

Reborn 531

Chapter 531 Visit in Prison (1) Pushing Charles

Hannah looked at Theodore closely.

Theodore said slowly, "Oscar had dinner with some officials from the City Hall that night. He drank too much in the second round. Of course, he was not drunk. But in others' eyes, he was drunk. After that, we went out and Mary was waiting for Oscar at the door, and when she saw him, she stepped forward to help him. Seriously, if I hadn't seen clearly at the time, I would have thought she was you."

Hannah frowned.

"Mary did that on purpose because she wanted to take advantage of him." Theodore explained, "Oscar decided to follow Mary's plan and left with her. We went to the hotel. After arriving there, Oscar left under my cover. So you probably remember it was me who sent him back that night."

"Yeah." Hannah nodded.

She also remembered clearly that Oscar was a little out of control that night. Hannah wondered if that was because of Mary. But it was not the time to overthink it.

Then she heard Theodore say, "It was only on the way back that I found out Oscar was drugged."

"What?" Hannah stared at him.

This reminded her of that time when Susan was drugged, and could barely control herself, while Oscar had a certain level of control over himself.

Theodore knew what Hannah was thinking about and he said bluntly, "His self-discipline is beyond your imagination."

Hannah nodded. The more she got to know Oscar, the more she found that he was astonishing.

Now she understood that Oscar being a bit out of control wasn't because of Mary. She was kind of relieved and satisfied. Love made her possessive.

"After I sent Oscar back, I received a call saying that Mary had disappeared under our noses." Theodore said, "So, the only evidence I have at present is of the truth that Oscar did not rape Mary, but I don't know how Mary died."

"That's to say, we can prove Oscar's innocence, but we can't sue the real murderer." Hannah's face darkened.

It wasn't enough for Hannah to prove Oscar was innocent, she wanted to chase the one who harmed Oscar down, make them sentenced and hang them out to dry.

"Anyway, we can prove Oscar is not guilty now. As for the real murderer, we can collect the evidence slowly." Theodore suggested.

Hannah nodded.

At that moment, Hannah's phone rang. She took one look, and said to Theodore and Manuel, "It's Charles."

"Answer it."

"OK," Hannah pressed the answer button, "Hey,"

"What the hell do you want?" Charles's suppressed voice came from over there. It was kind of hard to miss that he was gnashing his teeth in his tone.

Hannah chuckled, "Am I bothering you for your first night in your marriage?"

"Hannah, what on earth do you want?" Charles was furious.

Before the call, he just returned to his new bedroom with Sarah, and they were about to sleep.

Since Sarah was pregnant, they would not be able to have intercourse within three months. But he had still prepared something romantic and ritual to make her even more devoted to him. However, when they were about to do something, the door was knocked on by the butler, who gave Charles a red envelope.

Hannah's name was written on it, and a note inside read, "Call me tonight or you will have to pay."

Charles didn't want to bother with the note. But when he thought about being seduced by Hannah at the banquet today, he felt terrified.

Hesitant, he finally went out of the bedroom and called Hannah, with an excuse of dealing with some work stuff.

"I want to see Oscar."

"Are you crazy?" Charles said with undisguised anger, "Who do you think you are? That's not how it works. Let me tell you something, Hannah, for me, you are nothing! Don't take it wrongly that today I lost control for a second or two for you means you can order me around. Do you think I have fucking feelings for you? I just want to humiliate you. Even if you lie down naked on my bed, I'll just feel disgusted..."

"I sent something to you." Hannah didn't want to listen to Charles's nonsense.

As for Charles's duplicity, she didn't want to confront him. Although he was not interested in her in her last life-the look in his eyes showed everything, the way he reacted today in front of her did prove his desire for her. Hannah could feel it.

She said, "Here is a tip for you, you'd better mute your phone and take a peek, otherwise you will be at your own risk."

After speaking, Hannah hung up the phone. Then she said to Theodore and Manuel, "I'll go and see Oscar later, you don't have to follow."

"Are you going alone?" Theodore was visibly worried.

So was Manuel.

“Yes, Charles is pretty cautious, I can’t take you with me.” Hannah said bluntly, “Don’t worry, he dare not do anything to me. He means to be guarded before me since he has been set up so many times. He doesn’t dare to touch me rashly.”

Theodore and Manuel were not sure about that, but they didn’t say anything.

After all, that was probably the only thing they could do at that time.

Five minutes later, Hannah’s phone rang again.

Charles was so depressed that he was almost about to growl, “Hannah, you plotted against me again!”

Hannah smiled and said, “Since you knew that, why did you jump into my trap? Is it because you find me irresistible, or you’re stupid?”

“Hannah!” Charles got riled up, shaking with rage.

“Tonight,” Hannah didn’t want to waste time, “I’ll wait for you to pick me up to meet him.”

Hannah hung up the phone without saying more, giving Charles some time to make the arrangement.

It was easy for Charles to request a meeting with Oscar in the detention centre since he could take advantage of his job. The problem was Sarah, his bride tonight. It wouldn’t be that easy to convince her.

Charles put down the phone and took some time to control his anger before returning to the bedroom.

Sarah was lying on the bed, feeling a little dazed, since she was a little tired because of the wedding ceremony today.

Charles went over to kiss her lips, “Babe, are you sleepy?”

“Mm-mm.”

“I prepared some surprise for you.” Charles said with some pity, “But it’s okay, you’re the most important. And you are pregnant now. Good night.”

“What surprise?” Sarah braced herself.

“What do you think?” Charles smiled wickedly.

“The doctor said we can’t have sex for three months.”

“But he didn’t say, I can’t...” Charles buried his head in Sarah’s neck.

Sarah felt ticklish and said, “Hey dear, stop messing with me.”

Charles refused to let go, just teasing Sarah on purpose.

Sarah was afraid that Charles would lose control, so she pushed him away, “I’m so sleepy, I’m going to sleep.”

‘Desire’ was written on Charles’s face. But in fact, everything went as he planned. He wanted Sarah to reject him so he could leave.

Chapter 532 Visit in Prison (2) Charles’s Demand

Sarah was exhausted indeed.

Charles held her and coaxed her. After a while, Sarah was asleep, steady breathing.

He checked whether she was asleep several times. Then he got up quickly and drove away from his house.

While driving, he called the people at the detention centre first. Then he called Hannah, "Get ready at the door!"

Hannah said to Theodore and Manuel beside her, "I'll wait for Charles at the door now."

"Hannah," Theodore emphasized, "make sure for your safety!"

"I'll take care of myself." Hannah gave them a reassuring look.

She wore a thick coat and walked to the door of the villa.

She waited there for about ten minutes. And a black car arrived.

With one kick of the accelerator and then the break, Charles stopped hard in front of Hannah. She could feel the obvious anger from the driver.

Hannah opened the back seat door directly.

Charles watch her movement with a livid face, but he said nothing.

As soon as Hannah closed the car door, he kicked the accelerator and left.

Theodore and Manuel watched Hannah get into Charles' car from the shadows of the house.

"If something bad happened to Hannah, we would have to die to apologize to Oscar." Muttered Theodore.

Manuel glanced back at him and said, "Nothing bad would happen. Hannah will be fine."

After all, she was someone who lived an extra decade and knew better than anyone what kind of person Charles was. She knew what to do since she chose to take a risky way, Manuel thought to himself.

