

Reborn 541

Chapter 541 The Trial (1) Calumniated

This was an efficient workday for Hannah.

She even lost count of how many days she had been absent from her office since Oscar was arrested.

She made a stretch to release her tired body and was going to leave.

Miguel pushed the door opened and entered.

At the sight of him, Hannah called, "Dad."

"Why do you show up suddenly?" Miguel asked amiably as he went to her, "I have allotted most of your business to Tan, so you can focus on Oscar's case."

Hannah drew up a smile and asked, "Dad, don't you have any doubt about Oscar? Are you sure you can give me full support to get Oscar out of the mud? Don't you afraid that Cooper might get embroiled in trouble after Oscar is found guilty?"

"I trust Oscar," Miguel said surely, "moreover, I believe my daughter's judge which is always right."

He would support every decision she made.

Hannah was touched by her father. She knew her family would always be there to back her up.

She could not control herself but run into Miguel's arms and said, "Thank you, dad."

She put herself on the opposite side of the Collins when she decided to help Oscar out.

And her father's unconditional support spoiled her.

After all, any mistake might be devastating and fatal.

"My little stupid girl," Miguel said.

As a generous father, he never said no to his daughter.

"How is grandma?" Hannah raised her head and asked.

Mary's death might somehow give Lorie a blow.

Putting aside her unsatisfactory with Mary, Lorie would not have felt guilty for her last oral abuse if Mary was still alive. But now Mary was dead, which brought Lorie endless guilt and pity. As Hannah heard, Lorie burst into tears for her small granddaughter's poor fate and failed to release herself from sorrow.

"Your grandma hasn't moved on yet, given her old age. We have nothing to help. But I am planning a journey for her, along with your mother and me, after the chaos is over. And let time cure the wounds."

"Great," Hanna said, unwilling to penetrate the topic.

Lorie was not a generous grandmother.

Hannah might have included her in the name list for revenge if she could ignore her father.

They shifted the topic and chatted until Hannah's phone rang.

Miguel knew this must be a busy time for Hannah so he left after some warm suggestions.

Then Hannah answered the call from Theodore, "Hi, Theodore, any news?"

"Sarah Collins is confirmed as pregnant," Theodore said straight.

When they were back from the capital, they had made a clear task assignment. As soon as they returned to Kensbury, they started to carry out the plan respectively.

To make a fatal blow to Charles's marriage, they must start from the source.

Hannah looked sombre at hearing Theodore's news.

Charles's plan was admirably perfect. He prepared himself with a strong shield when he was sure there might be a day he would lose everything.

"OK, get it," Hannah responded, "I need you to keep an eye on Sarah Collins. And let me try to have a private meeting with her."

"No problem," Theodore said, "and according to my father's private source, Oscar's trial will begin on next Monday, if everything goes right. That means we have 4 days left. And you will soon be notified by the court."

"Just do as our plan," Hannah said, "it's impossible for an end in the first trial to such important cases like Oscar's. Our goal at the first trial is to get Charles embroiled."

"I see," Theodore responded.

They hang up the phone without any nonsense to make.

The call curdled Hannah's desire to move out from her task chair.

Next Monday was on the way.

And she would meet Oscar again.

Was he all right now?

What it was like when they met in jail last time reemerged in her mind, haunting her.

She bit her lips to seize the pain creeping into her heart.

Suddenly her phone rang again.

She answered, "Hello."

"Well, I heard that you paid a sudden visit to your office today, so I am calling to send my regards as an old friend. So are you going to give up? To give up your plan to save Oscar? And to stop your conspiracy against me? Why do you just give up so easily before your husband goes to court? Oh, it seems that you are not that in love with that poor guy." Charles provoked with contempt.

To tangle with Charles was the least she wanted.

However, this was a must-have for the time being. She had to make a show to deceive him. She said, "Thanks for your concern. However, that's my own business. May I translate your call into that you are still loving me?"

