn’t go bankrupt this time, it’ll be hit hard.”

“It owes you 2 billion?” Manuel sounded surprised.

If that were so, there would be a huge hidden trouble in the capital chain of the Sawyer Group. Considering Sawyer’s current situation, there was no way it could solve this trouble.

“Yeah.” Hannah sneered, “I’ve been waiting for this day.”

The reason why she had lent 2 billion to the Sawyer Group and made them leave an IOU was to wait for this day, when its capital chain was most vulnerable, and to give it a killing blow.

“Hannah, you’ve planned it for a long time, haven’t you?” Manuel said with respect.

He didn’t expect Hannah to have set such a huge trap back then. He figured it out before thinking. The 2 billion Charles had borrowed from Hannah was a time bomb set at a time when their relationship wasn’t over. And the reason why she let the Sawyer Group be pleased and arrogant for such a long time was just for its final devastating blow.

“You’ll never know how much I hate him.” Hannah ground her teeth with anger.

“I know it. You said you experienced a rebirth.” Manuel smiled.

Pausing for a second, Hannah almost forgot that Manuel was the only one who knew her secret.

“So, I’ll ruin Charles. I’ll take everything away from him.”

“I’m looking forward to it.”

“I need to leave the work in Phillips Bank to you.”

“No problem.” Manuel consented immediately.

After hanging up, Hannah breathed a sigh of relief. She felt it would be an easy pie to defeat Charles with the help of Manuel.

Chapter 453 Business Banquet

A week later, the Bead chain e-commerce platform went viral in Kensbury City. Because of its celebrity spokesperson, propaganda, sales promotion, and features of convenience, it was popular with office workers. The number of its user skyrocketed from fewer than 20,000 to 2 million, which merely spent a week. The business circles had been stunned by its growth in users.

Seeing the statistics, Hannah couldn't help admiring Tan's capacity. She gave him this project to work on and was pleasantly surprised by his answers. She was right about him.

Rose came into her office and said, "Ms Hannah, you've told me that you were going to participate in the business banquet tonight. I just asked the president's secretary, and Mr Cooper said he won't go to the banquet if you go."

"Right." Hannah nodded and said, "He is getting old, and he should spend more time with my mom."

Rose smiled a little. Back then she used to feel that Hannah's family was untouchable. Especially when Roger Cooper was still in the company, the family looked cocky and arrogant.

But now she worked for Hannah, which made her think the Cooper family was as sweet as an ordinary one.

"Well, you don't have to go with me tonight. I'll ask Tan to go with me. I plan to introduce him to some businessmen for his future work."

"Did you desert me?" Rose asked seriously.

Hannah was kind of speechless because she didn't expect Rose would be jealous.

"I just don't want to occupy your time. You'll be there to take care of me most of the time if you go with me. It's unnecessary." Hannah said honestly, "Don't worry. You mean a lot to me and no one can replace you."

After hearing Hannah's words, Rose set her mind at rest and said, "OK, Ms Hannah."

"Did you book my formal dress?"

"Yes. It's waiting for you right there." Rose answered.

"Okay." Hannah responded and looked down to see the time, "Tell Tan to meet me down the building in half an hour."

"OK."

Rose left the office.

After approving some documents, Hannah went downstairs with Jimmy at the appointed time.

Tan had been waiting for her out of the gate, "Ms Hannah."

"Let's go." Hannah said, "We're going to participate in a business banquet tonight. And now we'll go to get some formal clothes."

"OK."

Tan followed her into the car.

They arrived at an international shopping mall. Hannah went to try the formal dress she booked and also asked the staff to select a set of suits for Tan.

After getting dressed, they stood at the French window.

Tan said, "You looked stunning."

"You too." Hannah looked at him.

Tan didn't make people immediately feel he was handsome, but he looked kind of dignified.

Gentlemen who were strict with their proprieties and were confident would be given a seven out of ten.

"Is this suit a gift?" Tan kidded.

"So you thought I'm going to ask you to pay."

"No. I just felt you're generous."

"It's a reward for your good work."

"Thank you."

Hannah nodded lightly and said, "Wait for me a minute, I'm going to do my makeup."

"OK."

Tan answered, sitting on the sofa next to him, while Hannah walked into the dressing room.

The two rooms were connected.

Tan glanced at Hannah intentionally or not and then looked down to read the magazine, looking composed and relaxed.

At 6 PM, they went to the banquet hall together. There were only a few people in the hall because it was early.

Hannah looked around and realized that the person she wanted to meet didn't show up yet. So she brought Tan straight to the dessert area and said, "We can find something to eat."

"OK." Tan took some desserts and ate.

Seeing Hannah eat a lot, Tan laughed and said, "Ms Hannah, I've never seen a pretty lady eat dessert like you. You don't have the fear of gaining weight?"

"Health matters a lot," Hannah said.

Of course, she couldn't have said she was preparing for pregnancy.

Tan smiled again because he admired her not only for her ability but also for her honesty and direct manner of expressing her thoughts.

When they were eating the desserts, a woman's voice suddenly came behind them.

"Hannah,"

Hannah didn't have to turn around to know it was Susan. She knew Susan liked all sorts of parties and banquets for having fun.

"You've eaten so many sweets, haven't you?" Looking at the desserts on Hannah's plate, Susan was surprised, "Aren't you afraid your tummy will pop out?"

"That's why I selected a looser evening dress."

"Clever." Susan sniffed.

Seeing Susan in a revealing dress, Hannah frowned and said, "You wear so little, what if you catch a cold?"

"I won't catch a cold. Now I'm as strong as an ox!"

"Take care of yourself." Hannah didn't forget to remind her.

"Stop repeating this." Susan said impatiently, "Anyway, Henry is there, I'm going."