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The car drove fast through the nightfall.

Neither of them tried to talk in the car.

Charles hated Hannah so much that he wouldn't say a word to her.

All Hannah could think about was Oscar. A little nervous, she just ignored Charles in the car.

She tried to hold back her inner emotions.

Soon, the car arrived at its destination. The two of them alighted from the car.

Unexpectedly, there were few people in the detention centre. Only one staff member was left, who seemed to be waiting for Charles.

Charles was now the son-in-law of the Collins family. Although he had no real power, no one dared to provoke him now. As long as he required, no one dared to violate his words or sue him. Still, Charles was cautious, keeping the fewest people in the detention centre.

“Mr Sawyer,” The staff stepped forward and handed him a key.

Charles took it. Hannah’s heart beat faster as she saw the key.

That must be the key to the door where Oscar was locked.

With that key, she could finally see Oscar. Hannah was trying to restrain herself and look calm.

Charles strode ahead and Hannah followed.

The staff stood outside and guarded them.

They passed through several iron gates and walked through several narrow corridors.

Charles finally stopped in front of a door.

Hannah’s heart was racing wildly. It had been a month since Oscar was imprisoned.

How was he now after a month?

Before Charles was about to open the gate, he suddenly turned his head and looked at Hannah, only to see her look composed.

But he sneered and asked, “Want to see him?”

“Yes, I want to.” Hannah didn’t hold back either.

“Yes?” Charles’ facial expression turned grim, “If you want to see him, then you must pay the price first.”

As Hannah expected, he would make something happen. She had seen too much of this man’s cruel side.

“Take your clothes off!” Charles snapped suddenly.

Hannah’s facial expression became much worse.

“What? You don’t want to see him?”

Hannah opened her mouth slightly but said nothing. Then she lowered her head and unbuttoned her coat.

Underneath the coat, it was a turtleneck sweater and a pair of slim-fit jeans.

“Go on!” Charles ordered.

“You never quit, do you?” Hannah remained calm.

She took the black sweater off and said, “If Sarah came to find you here, what would happen?”

Charles was shocked by this thought, but he managed to compose himself and said, “What would happen? I’ll tell her I am just humiliating you, and she’ll be happy!”

“Then how will you explain the fact that you are threatened by me to bring me here?” Hannah asked in a sarcastic tone, “You may just show Sarah the video and tell her you’re just trying to humiliate me then.”

Charles’ face turned livid.

Somehow, he had been humiliated by Hannah every time.

Gnashing his teeth, he watched Hannah take off the black sweater, under which there was a thin sleeveless white top and a black bra inside.

The night was cold, and there was no heater in the detention centre. So her skin pimpled because of the cold.

Charles was looking at her and then he smiled.

With a complacent voice, he asked, “Is it cold?”

Hannah didn’t answer. But she knew if she didn’t satisfy Charles now, she wouldn’t be able to see Oscar smoothly.

“I think you’re cold now.” As he said, he reached out to touch her.

Hannah looked away.

As soon as Charles touched her, he jerked back suddenly as if his palm had an electric shock.

Hannah watched him.

“I felt so disgusted when I touched you.” Said Charles.

“Is that enough?” Hannah looked at him, “Or I should get naked?”

“Oh, no way! Do you ever get embarrassed at it?” Charles snapped wrathfully.

Seeing the woman who used to love him so much and even lose herself for him fall in love with another man, he couldn’t hold back his fury.

He stared at her with scarlet eyes, looking at the calm expression on her face.

At this moment, Hannah was taking off the sleeveless white top.

Suddenly, Charles dragged her into his arms and buried his head in her neck.

Who would have thought that his mind was full of Hannah when he hugged Sarah like that earlier? Hannah’s soft body seen by him at the wedding today had lingered in his head all day long. Charles had even wished the woman he had hugged on the bed was Hannah. He found Hannah so tempting that he felt a surge of desire for her.

Hannah frowned because Charles bit her neck hard. He seemed to vent his anger by doing so. But he didn’t dare to do more with her. Not only was he afraid of being caught by Hannah again, but he was also afraid that he would finally fall for this woman.

So he let go of her.

There was a deep tooth mark left on Hannah's neck, with blood on it.

Chapter 533 Visit in Prison (3) Finally, They Meet

Charles smiled. He looked at the blood tooth mark on Hannah's neck with satisfaction, and said, "Hannah, tell me, what will Oscar think when he sees it?"

"So is that enough?" Hannah kept her cool as if there was no pain, nor any emotions.

Charles knew Hannah was just pretending. He felt very happy to be able to torture her like that. He stepped forward, close to Hannah, and started searching her for anything that was not supposed to be brought here.

Hannah gritted her teeth. She was suffering from disgust when Charles's hands were running all over her.

She knew Charles was looking for something like a hidden camera or a dictaphone.

After a while, Charles let go of her after making sure there was nothing on her. And he turned around to open the door with the key.

Hannah picked up the clothes on the ground and was about to put them on. But Charles suddenly snatched the clothes from her hands and threw them away, "If you put them on, how can Oscar see the tooth mark on you?"

Hannah gritted her teeth, "I feel cold!"

"Cold?" Charles smiled.

He picked up the coat from the ground and checked again if there was anything in it. He found a mobile phone in her pocket and threw it on the ground. Then he threw the coat back to Hannah and said, "Put it on!"

Hannah gave him a hard look and put her coat on.

No matter what happened, she didn't want Oscar to see her embarrassed moment because she was afraid that he would worry.

The door finally opened.

It was a cell without any windows.

There was a hard bed inside, on which Oscar was leaning against the wall, without any expression or emotion on his face. When the door opened, he didn't even take a look. He seemed to have no interest in anything at all.

Hannah's eyes suddenly turned red, biting her lips tightly and holding back her tears.

She had been worried that Oscar might be decadent, sloppy, and even thin. But she didn't imagine that Oscar would be skinny like that. In just a month, there seemed to be only a layer of skin left on his face, covering his stiff facial contours. There was even some space left between the thin clothes and him.

Hannah saw him sitting there blankly, with vacant, empty stares.

“What? Now you see each other, nothing to talk about?” Charles looked at Hannah’s breakdown and said sarcastically on purpose.

Hearing Charles’s voice, Oscar finally turned his head.

At that moment, he saw Hannah.

They were just looking at each other. Hannah’s eyes got redder instantly, with uncontrollable tears falling. She didn’t want to cry. She was afraid that if she cried, it would make Oscar feel more uncomfortable.

She felt so sorry to see him so haggard; she felt sorry to see him get trapped in such a cold and dilapidated place, which would by no means be connected with a prominent playboy like Oscar, who had been going on a spending spree.

“Don’t cry,” Oscar said.

His voice was so hoarse that he couldn’t speak clearly.

Hannah’s tears fell faster.

Oscar got off the hard bed and came to her slowly, step by step.

Hannah looked at him approaching. She wanted to throw herself into Oscar’s arms. She thought he must feel so cold, and she wanted to warm him with herself.

“Bang!”

Hannah was startled and the next second she looked at Charles with hate.

She saw Charles moving towards Oscar and kicked him in the stomach suddenly.

Oscar was on the ground, coughing violently.

It seemed that he was badly hurt inside, and he was trying to bear the severe pain. He couldn’t stop coughing at all, and finally, he vomited some blood.

