

Reborn 461

Chapter 461 The Game (4) A Winning Game

“Hannah!” Martina got pissed off immediately.

Hannah was taunting her by saying Manuel wouldn’t love her even though she threw herself on him. Martina was trembling with anger. She was furious when she recalled that Manuel had turned a cold shoulder to her. How she wished she could slap Hannah to death!

But Hannah just didn’t mind her. She simply took her as a nut and appeared very calm and cool. She turned around to throw her eyes on Charles and lowered her eyes to look at the white gauze on the back of his hand. Then she smiled disdainfully for a second.

Charles noticed it and couldn’t look worse. He couldn’t bear it and tried to say something.

“Well, Mr Jones will sign the contract with me if you don’t hurry up.” Hannah pretended to remind him kindly.

“In your dreams!” Martina thundered, “It’s fucking nonsense that your little stupid Bead chain platform wants to compete with Sawyer! Nice try! Do you think we don’t know what Bills wants? He is looking for a large scale, and only Sawyer Group can meet his requirements! Whatever you’re doing now is nothing but asking for an insult!”

“Had known it earlier, I shouldn’t have advised you guys to do online business.”

“Oh shit! Stop being so full of yourself. My brother decided to do online business. You got nothing to do with that!”

Hannah glanced at Charles but didn’t talk back. All the advice and suggestions that she’d given him back then turned out to be his ideas. And no one knew what she’d done for Charles and the Sawyer family. It was the same with the e-commerce platform, which she’d advised Charles to do. She made him the first person to do business online. Honestly speaking, she regretted it. Fortunately, the Sawyer family weren’t smart cookies, and they’d screwed up the brilliant idea.

“Whose idea was it? Your brother knows it better than anyone else! You just don’t believe a word I’m telling you now. And, to be honest, I hate to waste my time with a nobody like you. Excuse me. Please stay out of my way.” Hannah said.

Undoubtedly, the Sawyer family couldn’t take Hannah’s indifference and pride lightly. Until now, they still couldn’t understand why she’d become something else out of the blue. At present, she was uncontrollable and extremely threatening.

But Hannah didn’t talk to them again. Instead, she got on the elevator with Tan and Rose. The Sawyer family got off the elevator when they were in. Rose pressed the down button and the door was closing. Then, Hannah smiled ironically right before the door was shut.

Seeing it, Charles clenched his fists, swearing that he’d make Hannah suffer like hell someday!

Hannah and the others went back to the car. Rose couldn’t help to speak, “The Sawyer family were so arrogant! I’m wondering if they’ll freak out when they get to know Mr Jones’s cooperation model.”

“Freak out?” Hannah appreciated the view through the window and thought it wouldn’t be fun enough if they just freaked out. For some bastard like Charles, she’d better torture him to death.

In the afternoon, Hannah received a call from Bills, who called to tell her that he’d reached an agreement with Sawyer Group and would sign the contract with them two days later. And, Bills would sign the third-party contract with her once he’d signed the contract with Sawyer.

Things were going as she expected.

Then she called Manuel.

“Hello, Manuel.”

“Yes.”

“Bills has reached an agreement with Sawyer Group. Pay attention to the loan they’re gonna take from Phillips Bank this time. More importantly, check and see if the procedure is legal and formal.”

“OK.” Manuel nodded his head and said.

Hannah hung up the phone and waited for the winning game.

One week later, it made the headlines that Sawyer Group and Bills Group had signed the international e-commerce agreement. It was the first international e-commerce project in Northfield, which was considered to be the first cake in the new field. Sawyer had won the project and of course, they were going to whoop it up. And the stock prices of Sawyer Group had been soaring in those few days.

Anyway, it was seen as the most successful project that the Sawyer Group had ever done. Telling from Hannah’s experiences of living ten more years, e-commerce would be one of the fields that could make a fortune in the coming time.

In her previous life, Sawyer Group’s success in e-commerce made it the second wealthiest strong power, ranking right after Wells Group. Later, they bought Cooper Group and became the head of the four strong powers. What a glorious moment!

Undoubtedly, the Sawyer Family yielded to none in the business circle then. Regarding Charles’s career and accomplishments in the City Hall, the wind had been always at his back except that Oscar had defeated him once in a while.

So, to sum up, the Sawyer family had a successful life. Very few people could afford to offend them, but millions of them were eager to play up to them. At that time, Charles was feeling superior to others, as if he was the god-favoured one. But, it wouldn’t happen again in this life.

Hannah received a call from Bills, inviting her to join a dinner party tonight. He’d made a deal on the international e-commerce project in Northfield, and was about to leave the next morning. So, he invited Hannah and the Sawyer family to have dinner.

Hannah went to the dinner party with Tan, as she’d expected a lot from him. Well, she’d take over Cooper Group sooner or later, and she’d need a hand then. So far, Tan had won her favour, so she’d placed a great expectation on him.

Hannah dressed up delicately on purpose tonight. She was born to be gorgeous and looked more stunning after the dress-up.

“Ms Hannah, sometimes people overlook your ability because of your beauty.” Tan looked at her pretty face and couldn’t help to say.

Indeed, people in Northfield seldom met any drop-dead gorgeous woman like her. The actresses in the entertainment world were lacking charisma and the strong aura field that she had.

“Oh? Did you?” Hannah smiled carelessly.

She wouldn’t be so stupid as to hide all her bright sides again. She used to put on oversized clothes to cover her perfect body shape only because Charles said he didn’t want her to keep a high profile. As a result, she was titled an old-fashioned housewife, who had a pretty face but bad taste.

“How dared I!” Tan took a stand immediately.

“Good, then.” Hannah flicked her fine hair lightly with her hand. Then she went into the VIP private room confidently in high heels.

The staff opened the door for her.

She attracted everyone’s attention as soon as she went in. That was what she was! It seemed she had the magic to keep people’s attention. Even women couldn’t resist her beauty, not to mention men. Even

those women who hated her had to admire that Hannah was born to be so stunning.

Martina gazed at Hannah ferociously. She was jealous of her and wanted to know what she was doing there! Wasn't this Bills' private dinner party? What position was Hannah in to show up so dazzlingly with those two?

Martina wondered if she could have been more shameless, and wondered why she still wanted to meddle in it since she knew Bills had signed the contract with Sawyer Group.

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While Martina, Charles and Loretta were still taken aback, Bills stood up from his seat and went over to Hannah with a warm welcome, "There you are, Ms Hannah. Come over and take a seat."

"Sorry. I'm late. I was stuck in the traffic." Hannah explained properly and gave him a gift, "Mr Jones, I brought you a gift. A souvenir from Northfield. Hope you like it."

"Thank you, Ms Hannah. It's very thoughtful of you." Bills said and looked very happy.

To his surprise, Hannah knew the manners and rituals. And, it had embarrassed the Sawyer family, because none of them had thought of anything like giving a gift.

"Please take a seat." Bills said hospitably to Hannah. Together with Tan and Rose, Hannah sat down at the big round table.