"..." Hannah compressed her lips and watched Susan leave.

Tan noticed Susan and asked, "Is she Susan everybody talked about?"

"Is she famous?" Hannah had to ask.

"I've occasionally heard that her personality is kind of... distinctive."

"She's weird," Hannah said bluntly.

Tan smiled but didn't say a word, which means he admitted what Hannah just said.

"Sometimes I envy her being happy all day and free from trouble, but sometimes I also wish she could be more scheming. Whatever, let it be." Hannah wiped her mouth and asked, "You finished?"

"Finished."

"Let's go. The big man has shown up." Hannah took a deep breath.

Tan also smoothed his suit. Then the two of them walked up to Bills Jones, a leading figure in International E-Commerce.

Bills was the one who negotiated the international e-commerce project with the Sawyer Group. For a field trip on the e-commerce platform, he came here, to the country of Northfield. Hannah came up and greeted him, "Hello, Mr Jones. I'm Hannah Wells from the Cooper Group." Bills frowned lightly and didn't seem familiar with Hannah. The assistant next to him was introducing her in his ear.

Then Bills said eagerly, "Nice to meet you, Mrs Wells, I'm so grateful to meet you here."
"I'm grateful to see you, too."

They shook hands and made a few polite remarks.

Then Hannah said, "I heard that this time you want to build an international e-commerce platform here in Northfield."

"Are you interested in it?"

"Exactly."

"Oh?" Bills smiled, "But I've heard the Sawyer Group was very active on this project. And we've reached a tentative deal."

"If you're satisfied with the Sawyer Group, I believe you won't show up here."

Hannah said these words with extreme confidence.

Chapter 454 Business Banquet (2)

Bills Jones drew an obvious smile.

Hannah's remark did renew his impression of her. The beauty of the woman before was not her only noticeable feature, but her wisdom.

Sawyer's e-commercial platform did disappoint Bills, for its operational mode was quite traditional. Such an old way, coming from the conventional real industry, was rigid for this emerging industry. Sawyer would not have been Bill's choice, if he had any other options in Northfield, any bigger than Sawyer. However, the only way to enter Northfield's market was to rely on a local group.

Gazing at her, Bills said, "As per my previous survey of Northfield, Sawyer has an incomparable domestic e-commerce platform. So I wonder what makes your ambition to work with me."

"The Bead chain e-commerce platform. This is a local e-commerce platform newly acquired by Cooper. If you are interested, you can get more information about it. Compared to the colossal Sawyer's, owning a fund of up to 2 billion, this is, of course, a small one, with a worth of only 5 million for its market capitalization. That is the existing disadvantage that I cannot hide from you, but it does have some incompatible Sawyer cannot offer. Since this is a brand new platform, we can make it a perfect fit as you wish. This is not what Sawyer can provide, for years of its operation make Sawyer difficult to custom a mode that you need, which will make a great difference. Besides, Bead chain has a powerful backup, Cooper, which can endow it with enough capital to grow. Last but not least, it has remarkable potential, for its fan base soared from 200 thousand to 2 million in a week."

A reasonable analysis was decently delivered in detail by Hannah. With a confident smile, she continued, "More about Sawyer, after a thorough investigation, you will find the recent status of Sawyer's capital flow. As a moral competitor, I cannot leak more here. But as capable as you, you can find out whatever you want."

Bills just kept his smile without any response.

Businessmen were always as sly as foxes. Each of them wore a poker face. No one could find a hint of their mind until they made a decision and let go of the clues.

Hannah knew the harm from a too-much talk at the first time, which would unveil the talker's voracious

eagerness. So she rose from her seat gracefully and said, "I have to join my friends over there. Just enjoy your time, Mr Jones."

"See you later." Bills nodded.

Harrison left with Tan.

Since the beginning of Hannah's talk, Charles had been watching her from a distance. His face turned dark as the cloudy sky before a storm. As he knew, Hannah was going to snatch his project.

Did she think a tiny platform could rival his giant?

If she did think so, then she must be silly enough.

He stretched his suit and straightened his tie before his way to Bills, to ensure a perfect showing up.

Hannah must get no way to win, he swore.

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Guests enjoyed their social time in a grand and luxurious ballroom.

This was an important business banquet, attracting the celebrities, the wealthy, and high officials of Northfield.

The first reason for the attendance at such balls was fame. The ticket to such an occasion was the symbol of status, for only the important could receive an invitation. The second was to intensify their social network. Under the same terms, acquaintances would be more possible to win a deal.

No one would miss it.

Hannah was busy in greeting and introducing Tan Laurier to the heads of the business.

Tan started his chat with the leaders modestly.

That was a busy ball, while Susan just stayed at the corner, boring. To her surprise, Hannah felt at ease when dealing with those serious uncles. If she were Hannah, she would not have survived for 2 minutes. She shifted her sight to Henry, the man who was busy with his social time, which seemed to be out of his character. She wondered when he was not what he used to be. But Henry was still the one, so considerate, worrying the ball was too boring for her and having her wait in the corner. And he would pick her up when things were done.

Susan sighed. Everyone seemed to advance steadily, except her. She lowered her head and began to swipe her phone, to ease her sense of loss. To escape back home was what she desired at that moment. But she did not want to leave Henry here alone, just like abandoning him, which was the last option she would choose.

She could read his loneliness which brought him more desire for warm companions than others. So focusing on the phone was the only thing she could do.

"Hi, Susan," a familiar female voice suddenly called.

Susan frowned. Impatience crept on her face at hearing the voice.

That was Martina, a skunk. She hated this woman from the bottom of her heart. It used to be a puzzle for her why Charles, such a "good" man, had such a sister like Martina. And here the puzzle was clear.

They were families.

"What's up?" Susan asked unpleasantly.