“Oscar!” Hannah was startled by Oscar and she was about to run to him, but Charles grabbed and stopped her.

“Let go of me!” Hannah yelled.

“Yell again, believe it or not, I’ll kick him to death!” Charles threatened.

Hannah glared at Charles, with fireballs coming out of her eyes. If there was a dagger at hand, she would stab him to death without a doubt, as he stabbed her back then.

“I’m fine.” Oscar remained calm and he got up from the ground.

There was no way a strong guy like Oscar would be knocked down easily by one kick.

What on earth had he endured in prison?

Hannah tried to calm down because she knew that if she did something out of control, Charles would play more tricks on them.

“Not yelling now?” Charles saw her calm down a bit, smiled again and said, “Now, I’ll give you five minutes.”

Hannah glared at Charles.

“Starting now!” Charles showed no intention of leaving.

Hannah had expected that Charles would not let them meet alone. She didn’t want to waste any time. She knew that he said 5 minutes then he would only give them 5 minutes.

She couldn’t take her eyes off Oscar anymore, with tears welling up in her eyes. She lowered her head slightly and asked, “Are you okay?”

“Yes, I am,” Oscar responded.

“I’ll help you find the proof,” Hannah said. “I believe that you wouldn’t do something like that.”

Oscar smiled. He didn’t answer her, nor did he give her a comforting look.

Charles watched them carefully from the side. He also wanted to know if there was any possibility of a reversal of Oscar’s criminal this time.

Oscar said suddenly, “Hannah, it’s almost New Year.”

Hannah paused and then nodded slowly. She didn’t want her and Oscar to be separated like this in the New Year.

“After New Year’s day, it will soon be my birthday,” Oscar said in a low voice.

“Yeah.” Hannah knew his birthday was on January 18th. She remembered it well.

“I thought I would celebrate my birthday with you.” Oscar hesitated to speak more.

Hannah’s eyes were red.

Seeing what Oscar’s looked like now, she couldn’t imagine what it would be like for him to celebrate his birthday alone in prison.

“I’m sorry to disappoint you.” Oscar suddenly apologized.

Hannah kept shaking her head.

Without him, she might not be able to muster up the courage to fall in love with someone again in this life. She felt lucky and grateful. In this life of her rebirth, in addition to the revenge, she could also regain love.

Fortunate smiled on her since this time she lived a perfect life, with people she loved around. She burst into tears and said, “Oscar, I’ll wait no matter how long.”

She meant that even if he would be sentenced guilty, she would wait for him to come out.

“Dummy,” Oscar said in a gentle voice, “If there will be such a day, try to forget me. And, love yourself.”

Chapter 534 Visit in Prison (4) He Would Always Protect Hannah

How could she forget him?

Hannah dared not move her eyes off Oscar, the man before her, for fear that he would vanish on her in an instant.

“One minute left.” Charles reminded them. He was very satisfied with the sight that Hannah and Oscar were feeling so bad as if they were about to be apart by death.

He just wanted to separate them and see them suffering. That brought him elation.

“Go back early.” Oscar urged when there was still one minute left.

It made Hannah feel like Oscar had given up on everything.

Her vision blurred, she knew Oscar didn’t want her to see him in such a mess. She pursed her lips and got ready to leave.

“Wait,” Charles stooped her suddenly.

She looked at him with cold eyes, seeing him walk up to her.

He said to Oscar, “She is so beautiful. Without you, she can still date a thousand guys.”

Hannah knew what Charles was up to. He was trying to provoke Oscar. He was just disgusting.

“Come on, show Oscar how appealing your body is to men,” Charles said to Hannah.

Hannah bit her lips.

“Aren’t you married?” Charles asked while Hannah just stood there motionlessly and tugged on her clothes.

“Didn’t you see each other bodies a long time ago as husband and wife? Why are you still shy?” Charles said sarcastically.

With complacency, he thought he was toying with them, like a cat with two rats.

For so long, ever since Hannah was married to Oscar, he had been under their pressure, and he had been aggrieved until now. Finally, he could torture them like that.

“I got it. You haven’t seen each other for a month now, it’s normal to be a little strange.” Charles acted out like a scene choreographed by himself.

Hannah looked at Charles full of hate. She knew that this man wouldn’t give up playing some tricks.

Charles thought Hannah had seen through him, but he cared little about it.

What could she do then? She could not even resist.

From now on, ending Hannah’s and Oscar’s lives was as easy as drawing his next breath, Charles thought.

“Come on, let me help you.” Said Charles.

“Charles!” Hannah burst out finally.

All those painful memories Charles brought to her in her previous life, and what he had done to them just now, made her have thought of mutual destruction. But no matter what would happen, she wanted to keep Oscar safe.

Charles was having too much fun at the sight of Hannah’s scarlet red eyes.

He had dreamed to treat her like this long ago, thinking about the insult she brought him at her wedding banquet and the embarrassment she gave him many times in the business.

Finally, he got a chance to torture them as much as he wanted. He felt so excited as if his blood was boiling inside at this moment.

Charles’ face, distorted with excitement, just kept magnifying in Hannah’s eyes.

She tugged on her coat tightly. However, due to the disparity in strength between women and men, Hannah couldn’t stop what Charles was going to do at all.

So, in the dim light, Hannah’s coat was taken off by him.

A conspicuous bite mark with traces of bruising and blood on Hannah’s neck could be seen.

With only one glance, Oscar saw it. He was standing only a few feet away, clenching fists with a ferocious look.

Satisfied with his masterpiece, Charles looked at the bite mark and asked in an extremely disgusting voice, “Does it hurt?”

In Hannah’s eyes, this man deserved a slow, painful death by a thousand cuts.

“I should bite you lighter if I know it would hurt,” Charles said with self-reproach on purpose, but his eyes were full of complacency.

He reached out and brought his hand closer to her neck.

Hannah ducked a bit. But she was soon severely shackled by him with a hand.

She couldn’t move. All she could do was stare fiercely at him.

The worse Hannah felt, the happier he would feel.

“Let me blow it for you.”

Such a disgusting voice rang in Hannah’s ear, she knew Charles would do all kinds of unimaginable disgusting things, but she didn’t expect that he would humiliate her in front of Oscar.

She could allow Charles to do anything bad to her but she couldn’t stand Oscar watching this helplessly. She didn’t care about herself, but she couldn’t accept Oscar’s feelings being hurt.

There was an anger in her heart, a suppressed anger. But she didn't resist anymore. She would rather Oscar feel like she was voluntary than have him know that she felt uncomfortable. Because if she felt uncomfortable, he would be more upset.

But after all, Oscar was still the man who would stand in front of her and protect her with his life, no matter what happened.

Before Charles put his lips close to her neck, Oscar quickly came to Hannah's side, kicked Charles away with all his strength and held Hannah tightly in his arms. He moved so fast that neither Hannah nor Charles could react to it.

After a short while, Charles was shocked.

He couldn't understand, with a dilapidated body, how Oscar erupted with such a powerful force.

Charles couldn't even stand up for a few seconds. His body was twitching in pain.

It was hard to believe that he endured the torture from someone requested by Charles without any resistance during the month. Charles thought he wouldn't be able to fight anymore.