Lee had been around and still could manage to talk calmly after he saw Hannah showing up and giving a gift, "Surprised to see you here, Hannah." He said in a tone of kindness.

Hannah acted to be very polite, too. She smiled and greeted them sweetly.

Martina gave Hannah a disdainful look, wondering when Hannah had become so good at acting! As far as she could remember, Hannah was a stupid girl who'd believe whatever she said. But she couldn't imagine the one before was so hypocritical and good at pretending at the moment.

What a bitch! Martina stared at Hannah and gnashed.

Hannah shrugged Martina off. For some girls like Martina Sawyer, she would simply be full of herself if she took her seriously. On the contrary, she would be desperate if she was ignored.

"Don't you know that, Mr Sawyer?" Hannah spoke, with a bright and innocent smile.

"What?" Lee frowned. He knew that she was pretending and he couldn't bear it. And, it was true.

Hannah was giving them a taste of their own medicine, and knocking some sense into them.

"Oh, Mr Jones," Hannah looked at Bills and acted cute. Hearing her very soft and sweet voice, Rose got goosebumps all over. Rose, who spent most of the days together with Hannah, couldn't stand it, let alone the the Sawyer family. Probably, they were about to blow their tops any time.

"Ah, right! I've been swamped and forgot to tell Mr Sawyer." Bills chimed in with Hannah and said,

"Didn't I tell you I invited a third party to do the marketing planning when we negotiated the contract? I think you lack experience in running an e-commerce platform. And you've agreed on it and we've put it clearly in the contract."

Charles guessed who was the third party straight away.

"I read Cooper Group's marketing plan for the e-commerce platform, and it was perfect and suitable for our project. So, I've signed the marketing planning contract with them, which means, Cooper Group will be responsible for the marketing planning of our international e-commerce platform. And, we'll split 10% of the profit to Cooper as the marketing planning expenses." Bills added.

"But you didn't tell us it was Cooper Group!" Lee couldn't accept it, as they'd believed tacitly that Bills would give the job to a professional team from abroad. After all, e-commerce didn't have a promising prospect in Northfield, and they'd also agreed to pay the third party to do the marketing planning at the

first beginning. They weren't sure if they could do the project well and they doubted it deep in their heart. So, they said yes to Bills' suggestion without hesitation. However, they hadn't imagined the third-party professional team turned out to be Cooper Group. That was unacceptable!

If the news that Sawyer had signed an international e-commerce project, whose marketing planning would be handled by Cooper, spread over the crowd, wouldn't it mean Sawyer wasn't as capable as Cooper and incapable of doing the job well?

They had been suffering defeat by Cooper Group recently. They thought they could turn the table with this project. However, it turned out to be another burning shame!

"You didn't ask me, either. And I've asked for your advice to see if we'd have to select the third-party company together. But you all told me that you trust me and let me make the call. You would just provide the platform." Bills went right to the point.

Lee was lost for words since he hadn't expected the result. Had he known it, he would never have given him a yes. Then he turned around to glance at Charles, who was looking like shit at the time.

Unlike the project of South Bay New Town, he wouldn't suffer any economic losses this time. But, they would lose all the reputation. And it would be a great insult to them. He stared at Hannah in rage and ferocity. Hannah didn't chicken out, looking Charles back in the eyes to provoke him as if she was saying she would never go easy on him but he just could do nothing with her.

"It's settled. Sawyer Group and I will build the e-commerce platform together, and Cooper will be in charge of the specific marketing planning and the relevant operations of online business." Bills said and pretended not to see the conflicts between them, "I'm leaving Northfield tomorrow. I hope you can work well with each other to deal with the matters of the project. Let me know immediately if you meet something out of control. I'll be on call 24/7. Besides, my assistant will stay here to be in full charge of Bills Group. You can turn to him for everything."

"OK." Said Hannah.

"So much for it. Wish us a smooth cooperation." Bills said and raised the wine glass.

The Sawyer family raised the wine glasses reluctantly as well, and Hannah lifted a water glass. When she went into the private room, she told Rose to ask the waitress to bring her a glass of water.

"Sorry that I can only drink water at this special time." She explained.

"Oh? What's so special?" Bills amused her. He had a better sense of humour.

"Are you on period?" he said.

"Nope." Hannah explained, "I'm preparing for pregnancy."

"Oh, I see." Bills nodded and said, "No alcohol then."

"Thanks for understanding, Mr Jones."

Bills was in a good mood tonight, for he had closed the deal perfectly and could leave for home the next day. And that explained it. People at the table had drunk a lot with him as well, except Hannah.

Hannah went to the restroom to powder her nose midway and found Charles waiting for her at the door the moment she got out. She glanced at him and said coldly, "Do you want to lose your right hand as well?" She threatened him

Chapter 463 The Game (6) Will Never Fall in Love with You

"Must you meddle in everything now, Hannah?" Charles gnashed.

Hannah had acted against him in every way since they failed to tie the knot, and she would have a hand in whatever he was doing.

"Oh, did I?" Hannah put on a pretty smile.

He had no idea when Hannah had become so drop-dead gorgeous. In his memory, she had a pretty face but she wasn't so attractive. He thought he still had a thing for her.

No! That wasn't gonna happen! By no means would he love her. To him, Hannah was nothing but a stepping stone in his life. And right now she was a stumbling block to him. So, he must get rid of her to spare all later troubles.

"Will you freak out if I tell you I just can't bear to see you are living a good life?" Hannah looked at him and said with an extremely charming smile. Charles felt his heart leaping, but he managed to calm down and appeared indifferent, "Sooner or later, you'll be sorry for whatever you've done!"

Hannah snorted coldly, "This is exactly what I'm gonna say. By the way, what goes around comes around. Karma is a bitch!"

Charles clenched his fists. Then Hannah went past him directly.

"Are you gonna have a baby with Oscar?"

She heard Charles's voice from behind. Hearing it, Hannah swallowed. When speaking of babies, she couldn't help to think of whatever she had suffered in the Sawyer family in her previous life, and she wished she could make them lose all the money and reputation right away.

"Hannah, look before you leap. We all know what kind of person Oscar is! He cares about you only because he's obsessed with your body. Once the novelty wears off, he'll dump you. And you'll regret it to have his child!" Charles reminded her on purpose.

Hannah didn't want to mind him because it made her sick to talk with him again considering what he'd done to her back then.

"Oh. When did you get so kind?" She looked back and said.

"We're acquaintances, I don't want to see you in a difficult position."

"Somehow, I think you're jealous."

"You're talking nonsense!"

"You can't wait to see me suck in my life! How was it possible you were so kind to give me a hint? You are jealous of the love between Oscar and me." Hannah despised him, "Charles, I suggest you not fall in love with me. After all..."

Charles looked gloomy in a second. Hannah uttered the words one by one, "I'LL NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU. YOU'RE WORSE THAN A MONSTER!"

"Hannah, you..." Charles was green in the face, mad and out of control. He stepped forward and tried to grab Hannah.