"I come to warn you just stay away from Manuel for you have been divorced."

"This is none of your business," Susan said rudely.

"As his girlfriend, I have the right to let anyone like you stay away from him," Martina announced for her sovereignty.

That pissed Susan off. But there was no space for her to talk back. It was natural for a girl to be possessive about her boyfriend.

Resuming her gazing at Henry who was not far, for the woman before made her sick, Susan said peacefully, "When did I badger with him?"

"So why did you come to Manuel's flat that midnight?" Martina interrogated.

"I came for my luggage. Was I disrupting you?" Susan mocked.

That night was recollected in her mind.

"I don't want to see you any more in Manuel's flat." Martina threatened.

"No worry. I won't," Susan glanced at her and added, "It smells disgusting for a place that you ever sleep."

"Susan Phillips!" Martina was irritated, with her whole face red.

"Hey! Watch your image." Susan reminded and satirized, "It's not worthy to unveil your mask for me, since you have been wearing it for years."

"Fine." Martina retorted disdainfully. She passed by Susan.

Her appearance was not only to warn but also to flaunt.

She did have a boyfriend too, and hers was much better than Manuel, Susan thought.

Manuel was boring. The woman was unfortunate enough to have such a dull boyfriend like him. But Susan was a bit annoyed and she didn't know why. She was distraught and nothing could help.

Henry was still enjoying his social time. So after a thought, she sent him a message, saying, "I am sick a bit, so I make my way home first. Enjoy your time."

The message flew off. Susan left the banquet hall.

She could not recollect since when the world seemed less interesting to her.

Chapter 455 Elect a Way of Pain

Hannah watched Susan's leaving.

As a party queen, Susan used to stay till the last minute, when she had to go back home. Hannah could not understand why home seemed to be hell for Susan. On the opposite, Hannah loved home, a paradise in which she wished to stay every single second of her life.

And Susan was a different story. She just wanted to have an exile out from there.

Things looked different tonight, however. She left before the ball ended.

Then Hannah noticed Martina.

A retreat was nothing Susan would choose, especially while facing Martina. Whenever they were together, quarrels were inevitable, since their childhood. But tonight, Susan left without an oral fight against Martina, which did surprise Hannah.

As long as Susan did not regret her decision to turn back to Henry, that would be a good ending.

Anyway, Henry loved her. If she could seize the proof of Henry's secret deal, Hannah was able to prevent any possible harm to Susan. And, with love, Susan and Henry might be a happy couple.

But if Susan regretted her decision. She might suffer for the fact that she might never retrieve Manuel.

The days after must be hard for her.

"Ms Hannah," Tan said.

Hannah was driven back from her thought.

"I feel a bit tired and have to go out for some fresh air. You can just go on." Said Hannah.

"All right."

Hannah left for the garden from the ballroom. As soon as she rest herself on the swing under the yellow beam of the light, she heard Charles calling her, "Hi, Hannah."

Hannah frowned.

Martina was a skunk for Susan, and Charles for Hannah. Indeed, they were related by blood. The pair of brother and sister shared the same sort of disgusting character.

Glancing at Charles, Hannah did not respond. She was contemptuous of him.

Charles became cold at her and added, "Well! What a queen, so arrogant and indifferent to everybody else."

"Just for you," Hannah said, standing up from the swing, "You are the only reason for my arrogance."

"Hannah,"

Hannah walked by him. She was so familiar with his venomous tongue that she would not stay one more minute with him.

"Hannah!" He repeated with a more freezing look and grabbed her arm with force.

That hurt Hannah who frowned and ordered, "Charles, release me!"

"What else can you do if I don't? Scream!" Charles said ironically, "Then everyone inside will notice. So who will be degraded, you or me?"

"You are still what you are, so mean!"

"Thanks for you!" Charles gnashed his teeth, "Tell me. What did you tell Bills?"

Hannah tried to move her arm. But that led to a fastened grip from Charles.

"I will tell if you loose your hand," Hannah said coldly.

With hesitation, Charles threatened, "If you dare to flee, I have a thousand ways to have everyone in the ball know we have a love affair."

"Let go of me!" Hannah repeated.

Charles released his grip.

Hannah stayed, relaxing her arm.

Other than scaring, she just felt unwise to degrade herself because of the monster ahead.

She replied, "I just showed Mr Jones my interest in the industry of international e-commerce. Then, is he going to abandon you? "

"Nonsense," Charles denied, "Why are you so confident to become my rival just by that little platform?"

Is this your revenge for my interruption to South Bay New Town, intending to use my trick on me?"

"Come on," Hannah teased, "You know so well that Cooper is not the loser in the bid of South Bay New Town."

Charles was pissed off.

Hannah added, "Cooper's entry to e-commerce is for the potentiality of the industry other than any personal revenge. It was I who suggest you investing this field. But I feel pity for your poor performance. What a waste. So why not I just do it myself."

"Poor performance? How dare you! Sawyer has the monopoly of Northfield's e-commerce industry. Will you shame for the lie that you were telling?"

"The reason for Sawyer's monopoly is that Northfield has not yet realized the prospect of that emerging industry. And the benefits from the so-call monopoly just take up 5% of Sawyer's total income! I will shame on that if I were you!"

"How dare you!"

"Charles, is that so hard to admit a defeat and the fact that you are not as capable as others?" Hannah said ironically, "Just turn to books, to learn, rather than your conspiracies all day long. After all, it's highly possible for a night walker's encounter ghosts. Mind yourself!"

Then, Hannah was going to leave. But Charles would not allow to her easily leave, for her scornful remarks did shame him thoroughly. He was in fury and tried to grip Hannah's arm again.