Besides, Oscar had a serious stomach problem. Charles got to know that only after Oscar was imprisoned. So Charles asked people to send only one meal per day to keep Oscar just alive. Due to that, Oscar's stomach problems recurred and he often had stomach bleeding. His body had almost collapsed. That was why he never thought Oscar would erupt with such a powerful force at this point.

Charles endured the pain. Pretending to be calm, he stood up straight.

He deemed that Oscar was just performing. And in this place, he needed not to fear Oscar.

He walked over step by step. Watching the two of them hold each other tightly and Oscar shield Hannah with himself, he smiled coldly.

It seemed that he had underestimated Oscar's love for Hannah.

Chapter 535 Visit in Prison (5) If I Die, You Will Marry Again

Charles was approaching again.

"Let her go!" he snarled while Oscar held Hannah tighter in his arms.

"I'm gonna count to three." Charles said, "You know what would happen, Oscar."

Oscar didn't move.

Hannah panicked when she thought about Charles' threat, which might refer to what Oscar had suffered in prison because he said Oscar knew it.

She tried to push Oscar away and told him, "Let go of me, he dare not do anything to me..."

Oscar was holding her firmly and shackling her with his arms without moving.

"Oscar... Ah!" Hannah suddenly screamed because she felt an impact on her back.

A heavy kick hit on Oscar's back, making Hannah suffer a certain impact. She didn't hurt. But Oscar must hurt a lot. Tears streaming down her face crazily, Hannah could feel that hard kicks from Charles were coming one after another.

It was a long, struggling time for her. Bearing the pain, Oscar still shielded Hannah, holding her tight in his arms.

"Let go of me, Oscar, let go of me, he won't do anything to me..." Hannah cried and insisted.

She was afraid Oscar might die like this. No, she wouldn't allow that to happen.

Overwhelmed by immense fear, she lost her mind, unable to think.

"Oscar, I beg you to let me go, let me go!"

"Never." Oscar said through gritted teeth.

"What shall I do if you die?"

"You'll marry again."

"Oscar!" Hannah couldn't help yelling.

Meanwhile, Oscar said in a very low voice in her ear. Although his lips were close to her ear, Hannah could not hear his voice. But she knew Oscar was sending her a message.

Looking up, she intended to hear Oscar say it again, only to get a hint from his eyes. He signaled her for the cameras above.

Hannah knew what he meant all at once—all their conversations would be caught and delivered to someone on a monitor somewhere else, through those cameras. So Oscar couldn't speak loud.

Meanwhile, Charles, who was enjoying beating Oscar, did not notice the conversation between them. He vented all his anger on Oscar but never had he expected he would give Hannah and Oscar a chance to talk with each other.

But he had his way. He could know what they talked through the recording on the monitor later.

Charles was getting tired after venting a lot, so he leaned against the wall to rest.

It was unexpected for him that Oscar would protect Hannah with his life, which was the thing Charles would never have done because he would just watch her die.

Clenching his teeth, he seemed to figure out something now—he didn't love Hannah, he thought. He wanted her only because he was a possessive man.

"Oscar, can you protect her for a lifetime? Huh?" Charles asked.

Oscar rose to his feet. Though bruised up, he still stood tall and straight in front of Charles.

Charles frowned. He didn't know Oscar was so tough.

Embarrassed and livid, Charles came forward with the intention of another kick. He couldn't tolerate Oscar looking down on him.

“If I die, what are you gonna tell your boss?” Oscar’s voice was calm, yet laden with a threat. As he finished his words, Charles’s foot were frozen in the air.

It was not an idle threat, and Charles knew. When he came for Oscar earlier, the prison guard had told him that Oscar was in very poor condition. So he stopped his move.

“You and Hannah are really made for each other. Both of you can find yourself a chance to live at this point! Huh?” Charles said.

Oscar kept his face perfectly still. He said bluntly, “Charles, a bit of advice. You’d better not retaliate in advance when the court doesn’t give a final decision. Or, you can’t escape the responsibility for any accident!”

“How dare you threaten me!”

“Believe it or not.”

Charles clenched his fists.

Oscar no longer put his eyes on Charles. He turned to Hannah and said, “Go back early.”

She nodded and knew that Oscar would be tortured more if she stayed at this place.

Her eyes were red, and she ran out without a second delay.

Charles would like to give them more suffering but it occurred to him that Sarah was still at home. If he came home late, Sarah might know something. He couldn’t let her know what had happened because Rowan would possibly know something from her. So he left in no time.

The iron gate was slammed shut.

Oscar was left alone in the cold and narrow space. He was standing there straight up. After one second, two seconds, three seconds, finally, he fell heavily on the ground. In the dusky light, his vision dimmed gradually.

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Hannah ran out of the detention center. At the gate, a cool wind kicked up, however, Hannah didn’t even feel the cold. She just stood there waiting for Charles.

On the other side, before leaving, Charles had told his men three things:

First, they needed to know if Oscar and Hannah said anything when they were holding each other, through the monitor.

Second, they must not let Oscar die.

Third, they must erase all traces of their coming, including all the video recordings.

Not until then did he walk out without hurrying. As soon as he came out, he saw Hannah, who was in a cute sleeveless white top, standing in front of his car door. In the dark, he deemed this woman was so lonely that he wanted to walk towards her. But at last, Charles just smiled ironically.

Oscar's words made a lot of sense. Before the end of the case, Charles could be culpable if anything wrong happened. So it was better for him to wait for one or two months than to be in such a hurry now. Anyway, he would have Hannah in the end, Charles thought. And when he got bored with her, he would take her life in an extremely cruel way.

Charles didn't walk to her but opened the door and sat in the driver's cab.

Hannah got in the car and sat in the back. Then they drove away.

Inside the car, nobody talked. Charles wanted to go back early, so he focused on driving only.

He distracted his attention from Hannah, since he admitted that her charm had almost run him crazy and made him out of control. Thus he should not have a second glance at her.

What made Charles a day was that he managed to make them suffer, physically and mentally, while Hannah had gone through too much trouble to get the chance to meet Oscar.

That was a win for him undoubtedly, hence he could just ignore her currently.

Chapter 536 A New Discovery

Charles arrived at Oscar's villa at the fastest speed.

Hannah got out of the car.

Charles looked at Hannah's back and said, "Hannah, you now should know well who chose the right way!"

Hannah bit her lip.

"You're smart. You should know how to suffer less."

With that, supercilious Charles left.

No matter which way she chose, she would end well. Everyone who was targeted by Charles wouldn't end well.

Charles Sawyer was a man who would satiate his urges by making anyone keel before him, vanquishing everyone; and also a man who would kill anyone else without mercy once he lost the elation of victory from them.

Hannah bottled up her anger and walked into the living room.

It was 11 p. m., and Theodore and Manuel were still waiting for her there.

They rushed forward when they saw her return.

At the sight of the clothes on her, both immediately turned to avert their eyes.

Hannah suddenly chuckled.

At first, she thought that Oscar was surrounded by guys who were useless and ill-mannered.

Seeing is not believing.

They were much more respectful than “Graceful Charles Sawyer”.

“I’m going to my room to put some clothes on first.”

Both men, with their backs to her, replied.

Hannah went upstairs and into the room.

Even when she returned to her warm home, she began to shiver all over.

She was tired and cold.

Tears held back by her finally trickled down.

She squatted in the corner of the bedroom, clutching her knees and breaking down in tears.