Jimmy took a step forward and guarded Hannah behind his back. Hannah learned from her mistakes and would never let Charles have his way again. She'd told Jimmy to stay with her any time.

"You want a piece of me? Try me!" Jimmy put on a straight face and threatened him coldly. Of course, Charles knew Jimmy was good at fighting, and he also knew he would be the one to look for a knuckle sandwich if he stirred up the fight first.

He gritted his teeth and said to Hannah ferociously, "Just wait and see!"

Then, he strode away arrogantly.

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Hannah returned to the private room and saw Bills was still high in spirit. The dinner party went well and everyone was in harmony. But it didn't last long because Bills had to fly the next morning. So, it ended at 9 pm.

Hannah left with Tan and Rose after she saw Bills off. She didn't want to stay with the Sawyer Family for one more second.

The Sawyers watched her leaving and flew into a rage. The dinner party was like an insult to them. And they had fallen into Hannah's trap.

"That little bitch! I hate her guts. How I wish I could finish her!" Martina said harshly.

"I also got barking mad. It made me sick to see her sucking up to Bills. What a shameless slut!" Loretta was pissed off. Loretta was always the eye-catcher at dinner parties, but Hannah had stolen her show tonight. She'd held back her anger and didn't vent it out until now.

"When can we knock some sense into her? Seriously, I've had enough of her!" Martina turned to Charles and said, "Charles, figure out something to deal with that arrogant bitch!"

Undoubtedly, Charles looked awkward.

Figure out something? What else could he do with her? It seemed Hannah was afraid of nothing and she could handle everything with ease. Instead, he'd got a stronger feeling that he was digging his own grave as he did more against Hannah.

To his surprise, Charles hadn't imagined he would be threatened badly by Hannah, the woman whom he'd always looked down upon.

"Let's go home first." Lee said coldly, "Anyway, we've got the Collins family to back us up. I believe we can destroy the Coopers!"

Charles thought that way at first. But now he must come up with something to find his footing since the Collins family was getting disappointed with him. He couldn't allow Hannah to stand in his way and ruin his grand undertaking.

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A week later, Hannah went to the Sawyer Group building with her e-commerce team to discuss the marketing planning. Martina received them. Normally, Lee was supposed to be present in the first place, and his absence would be considered an embarrassment to Hannah, but Hannah didn't give a damn. After all, all she needed to do was give them work.

She turned to Martina and said, "Right now we're working on the marketing and what we want most from your esteemed company now is the funding. Here's the budget for the project and the specific time of transfer. Just get the money ready as arranged if you don't have any other questions."

Martina took it over and went through it. They signed the contract with Bills at the negotiated price of one billion. But they didn't have enough working capital in hand considering Sawyer Group's poor management and not-so-good business. She acted calm in case others saw her through, "Money is no big deal, but I should report to my father first. And when can the money be ready? You can call and check with me tomorrow."

Martina was putting on airs as if Hannah was supposed to report her work to her.

Hannah smiled coldly and said, "Martina, I'm afraid you don't know your position quite well. As a third-party project planning company, Mr Jones clarified our responsibilities when we signed the contract. We're in full charge of the marketing planning, your company and Mr Jones will have to listen to me and act up to my arrangements. In other words, you must give me a definite answer on the funding by 6 PM today. Remember it. You must report to me. Otherwise, your company would have to take full responsibility if you pulled back the process and caused related economic losses."

Chapter 464 The Game (7) The Under-the-Table Deal

Martina was furious to hear Hannah's words. She'd always been arrogant and superior to others and ordered much other senior staff in this way. But surprisingly, Hannah didn't buy it and gave her a hard time.

She gritted her teeth, "You just want the money, right? I've told you it was no big deal to Sawyer Group. I don't give a shit on the so-called time of transfer. All in all, we can get the money ready. Don't put on the dog in front of us, and don't ever try to make us take the blame when you screw up the marketing planning of the project."

"No worries. As long as Sawyer is ready to cooperate and do its job, I'll take full responsibility if the marketing planning fails." Hannah said while packing up her documents, "Now that you don't have any other questions about it, please make the first transfer to the specified account next Monday."

Saying it, Hannah left smartly. Watching her walking so confidently, Martina couldn't be more jealous. Then, she picked up the phone to call her brother.

"Charles, Hannah just come over and told us to get the money ready. I'll send you the fund plan. Take a look at it."

"OK. I'll get back to you."

"OK."

In her eyes, her brother was an all-mighty problem solver.

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In the City Hall, Charles hung up on Martina and went out to the outdoor smoking zone. He lit a cigarette, made sure no one else was there and made the call, "Henry."

"Yes?"

"Have you got the one billion ready as I told you earlier?"

"Its capital flow is smooth. You can apply for a loan through the legal and formal procedure."

"Legal and formal procedure? Are you fucking kidding me?" Charles flew into a rage. He had mortgaged everything but his shares in Sawyer Group. But he couldn't take the risk of losing the shares. It would end in disaster if someone took advantage of it.

"They're very strict with the bank loan now and they'll go through many procedures and examine lots of documents as well, especially when you're gonna apply for such a big loan."

"I don't care. Just figure it out!" Charles ordered coldly, "Anyway, figure out something and get that one billion for me!"

Henry didn't want to do that.

"Henry, you'd better not forget that we're in the same boat now. I've kept the evidence of the fact that you caused Susan's car accident. At worst, I'll reveal the truth and both of us will be screwed!"

Henry gritted his teeth, thinking Charles was different from what others thought he was. He was evil and tricky! He'd never want to work with someone like him if he had had a choice back then.

"Call me back by 5 pm today!" Charles said it and hung up the phone. He was sure that Henry could get it done.

Henry had worked in Phillips Bank for years and it was pretty easy for him to do it under the table. But he just didn't want to take the risks for Charles! However, he didn't have a choice, and there was no way back.

Henry had figured it out and pulled the strings, but he was so cautious that he wouldn't give in till the last minute.

At 5 pm, Charles called Henry on time, "Have you made up your mind? You should have called me back!" Charles said impatiently.

"You can mortgage your real estate like the house properties if you don't want to mortgage your shares." Henry said.

"Damn it. I'd have done that if I could." Charles looked bloody cold since he'd mortgaged all his house

properties already.

“All I can help is to estimate your house properties to the highest values, which means, I’ll make it to half a billion or even more if your house is worth only one hundred million, then you can get the loan. But it’s risky. It’ll be fine if no one reviews it. Once we get caught having broken the rules, we’ll have to take the due responsibilities. So, you’d better pay off the loan within half a year. Normally, they don’t focus on reviewing the loans that have been paid back.”

“The point is, I don’t have any more house to mortgage now!” Charles gritted his teeth. Sawyer Group’s capital chain had almost broken! And it was like a shell company.

“Forge it?” Henry said, “Forge two house property certificates. I can skip the reviewing part and grant the loan directly.” Henry said bluntly.

Charles thought of it and realized it was the last chance, then he said, “OK. I’m on it.”