But this time, he failed, for Hannah had a preparation. She recoiled. But she fell to Charles' arms the next minute. She tried hard to twist out from his clutch. "Hannah, do you think you can win over me?" Charles said coldly, "That's impossible. Women will never have the strength as men. You must respect that difference. I can treat you whatever I want." "Then, take a shot!" Hannah threatened. Her tone was as chilling as ice. Charles was frozen for a second by her attitude. However, he was too familiar with snarling. How could a woman fight back under such circumstances? He would not believe it. With her in his hug, he pushed her against the wall forcefully, clinging and threatening, "Scream! Just scream it out! I will see..." Suddenly, Charles howled, with his face twisting. It was too painful to stand for. Hannah made a strong kick with all her strength at the point between Charles's two legs. She heard that before the attack on a man's penis could send him to hell. As passing by, she said to the man, "Charles, remember! I am not what I used to be, a woman as obedient as a sheep." After that, she turned back to leave. The furious monster lost his reason. Bearing to the biting pain, he dashed out to catch Hannah to give her a slam on the face. But before he made it, he was pushed over by a sudden force which hit him down to the ground. Charles felt faint for a second, nearly losing consciousness. Hannah was scared by Charles. His fury was beyond her imagination. As a man with super self-restraint, he did lose control, as terrifying as a mad lion. Hannah turned back and saw Tan. Gasping in shock, Tan seemed a bit bewildered by his move, pushing Charles to the ground. As a celebrity, Charles was not the one that he could offend.

Chapter 456 Oscar's Surprise

"Thank you," Hannah said. Tan seemed to be waking up from a dream, saying, "I, I, I..." "Ease. I will handle it." Hannah comforted. Tan nodded with dread. "It's late. Go home." Hannah said peacefully. Watching the man lying on the ground, she could not feel a touch of love or pain for him. The monster dared not to make scream. After all, this was disgraceful. It would take his life to be made fun of by others. He watched Hannah's leaving with Tan, in great pain. Grinding his teeth, he was overwhelmed with hate. As soon as their turned back, they saw a man standing behind them. Hannah was dizzy at the sight of the man in front. That was Oscar. His sudden appearance surprised her. He did not tell her that he would be back today. Then she recalled it-he had mentioned his coming back these days, but without an accurate date. Hannah was filled with joy, with an obvious hint of excitement in her eyes, while Oscar seemed a bit indifferent. The man stood there, with an emission of biting air around. At a glance at Hannah, Oscar passed by them and walked to Charles. The sight of Oscar turned Charles's anger into horror. Charles had no idea when Oscar became a haunting ghost to him. It seemed Oscar would take his life the next minute. But

he managed to pull back his calmness and forced himself to gaze back at Oscar viciously.

“Charles, it seems that you have been turning a deaf ear to my warnings all the time.” Oscar threatened coldly.

Charles was as alert as a goat facing a snarling tiger, with every piece of his muscle tense, even slightly quivering. But the next second, his alert turned to endurance to its utmost, with veins twitching on his face.

Oscar pressed his foot into Charles’s hand so forcefully that Charles’s face faded at once.

How painful it was!

Oscar warned, “If next time I find your dirty hands on Hannah...”

With every nerve under excruciating pain, Charles could not help but shiver.

Oscar got close to the side of Charles’s ear.

With such a small pitch that only the two men could hear, Oscar murmured, “Then, I will have you vanish totally.”

Then he stood up and removed his glossy leather shoes from Charles’s hand. With his palm bloody, he might be suffering extreme pain that could have its nerves out of action.

Without a second sight at the man lying, Oscar headed to his beloved wife and cuddled her, saying, “Let’s go home.”

Hannah nodded and turned to Tan, telling, “You can make your way home too.”

“Yes, Ms Hannah, I will take care of myself,” Tan responded.

The couple was moving further and further. This was the first time Tan had realized what Oscar was—a man who was more vicious and powerful than he expected.

...

The two of them walked off the ballroom to their car. Jimmy drove them back. Hannah and Oscar sat in the back row, cuddling as they just left the site.

Other than fading, their love seemingly grew thicker under the cause of parting. The shorter the reunion was, the more unwilling they were to separate, even just a second.

“Why didn’t you tell me that you are back today?” Hannah complained.

“I want to give you a surprise.”

“How did you know where I was?”

“Jimmy told me,” Oscar replied.

“So you told Jimmy other than your wife about your back,” Hannah added annoyed.

“That is the only way for a surprise!”

Hannah was not satisfied with his explanation.

Strengthening his cuddle, Oscar continued, “I’m afraid, if something unexpected aborts my plan, you will be upset. So I just called Jimmy to pick me up at the airport after I boarded.”

A warm stream flooded Hannah’s heart. So the reason that he had not let her know ahead was the fear to let her down. She clutched Oscar’s clothes and pressed her face onto his chest. She used to believe that the love between a couple was overstated in fiction or TV show since they were so loath to part from each other.

Now she could understand. That was a strong attachment between lovers.

She asked, “So when are you going to leave this time?”

“The earlier morning of tomorrow.”

“...” Hannah was left speechless and disappointed.

“I can just ask for a half-day leave, tomorrow morning.” Oscar continued, “It was a favour that my head

approved it for these days we are indeed dreadfully occupied.”

But, his explanation could not ease Hannah. That meant he would disappear before she woke up the next morning. What they had was just tonight.

When could such suffering days go to an end?

The question brought melancholy for Hannah.

“There are only 2 months before we can end such days,” Oscar added, “Life will be different after that.”

“So you came back for a night...for our baby plan, right?” Hannah asked.

“No!” Oscar denied, “You’re my priority, and the plan is just incidental.”

Hannah pursed her mouth.

His words were incredible.

Then the fact proved she was right.

Men were born liars.