In the cell, she had been holding back her emotions. She couldn’t let Oscar see her emotional breakdown. Despite the tears, she hadn’t let her emotions out when Oscar was around her.

And she couldn’t show her bad feelings before Charles, that jerk, either.

But when she thought of Oscar in the cell, who had tried to protect her whatever it took, she couldn’t hold back her tears anymore.

How much did Oscar love her and when did Oscar fall in love with her?

Hannah had no idea about these questions, and she was utterly shocked by Oscar as he saved her life at the cost of his life every time.

It was too tough for her to comfort herself after going through everything that had happened today.

Hannah cried out for all the wrongs she had suffered today.

And the cause of her intense emotions was Oscar Wells, who loved her so much, but not that she was wounded.

Crying frantically, Hannah wanted to relieve all her feelings with tears.

But she told herself that it was not the time yet, since she hadn’t got Oscar out of there. She would never give up any hope.

Then, she rose from the ground. Due to her limp legs, she fell.

She tried again and managed to rise to her feet, and she went into the bathroom to take a hot bath.

After that, Hannah changed into thick clothes and went downstairs. Meanwhile, she tried to be as normal as usual.

Theodore and Manuel were still waiting for her on the sofa, while Max was busy in the room, probably to ease his tension.

Hannah spoke, “Max, please help me find some cold medicine.”

“Right away.” Max hurriedly replied.

Hannah sat on the sofa, next to Theodore and Manuel, both of whom looked at her as if they did not know where to start.

They found it a hard thing to ask what had happened since Hannah had come back not properly dressed.

Hannah, on the other hand, began coolly, "I saw Oscar. He... was not very good."

"I knew it, Charles Sawyer will never be kind to Oscar!" Theodore burst into rage.

At the sight of Hannah at the gate, they had already been on the verge of an outburst of wrath.

If Manuel hadn't stopped him, he would have rushed over to Charles's house and shot him dead.

"But he won't die," said Hannah. She had no idea how to describe Oscar's physical condition.

"He won't die."

Theodore was shaking with anger.

Manuel's face also revealed his rage. However, he said nothing, since he was well aware of the need to calm down at the moment.

They should calm down and think about what to do next.

"Did Oscar say something?" asked Manuel.

"Yes." Hannah nodded, "He said that it's almost Christmas, and it's his birthday soon. He asked me to forget him if he couldn't come back."

She said in a calm tone. Meanwhile, Hannah's eyes turned ruddy once again.

"Didn't he say anything else?" Manuel was solemn. From these words, he found it difficult to get useful information.

"There were two other words," Hannah recalled the details.

She tried to recall what Oscar had said in her ear when he was holding her but failed.

But she was sure that there were two words.

"Two words?" Theodore was excited.

"I don't know." Hannah shook her head.

Oscar had whispered those two words in a little voice, which Hannah hadn't even heard.

Theodore was a bit grumpy.

It was clear that these two words were the key.

Manuel looked at Theodore and said quickly, "Oscar's words must make sense. Even though we didn't hear those two words clearly, we should be able to find clues from other information. We needn't be anxious."

"I was worried to death!" Theodore was upset, "Oscar was kept inside... He has a severe stomach problem!"

Hannah was taking over the water and pills that Max passed over.

She looked up at Theodore.

"Oscar developed stomach problems. He had a perforated stomach! The doctor said that if he doesn't take good care of himself, his stomach will suffer a lot! Cancer is possible!" said Theodore.

He became increasingly emotional.

Manuel could not help but call out to him, "Don't talk nonsense. Oscar's stomach is much better now. It's not as bad as you're making it. He was healthy after the perforated stomach was patched up. It won't turn cancerous!"

Hannah listened, sitting there silently.

"Hannah." Manuel changed the topic, "Are you sure that's all Oscar said?"

"He said he'd let me marry again if he died."

"Bullshit!" Theodore creamed. He felt so bad for Oscar if things would happen like that.

Theodore quickly shook his head.

"I am thinking now. Why would Oscar talk about his birthday?" Manuel seriously focused on the details. Compared to Theodore, he was more composed.

After taking the cold medicine, Hannah joined the discussion with Manuel.

"Yes. I also realized that his birthday should be a clue." Said Hannah.

"On January 18th," Hannah continued, "Is there any problem with the numbers?"

Manuel shook his head.

There seemed to be no information in it.

That got them thinking again.

There was a long pause before Theodore came up with an idea.

"I gave him a mobile phone on his last birthday!" he said loudly.

Hannah and Manuel were suddenly enlightened.

Mobile phone!

Yes!

Hannah became nervous.

That must be the two words said by Oscar.

Chapter 537 The Capital (1) Melvin Balderston

Hannah stared at Theodore in a daze.

Theodore said hurriedly, "Last year, I gave Oscar a limited-edition mobile phone for his birthday. I went to Country M and waited in line to buy it for him. It hadn't been released in the country yet."

Manuel promptly turned to look at Hannah and asked, "Did Oscar say 'mobile phone'?"

"It should be that one." Hannah thought for a moment and affirmed.

"So, what he means is that evidence is in his phone."

"Oh, why didn't I think of that?" Theodore patted his head and said solemnly, "I should have thought of that earlier. Apart from his computer, it could be found on his phone!"

"It's easy to find what's stored in the phone," Manuel said, "We haven't thought about that, but the most dangerous place is the safest place. Besides, there are many hidden apps on the phone. I've installed them for Oscar before, and I've forgotten about it."

He also became unavoidably remorseful.

"Now, we should get Oscar's phone." Said Hannah. The next move was decided.

"Oscar's computer, mobile phone, and other items have been confiscated. If we get them through formal procedures, they will suspect us. It will attract their attention. If we don't go through the regular procedures..." Manuel looked at Theodore and asked, "Is there any other way we can get Oscar's phone?"

"I don't know. I should ask my dad." Theodore said, "I heard that the one who framed Oscar was one of the time-honored strong powers. When I was imprisoned in River Town, my father went there personally and sought personal connections, but it was useless. In the end, I had to wait for so many days before coming out. They might not care about our feelings. I do want to turn to my father, and he might be willing to help us. I'm afraid it might backfire if I'm not careful."

"That is to say, neither the overt nor the covert solution is useful right now."

"Then we should not do that in our ways." Hannah made up her mind.

"What do you mean?" asked Manuel.

"The fact that Oscar didn't commit a crime is obvious. We don't need to investigate the truth anymore. As long as we go to trial and present our evidence, we can prove his innocence." Hannah said to them.

"So what we need is not evidence. What we need is a fair trial."

"Talk about your arrangement." Manuel agreed with her.

"The Collins family is so powerful now. Whoever they protect will be able to thrive. To put it bluntly, the mastermind behind this matter must be Charles. The Collins is supporting him. Besides, the family was the judge for Oscar. Even if we win the lawsuit and Oscar is acquitted, the person who framed him is still at large! Is it worth all that Oscar has suffered?"

"It's not worth it!" Theodore said viciously, "I want to get Charles out now and chop him into pieces!"

"Right, it's not worth it. More importantly, we cannot remove the perils. We might manage to escape this time. What about next time?" Hannah looked at them, "We must make Charles suffer this time and give the Collins family a heavy blow! We should tell them clearly that we should not be trifled with!"