“You’d better come tomorrow morning. It’s Saturday and most of the staff will be off. It’ll be easier to do it with fewer people around.” Henry suggested.

“OK.”

“I’ll wait for you tomorrow.”

“OK.”

Charles had never imagined he would be so fucked up. In no time, he made some calls to forge two fake house property certificates. He chose the most expensive area and each house was worth more than three hundred million, which meant it would be valued at around one billion in total. And, it looked reasonable on the surface.

Charles, Lee and Martina went for Henry on Saturday morning.

Henry finished the relevant procedures for them quickly and then called Edward, “Mr Chairman.”

“What’s the matter?”

“Sawyer Group is applying for an urgent loan of one billion to start their e-commerce project. They mortgaged their house properties in Panket Island, whose estimated market price is about one billion. The loan term is half a year. I’ve finished the procedures here. Please check and approve it. The financial department will have to grant the loan today.”

“When did Lee buy two houses on Panket Island?” Edward was surprised and murmured to himself. But he agreed without a second thought while Henry was still thinking of what to say in reply, “OK. Finish the procedures and I’ll check and approve it.”

Anyway, it was only half a year, and he didn’t doubt it since he’d signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Sawyer Group.

“OK.” Henry took a deep breath. He was quite nervous since this was the first time he had cooked the book. He turned to the Sawyer family, “We can grant the loan after Edward checks and approves it later. Don’t forget to repay it within half a year. We’ll have to answer for it if we get caught.”

“Don’t worry. It’s for a temporary capital turnover. Probably, we can pay it back within half a year.

We’re investing in international e-commerce and the payoff period will be in three months, tops.”

“Anyway, bear it in mind,” Henry said with anxiety.

“OK, OK.” Charles ran out of patience and said, “Let me know when you grant the loan. We gotta go.” He always thought little of Henry and thus behaved so boorishly in front of him.

Henry coldly watched them leaving, thinking the Sawyer Family would be OK if they could make a killing, otherwise, they would end up losing everything!

Chapter 465 The Game (8) Have Something on Him

When Hannah received a call from Manuel, she was sitting on the toilet, down in spirit. She was on her period again! It was hard for her to get pregnant in her previous life because she was on pills. But whose problem was it now?

She answered the phone and said weakly, "Hey, Manuel."

"The Sawyer family just left Phillips Bank."

"Probably, they came for the loan."

"Bingo!" Manuel said, "They applied for a loan of one billion. The loan term is half a year."

"What did they mortgage?"

"House properties."

"Where?"

"Panket Island."

"Fake." Hannah was sure of it.

Cooper Group had developed and built big and tall houses on the sea on Panket Island, which was good selling. Almost every family in the upper class had bought one. Apart from that, it had also attracted many out-of-town rich men, who had bought the houses for their own families or investment. It was a hit. But the Sawyer family didn't follow the crowd.

She still remembered that Martina was into the house and wanted one for herself, but the Sawyer Family couldn't afford it, so they had to drop the idea. Right at the time, Hannah could be sure that their house property certificates were fake.

"I'll come up with something to get the electronic copy of Charles's procedures on taking out the loan," Manuel said.

"Be careful. Don't alert them."

"Sure. Consider it done."

"Are you still working on Saturday?" Hannah said.

"I've got nothing else to do."

"Really?"

"Or?"

"I thought you were lonely."

"What are you getting at?"

"Nothing. Get back to your work." Hannah said with a smile.

Manuel smiled lightly as well.

Hannah hung up on Manuel and got up from the toilet. Then she put on clean underwear, put in a tampon and lay on the bed with huge disappointment. She picked up the phone to text Oscar since she didn't feel like making a call.

"I'm on period again."

She waited for at least five minutes before she got his reply, "OK."

OK? Probably, he didn't know what to say in reply.

"Don't be disappointed. I'll work harder on it." Oscar texted again, "And I'll be back next month. Then we'll have plenty of time to make babies."

"Oscar..." Hannah hesitated.

Oscar called her instead, "What's wrong?"

Hannah pursed her lips and hesitated for a long while, "Maybe, you need to get physical."

What? Oscar was speechless to hear such words.

"I do trust you, but I still believe it's better to get a physical examination. It's said that people will have a

problem with fertility if they sleep around.” Hannah said.

Oscar freaked out and said, “Mrs Wells, your husband doesn’t sleep around.”

“I know you’ve been very committed since we got married, but the old times counted.” Hannah retorted, “Anyway, it’s better to do the pre-pregnancy physical examination. We’ll face up to it together if there is any problem.”

“Are you so sure that it’s my problem?” Oscar said. No matter how a man minded it when it came to something like this.

“I’m healthy,” Hannah said firmly. She had done the examination several times in her last life because she couldn’t carry a child, and the results were all good. So, there was nothing wrong with her.

“I’ll go with you when you come back next time,” Hannah said in a kind of bossy tone.

“OK.” Oscar agreed. He would prove it to her since she wanted him to.

“I need to take a nap. Bye.” Hannah was low in spirit, “I’ll have to do something big in a couple of days. Now I need to pull myself together.”

“You’ve got something on Charles?”

“It’s up to Manuel.” Hannah was confident and said, “But I believe he can do it.”

“Then I’ll just sit back and wait for the winning game.”

“Mm? What do you mean?” Hannah frowned.

“You’re gonna get rid of one of my mortal enemies. Don’t you think I’m gonna benefit from it?” Oscar said naturally.

Right! Charles and Oscar were mortal enemies to each other! Only God knows she would relive her life someday and marry Oscar, the mortal enemy of Charles!

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On Monday, Hannah received the transfer from Sawyer Group. Soon after that, Charles called her.

“Keep the money safe, Hannah!”

“For God’s sake, the money isn’t for me, OK? I’ll send the list of detailed accounts to you as well as Mr Jones.” Hannah was vigilant in front of Charles all the time.

But Charles was just showing off.

“Haven’t you thought that we didn’t have the money? Do you think Sawyer is still in deep water? Huh, funny! You know what, we can invest another one billion! It’s like a piece of cake!” Charles said arrogantly.

Hearing it, Hannah smiled coldly. Charles was walking on air at the time, but he would be like a drowned mouse later.

She spent the following time devoting herself to the international e-commerce project. She had to open up international channels within half a month, realize the function of international online shopping and then begin the marketing campaigns and attracting investments.

Hannah finished arranging the relevant work.

Rose went back to the office with her and said, “Ms Hannah, you’re going all out to help Sawyer Group with the e-commerce project. Right, we’ve got the word of mouth and it’ll all owe to us if the project is a success, which can enormously improve our reputation. But in fact, we’re making profits for Sawyer.

They’re being taunted and despised by the outside world but after all, they’ll be the biggest beneficiary.

Once the e-commerce project goes well and successfully, Sawyer will take most of the profits! Just forget about other companies, but Ms Hannah, are you sure you wanna help Sawyer Group so hard since they’ve always directed at us?”

“Who said I was helping them?” Hannah turned to Rose and said, “I’m doing it for myself.”