As soon as they returned to the villa, making love was the only subject. They were nearly glued together all night long. That was a night that even TV shows would shy of it. Hannah did not expect her husband would be so eager for her. He nearly became a starving beast. As the night fell, the fierce carnal battles finally came to an end.

Hannah lay beside Oscar, tired and slumbering. The wars left so many marks on her skin. Watching them, Oscar was a bit guilty. He pressed his gentle kisses on them one by one. He told himself that next time he must keep a bit of self-restraint while kissing her. His last kiss fell on Hannah’s cheek.

Oscar rose from the bed slowly in case of disturbing her dreaming. He fetched a bathrobe and put it on. Then he took out a cigarette to lit it but put it down. He was on strict self-control of smoking. As he heard, to have a healthy baby, men had to quit smoking and alcohol. Putting aside the cigarette, he dialled Theodore’s number.

Upon receiving the call, Theodore was in a daze, and his dream was disturbed. He said, “Hey, Oscar. How come you don’t go to bed so late?”

Oscar was surprised to find that Theodore was sleeping so early.

Probably, his father asked him to stay at home.

What else could he do?

Oscar did not beat around the bush and said, “Can you carry out a background investigation of Tan Laurier.”

“Who?” Theodore could not recall this name.

“He should be the newly-recruited assistant for Cooper’s vice president.”

“Well, does he have an affair with Hannah?” Theodore put it straight.

Oscar skipped his ridiculous question and added, “Just call me when you finish, and keep an eye on him. But make it secretly.”

“Is my guess correct?” Theodore repeated his question.

This time, Oscar hung up on him.

Just by Tan’s neat motion when he pushed away Charles, Oscar was sure that he was not a common guy. But he did not intend to rush to a conclusion without solid investigation. He worried to scare Hannah. After the call, Oscar returned to bed.

Hannah looked like she was in a very sweet dream.

Oscar clung to the beloved woman who was so soft that he was loath to release her.

He was lost in thought and made a decision. The game should be over as soon as possible. He laid his

hand on her lower abdomen. Sensing the warmth from the palm, Hannah fell to an exhausted slumber with a sense of safety.

Chapter 457 Manuel's Challenge

Just as she expected, her husband had left when she woke up from her dreams.

A note was left in the room as always.

He wrote, "Take care and wait for me. With love, Oscar."

Hannah would repeat the line again and again, every time when she received one. She was unwilling to put it down. She kept telling herself that Oscar would officially be back after 2 months. Such dreadful days could finally come to an end in 2 months.

Leaving her duvet behind, she went to the bathroom for washing and dressing up.

The breakfast had been prepared by Max in the dining room downstairs. The breakfast for today was extraordinarily plentiful, compared to the ones in the past few days.

They were a bit too much for Hannah. She might be ballooned up before she carried a baby, thanks for the sumptuous menus. Enjoying her breakfast, she could not help but get lost in thought. And she began her browse through the hot news of the day on phone.

A piece of news drew her attention. That was the headline of the day, releasing the divorce between Susan and Manuel. Both of them kept badly low-key about that. How come did it mount to the top of the news?

After breakfast, Hannah called Manuel on her way out to the office.

"Morning, this is Hannah. I read the news about your divorce online. Have you read it?"

"Good morning, Hannah. Yes, I just found it too," Manuel sounded calm and added, "Sooner or later, everybody knows."

"But this is not the right time for its transmission. I worry about any possible negative impact on you," Hannah continued, "As you just entered Phillips Bank, the board did not dare to comment on your position back then just because you were Edward's son-in-law. Now, things got changed. You'd better prepare yourself for some unfriendly doubts."

"Don't worry," Manuel confirmed, "I can handle it."

"Well, just a reminder," Hannah said.

"Get it," Manuel nodded.

Then they finished the call.

As the call was over, Manuel arrived at his office. He always arrived at the company half an hour early before work. Just in case of any unnecessary trouble caused by his disability. And today was not exceptional. With the help of a stick, he reached his office. Sitting on the task chair, he began to read the news.

The report was quite objective, just revealing the fact about his divorce from Susan, other than bitter attacks.

The reading cost him a while. Then his secretary knocked at the door, came in, and said, "Morning, Mr Johnson."

"Morning."

"The board meeting will start 10 minutes later."

"Get it," Manuel nodded.

With the stick, he left for the boardroom. All the senior managers would be in place, including Susan. Though Susan was not listed in the management level, given her special status, she would attend all

important meetings.

He landed on his seat. Edward sat in the middle. This was a regular board meeting, once per week. The meetings were about summaries for the last week and the arrangement for the coming one.

On behalf of the Inbound Marketing Department, Manuel started his part, "This week, we have 13 projects on the way, 7 among which have prominent progress, 4 to break through for the time being, and the outstanding 2 are hard nuts. I will report in detail, one by one."

His presentation was on the right pitch in a humble way. In Susan's impression, Manuel was introverted, maybe not capable to make a clear speech on the stage. But his last two presentations did renew her opinion, in which he seemed so effortless. The key points would never be skipped in his presentations. He was confident but not arrogant, humble but not timorous. His solution was always constructive and practical, but for those out of his capacity, he also put it straight and attached some suggestions. Such a pragmatic attitude earned the satisfaction from most of the executives.

Manuel finished his report and returned to his seat.

As soon as the next agenda started, one board member interrupted, "Mr Chairman, I heard of the news about the divorce of your daughter and Mr Johnson."

It was not decent to come up with others' privacy as a subject in such a meeting. So the person was on purpose obviously. Manuel smelled a touch of hostility.

Edward responded, "Divorce has become a common case for couples with personality clashes. This is a business meeting, not for privacy. Don't waste our time."

"I don't think this is a waste of time. I just would like to remind you that it seems inappropriate to make a rash assignment for such a high position. When he was your son-in-law, it was suitable, because Phillips Bank is some sort of a family group, and having a family to run is acceptable. But since his role changed, this is not the same story."