"I couldn't agree more!" Theodore was very excited.

He was trembling with excitement at the thought of that scene.

"And now, the one who can deal with the Collins family is ..." Hannah wanted to say the name but finally stopped.

"The Balderston family." Said Manuel.

Hannah nodded.

Theodore's face darkened, "The Balderston family is also not necessarily kind."

"Yes, there is no such thing as a good man at the peak of power. But as long as interests are aligned, consensus can be reached."

Theodore frowned.

"The seemingly peaceful two great families have been lurking in the shadows for years. The Balderston family has been absent on numerous occasions, not because they have made a genuine compromise with the Collins, but because there is no single fuse. Anything the two big families rashly work on will be used against themselves. And the more powerful the person, the more important reputation is. Otherwise, it's hard to be convincing. What we are doing for the Balderston family is a plausible reason to confront the Collins family head-on."

"You want to turn to the Balderston to deal with this problem?" Theodore exclaimed.

He didn't think that the affair would involve these two great families.

"There is no alternative but the Balderston family."

Theodore was a bit silent.

Manuel was also apparently in silence.

They were thinking about the possibility of this solution and the harm it could bring.

"Otherwise," Hannah said bluntly, "apart from the fact that the result of Oscar's case is unknown, Charles will not suffer any damage."

"Well!" Theodore was an impulsive person. He suddenly agreed, "We will turn to the Balderston family!"

Manuel looked at him and then also nodded.

"So tomorrow morning, we'll go to the capital for Melvin Balderston." Said Hannah.

It is rumoured that he was the most capable descendant of the Balderston family and was highly regarded in the family.

Melvin Balderston was in charge of many affairs and was extremely powerful. To go against the Collins family, he would be the most suitable candidate.

“Well.” Theodore agreed again.

“Theodore, go with me tomorrow. Manuel, you should stay here. If there is any emergency, you can take care of him.”

“Okay.”

“We won’t fly tomorrow. We’ll drive,” said Hannah. “We’ll travel in secret.”

“I understand.” Theodore nodded, “What time do you intend to leave tomorrow?”

“Have a good rest before we go.” Hannah said, “We don’t need to do it in a hurry.”

After all, it was a long drive-more than 12 hours.

In the face of major issues of principle, health is the most important.

Everything is pointless if your health fails.

“We can leave in the evening.” Theodore said, “The night is more convenient to secretly travel.”

“Well.”

“I’ll immediately return to arrange.” He stood up to leave.

“Manuel, go back together with Theodore. These few days have also seen your laborious work. Go back to rest early.”

“OK.” Manuel also stood up.

They left without delay.

Manuel drove Theodore home.

On the street late at night, Theodore suddenly said, “I think Hannah helped us to start the ‘war’ ahead of time.”

“That’s why Oscar once said Hannah helped us do that in advance by at least ten years!” Manuel smiled lightly, “We shouldn’t underestimate a woman’s strength.”

Theodore nodded.

He was impressed by Hannah’s ability this time, thoroughly.

Chapter 538 The Capital (2) Meet Him

At 8 PM of the second night, a triple team containing Hannah, Theodore and Jimmy set off from Kensbury on a new car with a Capital license plate number.

As always, Jimmy was the driver.

Theodore sat beside him, while Hannah rested herself in the seat behind.

“When we get to the capital, we will settle down in Marriot Deluxe Club. It belongs to my family. So we don’t need to check in and we can avoid any possibility of exposure.” Theodore said, “Meanwhile, I had my people get Melvin Balderston’s agenda. With that, we can figure out when and how to meet him.”

“Great,” Hannah nodded.

In most of the cases, Theodore was a reassuring ally for his thorough consideration.

Though rough he appeared to be, he was rather thoughtful.

Without him, they would have spent more time before figuring out Oscar’s implications. When Oscar talked about his birthday, he was giving them a clue, which was his cell phone.

Hannah sat and pondered in silence, watching the highway dashing backwards and the sky as black as pitch.

Oscar’s thin figure broke into her mind.

Hannah was tingling with heartache.

She would save Oscar at all costs, and she must send Charles to hell at any price.

The car was filled with silence.

Theodore reposed in his seat. Maybe he had less taste of sleep too.

Hannah sat still like a stone figure, watching outside.

Thanks to Theodore’s arrangement ahead, their secret travel went smoothly badly.

They arrived at Marriot in the capital before 9 am of the next morning. Then they were led to a deluxe suite.

“Do you need a break or food first?” Theodore inquired.

A whole-night car trip was indeed exhausting.

“I might need some sleep to wake up my appetite,” Hannah replied. She was worn out.

Then Theodore said no more.

They moved into their bedroom respectively and slept quickly.

When Hannah woke up, it was 3 pm already.

Hunger might be the reason to drag her out of her slumber.

When she opened the door, she found her teammates were already working.

Men had enviable vitality indeed. They seemed to have a strange ability to recover from exhaustion much faster than women.

“We have fed ourselves. And I have arranged room service for you.” Theodore said to Hannah when she went out.

“Thank you.”

Not for a while, the room service was in place. Hannah took a satisfying meal. Her appetite was awakened after the long break.

After the meal, Hannah sat on the lounge in the living room.

Theodore passed her a document and said, “This is Melvin Balderston’s introduction, including his preference, hobbies and daily routine. Take a look and find out a suitable time that we can have a good meeting with him.”

Hannah plunged into the papers as soon as she fetched it.

Melvin Balderston was at age 31, unmarried, and had a girlfriend.

His girlfriend, Wendy, a diplomatist, used to be Melvin’s classmate and they developed into lovers. Their relationship was headed towards marriage and they would likely get married next year.

Hannah read ahead.

Besides handling the business of his family, big and small, Melvin Balderston was on duty in Capital City Hall. And coincidentally, he was in charge of the Investigation Department. So having him inserted into Oscar’s case was perfectly reasonable.

Hannah started her plan when she read, so the papers cost her a quiet long time.

Her wordless reading seemed too long for Theodore who lost his patience and said, “So do you have a plan? When shall we meet Melvin Balderston?”

“The day after tomorrow,” Hannah answered, “Wendy’s birthday.”

“But is he willing to have a talk with us on his woman’s birthday?”

“There is no other day more suitable than that,” Hannah said surely, “Can you find out how Melvin Balderston celebrates Wendy’s birthday at the usual case, a party or a romantic dinner? After that, let’s decide how to meet him more naturally.”

“OK,” Theodore responded quickly and set off on his task.

He trusted Hannah who never disappointed him.

Theodore started to arrange for his people to follow up, while Hannah kept on her study on the papers.

The more she learned, the surer she was that the Balderston family was more powerful than they seemed to be.

It was a humble family of the upper class. And Melvin Balderston was more capable than any Collins. It was less possible that the Balderstons would allow the Collins to have a power monopoly in Northfield. Therefore, the Balderstons’ prudence was a sort of pretence, and they were preparing to give the Collins an unexpected shoot.

If she guessed right, the Balderstons would welcome cooperation with her, for it would be a win-win situation.

“An update,” Theodore got back to Hannah.

She pulled back from her thought.

“The Balderstons were quite humble, different from the Collins. Melvin Balderston always keeps a low-key attitude toward his privacy. Given the years before, he would have a private dinner with his girlfriend at a restaurant.” Theodore said, “Coincidentally, it’s in Marriott.”