Rose couldn't get it, because Sawyer Group and Bills' company would take most of the profits, while Cooper Group could only get 10% of it.

"Just do as I said." Hannah changed the topic quickly, "How much we've spent on the project so far?"

"Around six hundred million." Rose said, "We'll have to make an advance payment of two hundred million next week. To sum up, we'll leave no more than one hundred million as working capital."

"I'd like to take a look at the financial statements. If there's nothing wrong with it, send them to Sawyer Group and Bills Group. Make sure they'll stamp on it and send it back."

"OK, Ms Hannah."

"Get back to your work then."

"OK." Rose said and left.

Hannah leafed through the documents in hand, thought of it and called Manuel.

"Hi, Manuel, you've got the copy, right?"

"Yep," Manuel said.

"Talk to Henry first as we've planned."

"Right."

"But, think twice before you do." Hannah reminded, "Think it over and decide if you want to spare Henry."

Chapter 466 The Game (9) Threaten Henry

Manuel fell into long silence in the office. He knew what Hannah meant. If he spared Henry, it meant he was gonna lose Susan forever. If not, Henry would fall out with the Phillips family. He wasn't sure whose side Susan would be on.

He picked up a cigarette and stood up from the chair without the help of the walking stick. His left leg could stand his weight but still limped while walking. He stood by the French window, smoking in a daze. In the end, he chose to leave him be.

He'd made up his mind long ago and couldn't eat his words out of the blue. He had tried but it didn't make any difference. Now, he would not change what had happened. He put out the cigarette and dialled a number.

"Henry."

"Manuel?" there came Susan's voice from the other end of the phone.

Manuel pursed his lips and said, "I'd like to speak to Henry."

"He's cooking. What's the matter?" Susan was confused.

"About work."

"It's Saturday today!" Susan said unhappily.

"OK. Then I'll call him on Monday." Saying it, Manuel was about to hang up.

"Hold on." Susan stopped him, "I'll give the phone to him." She was afraid that Henry would miss something important.

"Thanks," Manuel said politely and distantly.

Susan suddenly got upset for no reason, but she was calm, then she gave the phone to Henry, "Honey, your phone."

"Who is it?"

"Manuel."

Henry frowned tightly.

"He said it was about work."

“OK, honey. Please keep an eye on the broiled pork in the pan. Be careful not to get burned by the boiling oil.” Henry took over the phone and told Susan softly.

“OK.”

Manuel heard that, too. They were lovey-dovey there. Then he heard Henry’s indifferent voice, “What’s up?”

“You got a minute? I’d like to talk with you.” Manuel said.

“You know I’m in Susan’s place. So, no.”

“OK. I can wait.” Manuel said peacefully.

“About what?” Henry still couldn’t help to ask.

“About work.” Manuel continued, “I can’t tell you clearly over the phone. We’d better talk about it face to face.”

“Urgent?”

“Yes.”

“I’ll go meet you after lunch. Where are you?”

“In the office.”

“I’ll see you in your office at 2 pm.”

“OK.”

Henry hung up the phone and went into the kitchen from afar, then told Susan, “Manuel said there was work for me, and told me to meet him in his office at 2 pm.”

“He must do it on purpose! He’s so annoying! Didn’t he know it’s Saturday?” Susan was pissed.

“Maybe it’s something important.”

“I think he’s making it hard for you,” Susan said firmly.

Henry didn’t say a word and looked like he was sucking it. He intended to make Susan hate Manuel.

“He’s my boss. Don’t be mad. We’ve got another day tomorrow, right? I’ll take you out to the field and have a walk.”

“OK. Deal!” Susan heard it and burst out smiling.

“Deal.”

They cooked and ate together and looked sweet. It was different when she stayed with Manuel, a cold fish.

Manuel sat in his office and answered the phone, “Mum.”

“Did you eat well today?” Justine asked.

“Yep, sure.” Manuel looked at the fast food on the desk and said.

“Really?” Justine doubted it, “Are you eating fast food?”

“Yep.”

“I’ve told you not to. It does no good to your stomach.” Justine got mad and said, “You and Oscar have the tummy bug. It’s a family disease. I told you so many times to take care of your stomach. Well, I’ll just call Tia to come back to cook and deliver the food to your office.”

“Don’t overreact. That’s way too much.”

“I insist. I’ll tell Tia to move to your apartment right away...”

“Mum, chill out. Tia is a young girl, but if you tell her to move into my apartment, that will ruin her reputation. People are gonna gossip and judge her. How can she marry a good guy in the future?”

Manuel suggested, “Let’s do it like this. Tia won’t live in my place. Just tell her to bring me meals every day. That’s it.”

“It will work” Justine agreed without hesitation, “In a word, take care of yourself. I don’t want to see you

ruin yourself because of Susan.”

“I won’t.” Manuel denied it.

“I don’t buy it.”

“Mum, Edward asked about you the other day.” Manuel switched the topic.

“He’s called, but I don’t want to be with him right now. Stay out of it.” Justine said carelessly.

“Edward is good to you.”

“We’ll see.” Justine seemed to be uninterested in it, “I’m up to my neck. Gotta run.”

“OK.” Manuel put down the phone, looked at the unsavoury fast food in front of him, and stopped taking another bite of it.

At 2 pm, someone knocked at the door.

“Come in,” Manuel said coldly. Henry pushed the door open and looked back to say to someone, “Wait for me in the office. I’ll be back when I’m done.”

Manuel couldn’t see who was at the door, but he could have guessed it right. Then he saw Henry close the door and walk in.

He put on a poker face and said impatiently, “What is it about?”

Manuel glanced at him and said, “About Sawyer Group’s one-billion loan.”

Hearing it, Henry looked a little panic in his eyes, though he had tried hard to hide it.

“It’s done through the formal procedures. What’s the problem with it?” Henry said impatiently.

Manuel took out a copy of the mortgage statement instead of arguing with him.

Henry frowned. He had told people in the archives office that no one could make a copy of this set of documents, and that they must let him know first even the Mr Chairman wanted it. But how did Manuel get that? He remained calm but was thinking hard in his mind.

Of course, Manuel didn’t get it directly from the archives office.

All documents on file must be reviewed and approved online, and the electronic records were the top secrets of the clients. Only one person in the company had access to them. No one else could acquire the files unless he got the signatures of approval from the board. Besides, only the judicial department could be accessible to them. All in all, it was a hell of a job. Henry never imagined that Manuel could have acquired an electronic copy of the document.

Undoubtedly, Manuel didn’t acquire it through the formal procedure as well. He hacked the company intranet and stole the file. But there was no need for him to explain everything to Henry. Then he took the two house property certificates in hand and said, “They’re fake.”

Chapter 467 The Game (10) Cornered

Henry was shocked and panicked in a second since he hadn’t expected he’d get busted so soon. More importantly, Manuel had cut to the heart. He’d always thought little of Manuel. In his eyes, Manuel wasn’t good at anything, but just got Edward to back him up, and he was a super nerd. To his surprise, Manuel busted him in such a short time.