"Come on! Can you be more disgusting than that?" Charles mocked, "Sarah is much better than you in every aspect. How can I have any interest in you?"

"If so, how cannot you just let go of me?"

"Are you kidding me? I cannot let go of you. Are you serious?"

"Otherwise, why do you call me time and time again? Just to tease me?"

"Whenever I reflect on your suffering, my nerves get excited."

"Well, I didn't know you have such disgusting excitement," Hannah said ironically.

"But I have to say, it's smart to give up Oscar," Charles said, careless about Hannah's sarcasm. He enjoyed seeing her suffering. And he continued, "Don't fight the tape. Oscar has no way out this time. The earlier you give up, the safer the Cooper is."

Hannah clenched her phone.

This was the reason for Charles's call.

He just wanted to make sure she finally give up Oscar.

Hannah hung up the call decisively.

The silence was the best way to fight back.

And the more she said, the more possible Charles got suspicious.

She had to behave as if she gave up Oscar, to mislead him and everybody else that she had abandoned Oscar.

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The Monday came.

Oscar's case mounted to the headline of the morning news in Kensbury City.

This was the day he went to court.

As a celebrity, his news must be in the spotlight.

It was 10 am.

When Hannah, Theodore and Jimmy reached the court, they found a wall of many reporters lying in front.

As soon as they got off the car, they were besieged.

“Mrs Wells, may I have you comment on the case accusing Oscar’s corruption and rape?”

“As rich as the Wells, why did Oscar Wells make a 50 million corruption?”

“Do you have any comment on the case that Oscar raped your sister and forced her to drown herself?”

“Did you just pretend to be a sweet couple in public before? And is yours a marriage of convenience?”

“Oscar Wells was a well-known playboy, and he lost his last sense of morality after marriage. Do you feel sick for him?”

The questions from the reporters thronged to her, and one sounding more spiteful than the previous.

Listening to the question one after one, Hannah grew pale sharply.

She became aware of the fact that she did care.

She felt unbearable for Oscar was defamed so dreadfully.

Chapter 542 The Trial (2) The Court

But she had to seize her fury before the media.

This is not a good time for she spoke for Oscar.

She said peacefully, “For all your questions, I have no answer. But I trust the impartiality and justice of the law which will give a final and right answer for all of these.”

After that, the hall was in an uproar.

Hannah’s line gave a clear clue of her mistrust of Oscar and an attempt to find a fallback plan.

Compared to what they had learned that Hannah devoted herself to Oscar’s case, the latest observation for the recent days in which Hannah resumed her normal routine of work, forged a guess that she might have given up Oscar.

The guess seemed not to be groundless.

Another question came, “Mrs Wells, do you regret marrying Oscar Wells? As I know, this was a wedding supposedly for you and Mr Charles Sawyer. But Oscar’s sudden emergence changed the story. Without him, you and Charles might have reconciled and married. But unluckily, your felicity was ruined for Oscar, a scum. Do you ever regret it?”

Hannah clenched her fists to constrain her fury, while Theodore dashed out from the side of her and punched the reporter in the face vehemently.

Hannah did not stop him.

She must do the same if she could.

A scene of chaos happened because of Theodore’s act.

Hannah glanced at Jimmy who read her at once and she made a successful retreat under Jimmy’s protection.

When she paced up the stair, a voice slowed her down.

A report yelled suddenly, "It's Charles and Lady Sarah!"

The announcement drove everyone away from the fight.

Theodore loosed the reporter lying on the ground, threatening, "I will tear your mouth next time."

The reporter, with bruises and blood on his face, murmured, "I will, will suit you..."

"Just do as you want," Theodore responded and left him behind.

He returned to Hannah quickly. Following her sight, he saw Charles and Sarah.

This was the most admirable couple in Kensbury City.

Theodore found his pulse of fighting reemerging, with his fists gripping.

"Let's go," Hannah shifted her sight back and comforted, "After all, their happy time is counting down."

Theodore repressed his fury and left too.

Charles sneered at them from a distance.