A slight frown crept on Hannah’s forehead.

“Yes, it’s right here,” Theodore could not control but laugh, “Well, God bless us!”

Hannah laughed too.

Luck did be an irresistible gift from heaven.

“Then what is our plan?”

“Just wait.”

Waiting for the fish to swim to the net itself.

...

The day came.

Hannah and Theodore stood in a small private dining hall reserved by Melvin, in uniform. They disguised themselves as servers in Marriott.

Just as in his usual style, Melvin did not put his private life under the spotlight. Though he made a block booking, he chose a way that would draw less attention. The restaurant he booked was small-sized, with only 5 desks in all. A one-night-off would not pose a dramatic impact.

Compared with the Collins, the Balderston cared more about their reputation.

It was 7 pm.

The targets showed up. Melvin and Wendy arrived at the restaurant in due time.

A man who was well built walked from a distance, with a pair of framed glasses lending him an air of royal grace.

When he was near, Hannah recognized that he looked exactly like the one in the pictures in the media. But he looked friendlier in reality. Maybe that was because he was with his beloved.

Hannah seized her gaze.

She lowered her head, and stood there respectfully, just as an ordinary waitress.

Theodore stood beside her.

There were more other servers around, all standing.

Melvin pulled out a dining chair for Wendy and returned to his own after the lady sat down. Then he ordered, “One server stays and the rest of you are free to go, thanks.”

Theodore turned to Hannah who made a slight nod to him.

Hannah was more familiar with Melvin Balderston's preference, so she was the one to stay as they had planned before.

Moreover, she had spent two days learning how to be a professional waitress. She was such a diligent student that sometimes Theodore felt upset.

After all, she was the valuable pearl for Oscar who could sacrifice his life for her.

Now she consigned herself to be a server just to knock out a chance to save Oscar.

This must be the most unwilling scene for Oscar.

Theodore stood at the door outside, waiting while recollecting Oscar in jail.

Of course, at this moment, the matter he cared about most was if Hannah could convince Melvin to do them a good turn.

Chapter 539 The Capital (3) Negotiation

At the dazzling restaurant, the couple enjoyed their dinner.

The occasional sweet dialogues between them showed that this was dating for a common pair of lovers.

As a diligent waitress, Hannah bent down to refill Melvin's glass with wine when she found his glass empty.

"Thank you," The man said in a good breeding manner.

Other than expressing his gratitude in passing, he looked at the one he talked to and said in a gentle tone.

Hannah smiled and responded, "My pleasure. Hope you could enjoy your drink."

After a refill, Hannah drew a step backwards professionally.

Melvin shifted his sight from Hannah.

Then a sweet song began to play on the piano.

Melvin stood from his chair and stretched out his hand, inviting Wendy for a dance.

With hands holding, the sweet couple moved their steps lightly to the theme.

Hannah stood aside, watching them in sweetness and music.

She had read some intimate details about them occasionally, which said they were a sweet couple. The public always drew an analogy between Wendy and Cinderella for her love since she was born into an ordinary family, though she was a remarkable diplomat.

Just like others, Hannah used to think that love was the only knot connecting this couple. But now she changed her mind. There was another reason more important than love. Wendy was a perfect veil, concealing Balderston's ambition. To put it more straight, Melvin intended to create an illusion that the

Balderstons gave up the throne of power, as an ambitious competitor must have a more suitable choice for mate, who should come from a similar family.

Just like the little princess of the Collins family, Sarah Collins, at least she chose Charles, a plutocrat.

Hannah stood emotionless, with her mind fully engaged by the Balderston's business. When she reached the conclusion, she found the couple had finished their dance.

Wendy leaned over and whispered in Melvin's ear before she walked out of the dining hall. Hannah thought she went to the bathroom.

Melvin returned to his seat casually.

He held his knife and fork and cut the steak before sending it to his mouth gracefully.

Hannah went to the table to fill his empty glass again.

"Mrs Wells, do you mind sitting down and having a talk with me?" Melvin said unexpectedly.

The sudden invitation gave Hannah a terrible shock.

She poured the wine onto the table in shock.

"My apology." Hannah apologized.

"Never mind." Melvin raised his head and looked at her, saying, "It's my honour to have you serve me for a night."

Hannah chuckled.

In the end, she was seen through by him. But she wondered when.

However, it did not embarrass her.

What she did was just for a talk.

If only she could make it, she did not mind in which way.

"Please," Melvin pointed at Wendy's seat and said, "She has left."

Hannah was stunned.

She never expected Melvin to have Wendy left.

"I think, you want a private talk with me," Melvin said straight.

Sitting to Melvin, Hannah did not beat around the bush, "Nice to meet you, Mr Balderston. I am Hannah Wells, the elderly daughter of Miguel Cooper, the chairman of Cooper Group, and also the wife of Oscar Wells. My apology for today's prudent meeting. But I would like to ask for a favour from you."

"Please." He said with a gentle smile.

He impressed her quite much with his suave manner.

Hannah went straight to the point for she was clear a too-long dialogue must be unfavourable.

“Oscar Wells is framed up. And I think Mr Balderston is clear who the culprit is. And I have the evidence that can prove Oscar’s innocence. So I come here, wishing you can restore justice.” Said she.

Melvin put down his knife and fork.

He mumbled his mouth lightly, and said, “Northfield is a nation under the rule of law, a country of equity and justice. Why do you need me to restore justice when you have the evidence?”

“Because my evidence is only enough to prove Oscar’s innocence, other than pose a fatal kill to the one behind. But if you can dig into the case, the culprit must have no way to flee.”

“I think the culprit you mentioned is Charles Sawyer,” Melvin said straight.

After a short surprise, Hannah resumed and said, “It seems that you’re quite interested in this case.”

“I paid a glance at the document.”

“Yes, it is Charles Sawyer,” Hannah confirmed.

“Given that Charles Sawyer now is one of the Collins,” Melvin said, gazing at her, “If I take an action against him, I am setting myself on the opposite side against the Collins. Mrs Wells, as you know, Balderston and Collins, the two most powerful families, have been living together peacefully in Northfield for a hundred years. So can I regard your proposal as an attempt to provoke disputes between these two families?”

Hannah tightened her lips.

She had predicted he must not be easily persuaded, and sure enough, he was.

Melvin continued, “I am sorry for what you have suffered. But for many cases, my status and the situation hampers me.”

Melvin stood up for leaving after he completed the words.

He gave Hannah a chance to talk and rejected her face-to-face, and that was all he could do.

It was difficult for him to insert himself into this issue because he had reasons, as he explained.

“Mr Balderston, how about you are forced to be the judge for this case?” Hannah stopped his pace by saying.

With a frown, Melvin asked, “What do you mean by this, Mrs Hannah?”

“I mean I can make use of the public opinions to push you to the seat of the judge, other than let you intentionally intervene in the case. So there will be no conflict against the Collins.”

“That sounds interesting but how?” Melvin was curious.

“I will have my attorney point his arrow to Charles during the first trial. No matter we have a testimony or not, we can manage to embroil Charles in the case. And his involvement can trigger an automatic recoiling of the Collins. Then it’s time for public opinion to push the Balderstons to judge. And you are the most suitable option in the Balderston family.”

“Why do you need a private talk if you can achieve it?”