"I cannot see anything inappropriate." Edward said with a dark face, "It is Manuel's ability that brings him to this position, rather than his role."

"As I learned, Mr Johnson is a newbie in the business sector. Edward, how do you know his qualification for this job?"

Just before his next round of debate, Edward was interrupted by Manuel.

"Naturally my coming performance will show you my qualification." Manuel interrupted, "Now is not the proper timing for a discussion if I am qualified or not. It's unfair to make a judgment without solid testaments. And my performance will be a good proof of that."

The board member was vanquished by Manuel. Usually, Manuel was not talkative. His presentation was always pithy without an unnecessary word. So his remarkable refuting was out of expectation for the challenger. And the vanquished seemed a bit embarrassed.

But Manuel was not going to let go and added, ironically, "This is just a suggestion. If Mr Chairman feels right for that, I have no more to add, because, in the end, the performance will be a good testament."

Edward's face got darker. But Manuel stayed calm and added, "Just give me a half year. I will resign if my performance is not satisfied."

The shocking board watched the man for his unexpected promise. They thought Manuel would have just made a perfunctory effort.

"And for the satisfied performance I meant, it's to raise the rate of the group financial loan by 50%. I will hand in my resignation if I fail to achieve it."

"Are you sure?" The board member doubted.

"Of course."

"Have you learned the existing market share of Phillips Bank? Among the 5 biggest banks, Phillips occupied up to 60%. And an increase of 50% means a monopoly. Are you serious?"

"For your doubt, Mr Torres, let us wait and see half a year later," Manuel said, without any more interest in the debate.

Rick Torres tried to keep silent but failed. Manuel's last response shamed him like an unreasonable kid.

"Fine, time will tell." Rick then replied.

Manuel did not continue with this topic. And no one commented any more. The meeting resumed its normal routine. After the meeting, Edward had Manuel come to his office.

He said directly, "Manuel, your flag seems too high."

"I don't think so," Manuel said, "Other than snatching our rivals' market shares, my strategy is to launch more new sorts of financial services. Following the growth of the market, the capital flow must get increased too. A rise of 50% is not difficult."

After all, there was still a last shot, his property. If the case was out of his expectation, he could just transfer his property to the Bank's account.

Chapter 458 The Game (1)

Edward didn't want to disappoint Manuel, so he nodded, "Fine, I trust you."

"Then I should go now."

"Manuel." Edward called him.

"Yes?" Manuel looked at him"

"Justine..." Edward hesitated to finish his words.

Manuel said, "She hasn't been in a good mood recently and is upset about Susan's abortion. So she went on a trip to relax. And I think the relationship between my mother and you... Maybe you should deal with it by yourselves. It will be easier for you without my intervention."

"That's right." Edward didn't say much. Although it was obvious that Justine didn't want to see him these days.

"Then I'll go."

"Okay."

Manuel walked out of Edward's office. He had no idea if his mother still wanted to be with Edward, but he would be supportive no matter what she did. So, he chose to stand by.

Manuel walked into the elevator. It was about lunchtime and he wanted to take the elevator from the chairman's office on the top floor to the canteen on the third floor. It was rush hour. Gradually, the elevator was filled with people. He was pushed to a corner and heard the lightest gossip in the crowd, "Have you seen the news? Mr Johnson and Miss Phillips got divorced! That explains why Miss Phillips and Mr Parker are so intimate. The last time when I saw them doing something fishy in the office, I thought she was cheating on him. It turns out that they've already divorced."

"I don't understand why Miss Phillips doesn't like Mr Johnson. He is cute."

"That doesn't count. Mr Johnson is lame! No one wants to marry a disabled man." A woman said,

"That's true. I would rather choose Mr Parker as well."

"Welcome to the real world." She sighed.

"We'll do the same thing... Sh!" They suddenly stopped because the door opened and another two came in.

They were Susan and Henry, who worked on different floors. It was obvious that Henry went to Susan's office. They behaved themselves in public and just stood side by side. The two gossipy people touched

each other as if they reminded the other to take a look at Susan and Henry. They were spying on scandals.

Soon, they arrived at the third floor. People in the elevator left one by one but Manuel didn't want to eat in the canteen anymore. So he stayed and wanted to go to the ground floor. Just when the door was about to close, someone blocked it by hand suddenly. Susan came in hurriedly and saw Manuel. Her expression altered a little and slowly she walked in.

She forgot her phone and even just lunch, she felt insecure without it. But she never thought that she would run into Manuel. He pressed the button and asked, "Which floor?"

Susan paused and said hurriedly, "13."

Manuel pressed the button for her. The elevator was rising and the two kept silent.

"Why don't you have lunch?" Susan could not help asking.

"I've ordered the food delivery.

"I thought you never ate takeaway food." Susan frowned. She remembered that this man was unbelievably self-disciplined.

"People change," Manuel said stonily.

Susan bit her lips and thought he meant something more. They arrived at the 13th floor soon and Manuel pressed to close when she walked out of the elevator. And the elevator had left when she turned her head. Susan took a deep breath and decided to stay away from him.

...

Manuel came back to his office and ordered a food delivery. After that, he called Hannah, "Hi, Hannah, do I disturb you?"

"No." Hannah just finished the bento made by Max and she was full.

"Why? Anything big?"

"Today the directors of the board said I wasn't qualified."

"And?"

"I shut it out."

"So..."

"I find Henry got a lot of advocates in Phillips Bank."

"I knew." Hannah was calm, "Edward is getting old and pays less attention to the company. He lets Henry make the decision. After all, Henry is quite responsible. So it's reasonable for him to win their respects."

"When you settle it down, I will make arrangements with Phillips Bank's personnel."