His sight traced Hannah all along, secretly. Watching her bleak back moving further, he was overwhelmed with excitement.

He was the winner, completely beating her down.

The reporters made a nasty shift in their manner in front of Charles. They grew enthusiastic, even ingratiating themselves in inquiry, "Morning, Mr Sawyer. May I know why you come to the court yourself?"

Everyone was clear that Charles was the most powerful celebrity in Kensbury now.

He was born in one of the four big families, and now became the son-in-law of the Collins.

He made such a good leap.

Charles answered, "Given the fact that we were colleagues before, I have to come. And, that's the business of City Hall."

"And do you have any comment on Oscar Wells' case?" A reporter cast out another question, "It sounds unbelievable that Oscar Wells snatched a corruption of dozen millions, for the Wells are that rich."

"This is not about money," Charles commented, "but a failure in resisting one's temptation before power."

"So do you mean Oscar just crossed the legal boundary for his indulgence in power?"

"Of course, this is a question that can only be answered by the court." Charles made a cunning explanation.

"Then according to the existing situation, how long will Oscar be sentenced in jail as you expect? Will he face the death penalty, for after all he is involved in another foul play?"

"I am not the judge so I cannot answer the questions you asked," Charles responded cautiously, holding his wife intimately, and said, "Sorry, we have to go."

He was asking the reporters to leave.

Naturally, the reporters dared not to follow.

They rushed to make out a passage for them.

The couple left in a hug. And the press shot the sweet back of the couple.

Doubtless, Charles and Sarah must become a new enviable trending topic.

Hannah sat in an audience row in the courtroom.

She swiped and browsed on the phone, wordless.

She seemed as peaceful as a lake on a windless day. However, turmoil stirred beneath the tranquil water. Her nerves got tingling for she finally could meet Oscar again.

The news on the phone kept updating unusually quickly today.

Things happening here could be found in the news, including the reporters, the accident in which Theodore punched a reporter, and the sweet-hugging couple

At that moment, someone distracted her from the news.

She saw Charles holding Sarah carefully and leading her to another row. At length, both of them rest themselves down.

Sarah cast a look at Hannah as soon as she sat down.

Coincidentally Hannah met her glance.

Hannah found a triumphant smile on Sarah's face.

She just looked back.

And she remembered again the days when Charles and Sarah tortured her, which she would never forget and forgive.

"Hannah!" she heard Susan suddenly.

Hannah changed her sight.

And she soon peeled the revenge off her eyes.

"My God. There are so many reporters outside. You can see the impact of Oscar Wells." Susan said enthusiastically.

Susan was always the most enthusiastic bystander.

Hannah made no response.

"Are you anxious?" Susan asked in concern while spotting her silent friend.

“Certainly.”

“At ease. Oscar will be found innocent and get released for he must be set up.” Susan comforted.

This was not an easy trial.

She also aimed to drag Charles down and have him pay for his crime.

Susan swallowed down her words when she saw Manuel.

He made a seat beside Theodore very naturally after he entered the courtroom.

At the same time, Martina headed for him.

Susan withdrew her sight by looking away.

“Manuel, my brother told me that Oscar had no way out this time. Don’t stir with Hannah. That will harm your fame.” Martina said directly.

She did not care if her remarks might hurt the ones surrounding her.

Manuel grew dull.

Theodore was provoked by her words. With his face growing pale under fury, he warned, “One punch of mine

can send you to hell at once. Do you want a trial?”

Martina grew pale on her turn with horror.

She gnashed, “Manuel, I am doing a good turn for you.”

Watching Theodore grow duller, Martina was impelled to leave Manuel before saying, “I will come back to you privately later.”

Looking at Martina’s back, Theodore swore, “Manuel, how come your taste in women is so bad?”

Manuel rolled an eye at him.

“One after one. All stupid and ungraceful.” Theodore murmured.

Susan’s face turned green at hearing Theodore’s complaint.

Theodore was targeting her too.