“You processed the one-billion loan for Sawyer Group, right?” Manuel asked.

“What are you getting at?” Henry said and looked like shit. He knew nothing good would happen since he’d been caught by Manuel, so he just went straight to the point.

“According to the rules and regulations of Phillips Bank, you’ll be demoted or fired if you’re guilty of dereliction of duty. But, if you’re found to be an accomplice, you’ll be...” Manuel said bluntly, “you’ll be charged with fraud.”

Henry looked terrible. He clenched his fists and stared at Manuel ferociously. Considering how much

Manuel hated him, he bet Manuel would call the police and send him to jail. It involved the Sawyer Group, who would not take the blame themselves. Out of question, they would tell the police that he was an accomplice. Since he didn't have the evidence to prove he was innocent, there was a big chance that he would be charged and sentenced.

Henry had thought it over in a long run, but surprisingly, he was caught by Manuel. And, it happened so fast. He had been doomed before he could think the world of Manuel!

Manuel coldly watched Henry's changing look and said, "I can help you."

Henry looked at him and found it unbelievable. Then he said sarcastically, "You can help me? Manuel, how can you help me? You hate me and you just wish to kill me!"

"You've over-thought it," Manuel said lightly.

"Why will you help me? I've taken your loved one away, and you just can't wait to see me perish! Drop the act, Manuel! Just bring it on!" Henry said in rage.

"Honestly speaking, I once loved Susan, but it was gone. I have my new life now and she's only part of the past. Besides, I don't take it personally. You are a talent, and you've worked at Phillips Bank for many years. You're good at something, and it'll be a big loss to Phillips Bank if we just watch you leave without doing anything. I'll measure your value as well."

Henry looked Manuel up and down and couldn't believe what he had said.

"Sawyer Group defrauded us out on the loan of one billion with two fake house property certificates. Sawyer is our strategic cooperation partner, so we didn't check and review their issued assets strictly out of mutual trust. Moreover, they were in urgent need of the loan, so we approved their application quickly. Not long after that, Henry Parker, manager of the customer service department, reviewed the files and found those two house property certificates they provided were fake. Hereby, we'll sue Sawyer Group for fraud, requesting them to pay back the loan of one billion together with the interest." Manuel was telling him the way to solve the problem logically.

Henry stared at him in rage and said, "You mean, you want me to sue Sawyer Group?"

"First, get yourself out of trouble and prove you're not their accomplice. Second, make up for your mistake. You made a mistake in the process but you found it out and made up for it on time. I believe the board will pull their punches." Manuel told the reasons.

"In that case, the Sawyer family will kill me!" Henry blurted out.

Manuel threw his eyes on him, so he could be sure that Henry had made a deal with the Sawyer Family under the table.

"Here's the solution I offer you. Take the time to think it over. If you don't do as said, I'll hand the evidence to the judicial department and let them get involved to investigate it. And it'll be their call if you'll be charged with dereliction of duty or committing a crime." Manuel cut to the chase. He had said everything needed. And it was Henry's choice.

"I'll call the police if you don't get back to me by next Monday." Manuel gave him a deadline, "Just a heads-up. You'd better not ask the Sawyer family for advice. Once you do, you'll be the only one to take the fall! I guess you get what I meant."

Henry said nothing. Of course, he was lost for words at the time.

"You can go now," Manuel said lightly.

Henry glanced at him, feeling the pressure. He was surprised by this man, not only because Manuel had something on him, but because he could have done it with skills and ease. He did it quietly but quite powerfully, which made Henry tense though he had been in the business circle for years.

He got out of Manuel's office and returned to his. Susan was playing a video game on the sofa and

looked a little surprised to see him, "Done?"

Normally, meetings took more than one hour. But he was there for about twenty minutes only.

"Yes. Done."

"What was it?" Susan was occupied with her phone and asked him at the same time.

"Nothing much."

"Then why did he talk to you alone?" Susan looked unhappy and said, "He's made a fuss of it."

Henry said nothing else. He just sat down on his office chair, pretending to take care of his work. He couldn't stop thinking about whatever Manuel had told him just now. Without a doubt, he left him no choice at all. If he did as Manuel said, it would be impossible for him to win a bigger success with the help of the Sawyer Family. The more he thought of it, the more desperate he got! At that moment, how he wish he could tear Manuel into pieces!

...

Manuel sent Henry away and called Hannah, "I've talked to Henry."

"Already?" Hannah was surprised to hear it.

"Yep. Get it done sooner and get over it."

"I mean, you've made up your mind within such a short time?"

"Yeah. Long ago." Manuel sounded very indifferent.

"OK." Hannah stopped it, "What did Henry say?"

"He'll sleep on it. But, as far as I know, Henry, he'll probably choose to sue Sawyer Group."

"So, it means Sawyer Group must pay back the loan and will take the legal liability of fraud?"

"Yes."

"OK. I'll take care of the rest. Keep an eye on Henry."

"OK."

Hannah put down the phone, thinking that Sawyer Group was going to suffer a heavy loss this time!

...

Manuel was done with Henry and didn't stay in the office for too long. He had a stomachache and planned to go home for a rest. He got on the elevator and pressed the button for the underground parking. The door was open when the elevator had gone down one floor. Then, he saw Susan waiting there, and she hesitated a little when seeing him inside. However, she still went in.

Chapter 468 The Game (11)

The door closed. Susan and Manuel stood together in the elevator, with no one to speak, the atmosphere being a bit stiff.

"Why did you assign work on the weekend?" Susan broke the ice since she couldn't bear the suffocated atmosphere.

Manuel didn't answer.

"Are you trying to get back at him?"

He still made no answer.

"Manuel, I hope you do not mix personal matters with work." Seeing that she seemed invisible in Manuel's eyes, Susan got kind of annoyed.

"You outrank Henry now, but the tables will turn; maybe he will get ahead of you in a few days. You should be clear that Phillips Bank is the business of my family, which my father will never give to an outsider."

Manuel just listened, making no reaction.

“Manuel Johnson!” Susan was furious, “Have you lost your tongue? How dare you ignore me?”

“Because I don’t know how to answer.”

“Then you assented to it, yeah? What I said is right, and you have run out of ammunition.”

“Whatever you say,” said Manuel nonchalantly. His lukewarm attitude drove her crazy.

“You are a plague! Martina will dump you sooner or later!” She grounded out between clenched teeth.

Manuel kept his eyes on the numbers on the elevator screen. When the door opened, he strode out, not being disturbed by what she said. Seeing him out, Susan followed him angrily, only to find that it was the basement. Shit! She was almost driven wild. She should have arrived on the ground floor to call a taxi.

Henry said he would work late and let her go back home first. For fear of disturbing Henry, Susan decided to take a taxi home, as she dared not to drive herself. However, now she was in the basement garage due to Manuel’s disturbance-it was no big deal, but it angered her so much that her face went red, especially when the black car drove past her. Susan couldn’t help but scream, setting off all the car alarms in the garage. She went back into the elevator sullenly. While angry, it occurred to her that Manuel had just left without any crutch. The menace recovered so fast!