"Brilliant." Hannah couldn't agree anymore.

"Just want to tell you what I saw in Phillips Bank. Then, I won't disturb your lunch break."

"Okay."

"Oh, right." Manuel just thought of something, "I've heard that you and Oscar have a baby plan."

"..." How could he say something so embarrassing?

"Good luck to you." Manuel also learned how to tease.

"All right. I'll go," she said.

"Bye."

Hanging up the phone, Hannah could not help touching her belly.

Would they make it this time?

She had never thought about having kids, but she was so nervous that she wanted to be a mother right now because of Oscar. She was easily affected by him.

...

In the afternoon, Hannah was busy when Rose knocked excitedly.

"What?" Hannah looked at her.

"Bills' secretary just called and said he would like to meet you at the hotel he lived in at 10 AM tomorrow to talk about the international e-commerce project." Rose barely controlled herself, "Ms Hannah, what did you say to him at yesterday's banquet? How could he initially give us the chance? It's amazing!"

Hannah chuckled. She didn't think it would be easy. "Okay. I get it. Let Tan in."

"Yes." Rose nodded hurriedly and added, "I am a big fan of you, Ms Hannah."

"That's it, my spaniel."

"I do admire you a lot," Rose said seriously.

"Got that." Hannah waved, "Just go."

She didn't feel excited at all, which made Rose admire her even more.

People like Hannah couldn't fail to be someone, Rose thought to herself.

Soon, Tan walked in, "Ms Hannah, you want to see me?"

Hannah nodded, "Bills Jones just called for cooperation. What do you think?"

Chapter 459 The Game (2) Hannah's Tacit

Tan frowned and thought for a while quietly, "That's hard to say. I think we should wait for the negotiation tomorrow."

Hannah nodded and was satisfied with his prudence.

"We follow the plan first. You wrote a project for the Bead Chain's transition before, right? We can do some changes to it tonight and negotiate with him tomorrow morning."

"Okay." Tan nodded.

"Can we finish it tonight?"

"It should be fine."

"I'll do it with you." Hannah said, "Tell people in our previous e-commerce group. We'll do it together."

"Yes."

"Small meeting room, 20 minutes later. We'll have a discussion."

"Yes."

Hannah said and made the whole process approved. Then she worked on the project with Tan and the group members in the meeting room. There were so many elements of the projects and each of them cost a lot of time. Beginning in the afternoon, they kept working on it until the evening, the night, and the early morning of the next day.

It was 5 AM when they finalized the project. People in the room were so tired that they all slept on the table. But Hannah could not sleep like that, so she stood up and went to her office. She walked out of the meeting room quietly and made a cup of black tea in the break room.

Hannah making the tea, Tan said behind her, "Don't you sleep, Ms Hannah?"

Hannah turned around, "Do you?"

"I was sleepy but now I'm not." Tan smiled, "Maybe because of the excitement, I never thought that we can make such a perfect project in one night. I've heard you for a long time and I am so honoured to see your ability and leadership skills. I'm thinking back to how you made a mess into an ordered project..."

Ms Hannah, I am so glad that I came back to my motherland and it helped me a lot."

"Don't flatter me." Hannah said calmly, "I just have a rich experience and e-commerce is not strange for

me.”

Tan didn't get her but Hannah didn't want to explain, "I'll go home and you should take a rest. We'll negotiate with them tomorrow morning."

"Okay." Tan nodded. Hannah left the break room.

There was some water on the floor but Hannah didn't notice it. She slipped in her high heels.

In a flash, Tan held her quickly. Hannah was in Tan's arms, still in shock.

"You alright?" Tan asked in concern.

Hannah hurriedly stood up from his arms and said, "It's Okay. Thanks."

"Never mind." Tan didn't forget to remind her, "Be careful, Ms Hannah." Hannah nodded and left carefully. She was still frightened and thought how embarrassed she would be if she fell. God blessed her that Tan was there. She didn't know if she was paranoid. She noticed that Tan reacted too fast since they were not very close to each other. If he paused a little, she would fall.

A subtle nuance in Tan's facial expression could be noticed. He slowly clenched his fingers, basking in the afterglow of Hannah's skin, which brought him an outburst of feeling.

...

Hannah went back to the company later than 9 AM. She woke up after a three-hour sleep and went to the hotel Bills lived, with Tan and Rose. As for staff who worked last night, Hannah let them back to rest. It was ten to ten when they arrived at the hotel. Hannah took a deep breath and knocked. The door opened and Bills' assistant said warmly, "Welcome, Ms Hannah. Mr Jones is waiting for you in the meeting room."

She took them to the personal meeting room of the presidential suite. Bills was drinking red wine and sitting beside a floor-to-ceiling window. He was enjoying leisure in November sunlight in Kensbury City. Seeing them come in, he greeted, "Sit, please."

Hannah nodded slightly and sat down near Bills. A waiter inside poured a glass of wine for her. Bills said, "I especially brought it from overseas. Ms Hannah, please."

Hannah picked the glass up and had a taste of it, "Fragrant, mellow, balanced, and lingering."

Bills smiled, "If we can build the international e-commerce platform, high-quality wines like this will be available in Northfield."

"So it's welfare for Northfield's people." Hannah agreed with him.

"I thought a lot about what you said at the banquet and did some investigations on the Bead Chain as you asked. From my perspective, it has huge potential." Bills cut to the chase, "However,"

So, what he wanted to say began with the word "However". Hannah listened carefully.

"It's too small. Although Cooper does its best to make an e-commerce platform, you can't reach my standard within such a short time or even have clouts or better operations. If you do it three months earlier, I will choose you without hesitation. But now, I am sorry." Bills said.

Hannah was poised. She had known that things wouldn't be so easy. But she didn't think that the project they made last night was in vain.