“The point is whether to dig into the case and you are the decision maker,” Hannah added, “Of course, I hope you can sift it to the bottom.”

“If I do as you wish, am I confronting the Collins family?” Melvin doubted.

“I believe you are an impartial and honourable lord.”

“Mrs Wells, if you put yourself into my shoes, you can learn I am not as capable as you expect.” Melvin made a clear rejection.

Hannah was left speechless.

Melvin added, “Mrs Wells, I admired your wisdom and bravery. But as for the case of Mr Wells, I am sorry for my incapability. This is a favour beyond my ability.”

“But don’t you think it’s a good chance for the Balderstons too?”

Melvin paused.

“Is it wise for the Balderstons to sit aside and turn a blind eye to the Collins’s arrogance and ambitions that have been ballooning for years?” Hannah questioned, “Now for you, isn’t it a good chance to gain domestic prestige through constraining the tyrannical Collins?”

Hannah’s questions muted him.

She added, “Though Charles Sawyer cannot be listed in talents, he is more capable than the ordinary and wealthier than 90% of people in Northfield. Now it’s obvious that Collins intends to obtain a monopoly in the market by the hand of Charles Sawyer. This time they target Oscar. Of course, their real prey is the Wells family and certainly followed by Coopers and Phillip. Finally, the four families in Northfield will be under the control of the Collins one by one.”

Melvin stared at her.

“So are you going to just sit still, do nothing and see the Collins mount to the top of the power?”

Chapter 540 A Deal Under 2 Terms

The restaurant was frozen with tension.

Melvin met Hannah’s gaze without talking.

No one desired to break the silence.

It was like a childish game in which the one who talked first would lose.

Hannah did put everything under the light. There was nothing more she could do if Melvin still turned her down.

The clock was ticking.

Melvin went back to his seat.

Hannah watched him cautiously.

The man lifted the glass and took a sip, rather gracefully.

She could not tell the man's decision for the time being.

Maybe, he was still considering.

The higher one stood, the more cautious he behaved.

Hannah tried hard to keep her head cool and her nerves steady.

It had been a long while of silence.

Putting down the glass, Melvin finally spoke, "I have 2 terms."

Hannah's heart was racing for his voice.

Did he agree?

She could not find a reason for his refusal during her planning of the talk.

And if he wanted to reject her, he would not have allowed her so much time to convince him.

So the Balderstons needed an impeccable excuse.

A thought came to Hannah that he was waiting for her.

"I would love to listen," Hannah said peacefully.

"First," Melvin said, looking into Hannah's eyes, "I can dig out the case, but I will only target Charles Sawyer."

Hannah understood.

This was not good timing for the Balderstons to confront the Collins.

Melvin would not get further even though he was clear that Collins would get involved.

Hannah promised, "OK."

And they were not capable enough to challenge the Collins.

She was sure that it was beyond her ability to stand against the Collins, which should be the business of Oscar as she believed.

"Given the fact that Charles Sawyer is Sarah Collin's husband, you must guarantee that my action would not provoke the Collins before I held him accountable by the law." Melvin continued.

Hannah frowned at his requirement.

Melvin implied, "I think Mrs Wells is wise enough to read my mind."

Hannah bit her lips.

So he meant that Hannah must break the knot between Charles and the Collins before his action.

This was undoubtedly a challenge.

But she had no choice but to accept the term.

“Second,” Melvin did not allow time for Hannah to say yes and added, “After I save Mr Wells from jail, he should stay loyal to me. To put it straight, I admire Oscar’s ability. And I will have him back to the City Hall, on condition that he stands with the Balderstons, other than the Collins.

Hannah looked straight at Melvin.

This was an unexpected requirement.

“OK,” Hannah said with a nod, “We are grateful for your favour which must be paid off.”

A smile was drawn on the man’s emotionless face.

That was not a warm smile, but just an expression. And the so-called gratefulness was based on mutual benefits.

Melvin did have kept a long-term observation of Oscar, who was thought to be a helpful subordinate.

“Contact me after you can satisfy my requirements above. And this is my contact information. Next time, you can decently meet me.”

He passed a name card as he said that.

Hannah received it respectfully, with both of her hands.

At a glance at the phone number printed on the card, Hannah raised her head and looked at Melvin.

The man stood up from his seat gracefully.

He made a slight bow politely before he left.

After he vanished, Theodore rushed in, finding Hannah sitting at the table, and asked, “Do you make it?”

Yes, she made it.

But why did she feel as if she was set up?

“He came up with 2 terms,” Hannah mentioned.

Theodore frowned.

Hannah told him about the dialogue with Melvin.

Theodore said with a chuckle, “So they are birds of a feather.”

“This is not the time for comment. The most important is how to meet the terms from him. The second one is not difficult, for I already persuaded Oscar to forge alimnt with the Balderston family before. I think this is a reasonable deal that Oscar won’t reject.”

Theodore swallowed down the words on his tongue by sealing his lips.

“The first one is a hard nut. How can we kick Charles out of the shelter of the Collins? If we fail, Melvin could not deal with Charles without scruple, and the Collins must stand out to fight for him.” Hannah murmured.

“Shit. Isn’t it an intentional challenge? Given the fact that Charles was newly wedded to Sarah Collins, he asked us to spoil their marriage...” Theodore complained.

His last sentence left Hannah stunned.

In turn, Hannah’s reaction scared Theodore.

He was concerned, “Are you OK?”

“What did you say just now?” Hannah seemed a bit excited, “You said, to spoil their marriage, right?”

“Anything wrong?”

“Perfectly good,” Hannah said surely, “So Let’s get their marriage wrecked.”

Theodore’s suggestion successfully shifted the point in Hannah’s consideration, from how to have Charles disappoint the Collins, just as she did before, to how to cut off the relationship between Charles and the Collins, by destroying his marriage with Sarah Collins.

A cold smile was put on Hannah’s face.

The pair of scum should have been sent to hell very before.

Theodore and Hannah left the restaurant.

With their goal achieved, they set off and made their way home earlier the next morning.

They soon went back to Kensbury.

...

Hannah went to her office as if nothing had happened. It seemed that she had put Oscar’s thing behind.

Her sudden change puzzled many others, including the staff of Cooper Group.

In their expectation, Hannah should stand firm with Oscar who was in deep trouble.

Even Rose, one of them, was surprised at the sight of Hannah in the office.

Sitting before the desk, calm and steady, Hannah plunged herself into work as usual, free of the impact of Oscar’s case. That was unbelievable for Rose, under the condition that the case seemed bleak.

“Give me a copy of the latest sales report,” Hannah ordered, buried her head in the files and took a sip of coffee.

“Yes,” Rose said respectfully.

“Who was in charge of the business when I was out of office?” Hannah asked.

“For those important, Mr Chairman handled them himself, while for others, most are in charge by Tan,” Rose answered.

“Then have Tan come and make a report to me. I would like to hear about the progress made when I was absent.”

“Get it.”

As she turned around, Rose could not seize her curiosity but ask, “Ms Hannah, how about Mr Wells...”

“This is my privacy, and here we just talk about business.” Hannah showed less interest to expose more.

Rose was just curious and she was smart enough to understand that it was not suitable to inquire about her boss’s privacy.

After a while, Tan walked into Hannah’s office with relative documents in hand.

He started a detailed report on the work.