...

It was Monday. Hannah had just sat in her office when Manuel’s phone call came, “Henry is on the way to court.”

Last night, Henry called him and said he would sue Sawyer Group for fraud this morning. He made another phone call to him just now, saying that he had filed a petition, and the court would accept it and launch an investigation within this day.

“That’s good.” Hannah nodded. She had already known that Manuel was a reliable man.

Putting down her cell phone, Hannah looked at Rose, “How is the international e-commerce project going?”

“Pretty good. We’ve begun the pilot marketing, it’s been going quite well. The convenient process of placing an order and localization have getting some excellent feedback. Here’s the data.”

Hannah took the data reports and smiled. Bewildered, Rose couldn’t figure out why they should give Sawyer Group such a good marketing scheme!

Hannah said, “Rose, contact Sawyer Group, saying that I want to talk about the wide extension of the international e-commerce project. Meanwhile, you make an appointment with Mr Jones for a video conference.”

“OK.” Rose nodded. Though puzzled by the project, she just listened to her boss.

Ten minutes later, Rose knocked at the door and entered, “Ms Hannah, I have set an appointment with Sawyer Group and Mr Jones. Sawyer invited us to consult the matter at their company at 10 am.”

“All right,” Hannah agreed immediately, “Tell Tan we’ll start in twenty minutes.”

“OK.”

They arrived there at 9:50 am and walked into the superior meeting room at 9:55 am. Lee, Charles and Martina were inside, showing that the Sawyer family was serious about the video conference with Bills, as it was only Martina who negotiated with Hannah before.

They connected the video call with Bills at ten strictly. After exchanging the usual greetings and small talks, Hannah got down to business, “After opening up the international e-commerce channel, we chose some regions as test-beds and invited many users who had online shopping demands through precise data analysis. 2, 0000 people took part in this pilot marketing, 2, 000 of whom made an actual transaction, a turnover rate of 10%. We followed up with these clients with real consumption, of whom 98% were satisfied; according to those who didn’t make a transaction, 80% said they didn’t find the right

products. The client reviews suggest that a wider variety of goods is our subsequent direction of improvement. Based on my analysis report, I think it is time to launch a comprehensive promotion of the international e-commerce."

"I agree," Bills took position first, "I have read Hannah's report, it gives a profound analysis. I agree with her that it is the right time for overall branding."

"I agree, too," Lee took position subsequently.

"Since both Mr Jones and Sawyer Group endorse it, I'm going to introduce another scheme that I want to promote nationwide..."

Hannah fully briefed them on her scheme. It was so perfect that Charles, who was always too arrogant to admit any greater person than him, was convinced she was abler than him. Seeing her serious look, Charles perceived that he could only get a feel for her charm when he worked closely with her. Charles used to take her as a dull, rigid, upper-class woman who would never surprise him and never have an independent mind. He looked down on her and always bossed her around then. Charles couldn't imagine that she would become so dazzling and unattainable one day. He tried to behave as coldly as possible, to restrain his admiration, even affection, for Hannah.

After reporting her scheme, Hannah said, "At last, let me brief you about the use of funds. I have shown you the details of the early funds and got your signatures. The expenses needed at the next stage are expected to be around 300 million..."

As she said this, the door was pushed open, and three uniformed men burst into the meeting room, "Judicial authority. We are investigating the case where Sawyer Group obtained loans by cheating."

Chapter 469 The Game (12) Driven Mad

Suddenly, silence fell inside the meeting room. Everyone turned their heads to the officials at the door. Three of them walked inside and produced their credentials. They said to Lee, "Please go with us, Mr Sawyer. We would like your assistance."

Lee became livid. He glanced back to his son, Charles, who looked terrible.

Why did the judicial authority suddenly place this matter on file? Was it because someone had filed it? However, he couldn't think of anyone knowing about it except for his father and Henry, as well as himself. Charles racked his brain but didn't figure it out.

Before taking Lee away, the officials said to Charles and Martina, "As you two are involved in the case, you can't leave Kensbury City before the trial. We may have some questions for you at any time."

Both Charles and Martina kept silent, looking dreadfully bad. Lee was taken away without any drivel, leaving a stiff atmosphere inside the meeting room.

On the other end of the video, Mr Jones smelled a rat, "What's going on? Why was Lee taken away by them?" He asked, clear inside his mind that Lee was taken away for breaking the law.

"Mr Jones, there must be a bit of misunderstanding. We'll tell you everything when we figure out the matter." Charles forced himself to keep his cool.

Bills' face looked graver and he said, "I hope our cooperation does not screw up at this point. Once it does, none of you Sawyer family can afford it!"

After long-term cooperation, it was the first time Hannah had seen Bills, the undisputed business champion, getting angry, dead overwhelming.

"Please be assured that our cooperation shall not go wrong." Charles tried to hold back his panic.

"I will just wait and see!" He hung up abruptly.

Charles looked at Hannah with a sullen face, seeing her steadily pick up her report papers.

"It seems I couldn't continue my report until your company manages to deal with the internal affairs." Aware of his steely eyes, she spoke with ease, giving Charles a sense of being laughed at. He stared at Hannah, pondering that it must have something to do with her, though he didn't have any evidence. What the hell was Hannah's plot? In this project, though Cooper won praise, the genuine beneficiaries were the Bills Group and Sawyer Group. Charles had secretly scoffed at Hannah's being stupid, as Cooper made little profits from the project. He had suffered so many insults these days, but he tried to restrain himself, with the ultimate goal being his incentive-money was far more critical for Sawyer Group than reputation at this stage. But he was not reconciled to being putty in the hands of Hannah for the moment, and he wanted to figure out what had happened.

Charles left straight away the meeting room. Seeing her brother out, Martina followed him. Before she left the room, she shot Hannah an indignant glance and said, "This is nothing to gloat about! Our family shall be all fine!" Hannah shrugged, not caring about what she said. Her dismissive face drove Martina crazy.

Just watch. Her brother would bury the bitch alive one day, Martina swore.

There were only Hannah and her group in the meeting room. Rose couldn't help but ask, "Ms Hannah, what's the matter with Sawyer Group? Why was Mr Sawyer taken away?"

Hannah smiled slightly, "He was involved in a big case."

Rose was puzzled.

"What we are going to do is to wait and take advantage of it." Hannah smiled significantly.

Rose couldn't understand, nor could Tan, but he believed that Hannah did no wrong. He got a feeling that a game was beginning.

...

Charles had asked for leave to attend the meeting, so he was pulling away from Sawyer Group in his car. He made a phone call to Henry, who answered, "Good morning, Charles."

"What the hell? My father was taken away for being involved in defrauding loans. What were you doing there?"

"I don't know what you are talking about, Charles."

"Henry!" Charles was furious at once. Not being stupid, he saw Henry's hand in this immediately.

"You dare to plot against me!" Said Charles with clenched teeth.