Calmly, she said, "Well, we won't bother you anymore. But I have to say thank you for your time and tell us the reason for your choice. Hope I'll have a chance to cooperate with you one day." Hannah stood up and leaned to shake. Bills looked at her and was shocked by her calm. Usually, people would be disappointed when they were refused, but Hannah could take it, which impressed him. Bills shook and said, "I wish."

Hannah nodded and left with Tan and Rose. Rose was a little angry because they worked for the whole night for the meeting with Bills and he refused them so quickly. She restrained herself again and again

from saying her feelings.

Hannah paused when she was about to walk out of the room. Suddenly, she turned around, "Mr Jones, could you do me a favour?"

"Just say it."

"You're the father of e-commerce and Cooper Group would like to start our business in the area. Could you please take a look at our project and give some advice?"

Chapter 460 The Game (3) Goals Achieved

"Don't flatter me." Bills said, "If you trust me to see the trade secrets, it's my honour to take a look."

"Yes. I want to show you the project just because I trust you."

"Well, then I'll take it. As I didn't choose you to cooperate with, it would be my compensation."

"And I appreciate that." Hannah nodded, "Mind if I borrow your projector?"

"It's okay."

Hannah told Tan to link her computer with it. Bills and his assistant sat on one side. On the other side sat Tan and Rose. Hannah started the speech.

"This is the development concept of our e-commerce platform. In my opinion, in less than 10 years, online consumption will become mainstream, taking at least 60 per cent of the market of offline stores. Even in five years, mobile phones will be able to meet all our daily needs, including eating, taking a taxi, paying, and so on. So, it's very important to transition because trends wait for no one."

Bills nodded and agreed with her.

Hannah kept saying, "This is our e-commerce platform planning. In our view, it is very important to build a complete e-commerce platform, including a convenient operation interface, fast logistics, a large number of merchants, after-sales service, etc. Given these points, we have made the following series of plans..." Hannah showed all aspects of their project little by little even including details like the interface design.

At first, Bills listened critically but it ended up he was impressed by its completeness. He was shocked again.

Hannah spent almost two hours reporting the project they made last night. She said, "What do you think? Mr Jones."

Looking at Hannah, Bills was in silence for a while. And Hannah didn't interrupt him but waited quietly. Bills took a deep breath before he spoke, "I have to say that it's the best project I've ever seen not in Northfield but in the whole world. You are so far-sighted, and even have a better plan for the future than me. Ms Hannah, you make me feel that if I don't cooperate with you, I will regret it."

Hannah smiled, "I don't know, Mr Jones."

"Now I hesitate. Should I abandon Sawyer and cooperate with you?" Bills sounded regretful, "It's a pity that even though your plan is better, it starts too late. What I need now is the scale, so I don't have time to wait for your e-commerce industry. I'm sure that I will be regretful someday. But now, I have no choice."

Bills was in a dilemma. Hannah understood him. A company should never lose in the game with time and they should not delay the project of an international e-commerce platform. Because no one could take responsibility for missing the perfect timing.

"You don't need to make a decision." Hannah said. Bills frowned. "You prefer our project and need Sawyer's scale. Why not have them at the same time?" Hannah raised her brows.

Bills paused and said with surprise, "You mean, I can choose their scale and use your marketing

project?”

“Why not?”

“It’s that okay for you?” Bills was a little confused, “Cooper Group has enough money to make its e-commerce industry and you have such a perfect project. You will be successful sooner or later.”

“Then why do we wait?” Hannah asked back, “Mr Jones, you are the leading figure of e-commerce in the world. For me, cooperating with you is a success. Benefits come in many forms, and money is only one of them. I believe that what I’ll learn from you will be of great help to me. So, I am willing to cooperate with you and build international e-commerce together with Sawyer.”

It was a win-win situation, which Bills had no reason to refuse.

“But,” Bills was a little worried, “Would Sawyer Group agree with that?”

“They have no reason not to.” Hannah was candid, “You choose Sawyer to make an international e-commerce platform, and hire a third party to carry out marketing planning at the same time. This is a common marketing mode. For example, if Cooper Group builds housing complexes, they have partner sales, which hire a team of professionals to sell. It’s called specialization, as an old saying says in Northfield that everyone does what they do best. Only when each does his duty can we do more with less.”

“Great!” Bills said without hesitation. It didn’t cost much time for Hannah to convince him.

“I’ll negotiate with Sawyer as you said. And I’ll let you know if there is any good news.”

“Mr Jones, I think I have to tell you something. When negotiating, please don’t tell them Cooper Group is the third party. Charles and I had a misunderstanding, and if he knows we are the third party, he’d probably say no. However, I promise that I will never bring my grudge into my work. If Cooper Group can take charge of the marketing planning of the whole e-commerce project, we will take our responsibility and do our best.”

“I trust you.” Bills said, “Yesterday, I’ve checked your achievements in commercials and I trust your character. You can rest assured that I have my way of negotiating with Sawyer. You go back and wait for good news.”

“Then I’d like to thank you first.” Hannah stood up. After they shook hands, Hannah left with Tan and Rose. Hannah and Tan were so composed that they would keep their mind clear on any occasion. But Rose was so excited that she thought they wouldn’t get the project. It never came to her that Hannah got that in another way, which made her feel that no matter how difficult the task was, Hannah could solve it without a hitch.

They walked to the elevator and the door opened. Lee was there with Charles, Martina, and a senior manager of Sawyer Group. The expressions of the Sawyer family’s people altered when they saw Hannah.

“You bitch are everywhere.” Martina said through her gritted teeth, “Just like a haunting ghost.”

Hannah gave her a black look, “You’re worse than that. At least, the ghost can haunt. But you, you can do nothing but bark like a dog!”