"I don't know what you mean. If you are referring to your 1 billion loans, I can brief you that your house property certificates are faked, which were found by our company and transferred to the judicial authority. As for the follow-up, you can take the formal procedures to ask the judicial officials."

"Don't make me kill you!" Charles threatened.

Henry didn't mean to do it, but he had to out of self-preservation.

He said, "Charles, it is illegal to murder. I suggest you try to distance yourself from the matter, or every one of your family who had worked on it cannot escape legal sanctions."

"Don't you threaten me!"

"Just a suggestion, Charles."

"Henry, did you know I have proof that you made Susan have an abortion? Since you harm me, I shall relentlessly blow the whistle on your crime. Do you believe it?" Charles said fiercely. At that moment, with great fury, he felt like killing this guy. Charles had never imagined Henry should stab him in the back—he didn't expect this man to be so bold. And this made him lack preparedness. He didn't preserve evidence of Henry's involvement in the crime!

Henry said with a frown, "Then we call it even. If you choose mutual destruction, paying your good

future for it, I, an average guy, will go down with you. Do you think it will be a better deal for me than for you?"

"Henry!"

"What you want to do is your business. I've offered all my suggestions. Please think it over and try not to destroy your good future." Then he hung up.

Charles threw his phone away in a burning rage.

How dare he hang up on him! What qualified him to do so?

His hands on the steering wheel were trembling. He used to believe that the international e-commerce project could dredge the fund chain of Sawyer Group, which would conversely drive the industry's development. He was disillusioned now.

"Hannah, don't let me know it was you who plotted it!" he thought to himself.

Chapter 470 The Game (13) Sarah Collins

The news that Lee Sawyer of Sawyer Group was taken away for being involved in defrauding loans caught the headlines at the time, which attracted a lot of attention. Bad news succeeded one another. Sawyer Group's stock dropped to its limit soon after the market opening for a few days. If it continued, Sawyer Group would not hold for long. Bills knew about their situation and he forced them to end the internal and external troubles, or he would break up the partnership.

In facing a great many emergencies, Charles messed up; Martina did nothing but be angry; Lee was in prison, waiting for the approval of a guarantor pending trial. Pressures had never become greater for Charles. Even worse, he received a phone call from the Collins family.

"Charles, what the hell? You had promised a few days ago that this project was fantastic, from which you would make a fortune. Can you explain why your company is on trial for breaches of the law? Don't you want to make me give up on Sawyer Group?" The caller was furious, not holding back his anger with Charles.

"I am managing to figure it out. Please be assured that I'll make it right."

"How? Now, be honest with me, Charles. Did you use faked house property certificates to get loans?"

"I was tricked by Henry, a snake in the grass...."

"Then it is true!" the man got angrier, "Idiot! How dare you do such a thing?"

"It just..."

"I can't believe you are stupid enough to be cheated by a nobody! You let me down!" Reluctant of listening to Charles' explanation, he said, "Don't say a word. I won't help you on this matter! You'd better resolve it, or you can only die with Sawyer Group. As for you, Charles, do not come to me any longer. Fend for yourself!"

"Mr Collins..."

But the man hung up abruptly. Charles held the cell phone, with his hands trembling. He was struggling to keep afloat for the moment, and he would surely die if the Collins family gave him up. No, he would not cave in, never!

Charles dialed a telephone in no time, "Hi, Sarah," he said gallantly.

"Hi, Charles," said she with a lukewarm voice, "It is said that you get in trouble these days."

"I made the phone call, just in case you get worried."

"Is it all right with you?" Sarah asked.

"Nothing serious. I can make it right. I'm just afraid..." His voice became tender, "I miss you so much."

"At this moment of crisis, you don't seek to save your company but are in the vein for me?"

"You can rest assured that the affairs of Sawyer Group are all within my control. Everything's gonna be fine. But it has been a week since the last time I saw you. Don't you want me? We were so compatible..."

"Oh, Charles!" she murmured bashfully with a blush. Though shy about his flirting, she couldn't help being thrilled.

"I'll come for you tonight, baby."

"I'm in the Capital, Charles," Sarah noted.

"Then I'm coming by plane after work."

"Why do you bother to do so?" Said Sarah in a reproachful voice, but already elated inside of her.

"On thinking of seeing you, I'm burning up with passion. Taking a plane is nothing to me because I would die for you, honey."

"You are so sweet, darling."

"Wait for me tonight, sweetheart."

"No," she refused the suggestion.

No? Charles' heart suddenly tensed. Sarah appeared to be his last resort to ride it out now, but he didn't expect the woman to be so sensible. For fear of being discarded by the Collins family, he made every effort to flatter Sarah, the pampered "little princess" of the Collins family and a favourite of her father, Rowan Collins, the head of the Collins family. As long as Charles wooed Sarah, he wouldn't for sure be given up by Rowan. Therefore, Charles got her to bed by all means-he had his oarticular way with women. He made Sarah let down all her reservedness and guard in front of him and managed to entice her. Surprisingly, she blew cold at this point. While Charles was racking his brain to think of how to coax the woman this time, he heard her say, "I'll come for you tonight in Kensbury City since I've never been there."

Charles was thrilled by her words, and he asked hastily, "Seriously? Are you coming for me for sure, sweetheart?"

"You are reluctant to?"

"Of cause not. I am so glad you could come. When will your airline arrive? I'm coming to pick you up. Oh, honey, I miss you so much."

"Slick git," Said Sarah shyly, "I'll send it to you after booking my ticket."

"OK," Charles nodded at once, "Honey, I think we'd better not tell your father at the time because I'm afraid I cannot see you today if he rejects it. You never know how much I miss you. I shall go crazy if not to see you." Charles meant to exaggerate.

"Dad is busy with work all day long. He has no time to care about me." Not seeing through his ulterior motive, Sarah said, "I'll give you the flight information later."

"I'll be waiting for you, sweetheart."

After hanging up the phone, Charles' face changed at once. He didn't mean to be ruthless; he had no choice. He picked up his cell phone, "Call some tabloid photographers to track me tonight and make public the snaps."

"Got it."

Charles got a grim smile. In this way, the Collins family would never give him up for the sake of the reputation of Sarah and the family. He was wise in trying to stop a risk before it occurred!

...

Hannah saw today's morning news after Manuel mentioned it to her. The headline was "Charles dated a mystery woman; Charles' suspected romance went public!"

Hannah watched the news, which said that Charles picked up a mystery woman at the airport last night

and took her to his private apartment, staying together for a whole night; Next morning, Charles drove away by himself, leaving the woman at home; Charles' suspected romance went public. Hannah saw the two shadowy figures on the news and recognized one was Charles, and the other woman with shoulder-length hair, though covered up in a black trench coat and a mask, was sure to be Sarah Collins-the woman whom Hannah hated her guts! She didn't expect the so-called Charles' favourite to get in sight of her so early.

Hannah had a sneer on her face. All right, then she could deal with her earlier. What Sarah did to her in her last life, she would get back!