When she was going to retort, she found people streaming in, including the staff, officials, witnesses, suspect and lawyers.

Susan glanced at Hannah.

Her friend was transfixed, with her sight pinned on the man taken out by the police.

Chapter 543 The Trail (3) Defence

In the courtroom, Hannah simply stared at Oscar being taken to the position.

He slightly raised his head and happened to see Hannah.

As they looked at each other, tears welled up in Hannah's eyes.

But Oscar replied with a smile of composure.

He didn't seem to have a clear understanding of the current situation.

Susan couldn't help sighing when seeing him, "He looks so gaunt and haggard. I can barely recognize him."

Swallowing down her sadness, Hannah struggled to compose herself.

"It must be quite torturing for a highborn gentleman like him to spend his days in prison. His muscular figure must have been worn out. What a pity!" Susan murmured to herself. As always, she let out such eccentric comments.

"But well, I gotta admit that he still looks darn handsome even though he appears so gaunt like that." Susan continued to make remarks, "He used to make me feel like he had been a playboy mixed with a kind of ruffian manners. But he somehow becomes much more refined, self-possessed and dashing. I don't even notice when he started to change."

Though her remarks sometimes sounded a bit weird, Hannah still got to admit that they perfectly fit into Oscar's changes.

Before that, she shared the view with Susan that Oscar was a ruffian though with a charming look.

But now she started to notice that he was different from people's common impression of him.

The truth was that he appeared rather well-bred and elegant.

Speechless, Hannah felt like her sadness somehow got dissipated by Susan's amusing remarks.

But still, she fixed her eyes on Oscar, who showed no fear and even tried to comfort her.

The tougher he appeared, the more worried Hannah felt.

She worried that Oscar was struggling to maintain his tough look.

While they were gazing at each other in silence, the Wells had all arrived including Robert, Venus, David and Thomas.

They had been paying full attention to the case while keeping in touch with Hannah.

But Hannah didn't have much to inform them.

So every one of them looked rather agitated.

The opening of the court session took place at 9 AM.

After all, formalities had been carried out, the judge entered to tell everyone to take a seat.

Sitting in the middle of the court, the judge uttered, "The prosecution is about the charge against Oscar Wells, the defendant, who committed bribery and murder after rape. Now the prosecutor may start the statement."

The prosecutor stood up, bowed to the judge respectfully and stated seriously, "In December, it was reported that Oscar Wells, formerly working in City Hall, abused the authority to take bribery worth more than fifty million. According to the report of the Investigation Department, a sum of cash of 52, 450, 000 had been found inside Oscar's residence. After comparison with the financial statement of the projects Oscar was once in charge of, it basically matched the sum of bribery. Meanwhile, a female dead body was found in the river on Dec 24th. After testing, it turned out to be Mary Cooper. According to a report from the autopsy, it has been confirmed that the victim was raped before death. The follow-up investigation indicated that the last time she showed up in a public place before she got murdered, Oscar was with her. Coupled with the death time, it's concluded that it was Oscar who committed the murder. Certain videos had been provided by the Investigation Department as conclusive proof, in which they showed conspicuous intimacy."

"The commitments of crime are as follows-firstly, Oscar was bribed while serving the position in City Hall; second, he committed murdering Mary Cooper, which has been proven by both autopsy report and video evidence. Now, Oscar Well, the defendant, is officially charged with bribery, rape and murder. The defendant may start his statement of defence."

"Do you have any supplementary statement about the prosecution?" asked the judge.

"No." Oscar's voice sounded hoarse.

Hannah appeared rather worried.

Though haggard he seemed, he still stood up straight proudly as if he weren't facing an upcoming serious sentence.

"The defence lawyer might start the statement of defence." The judge announced.

Josh Aaron then stood up while flipping the files and stating, "Josh Aaron on behalf of Mr Wells, Your Honor. Plead not guilty. Mr Wells."

His voice sounded loud and firm.

Someone from the hearing seat burst into laughter of mockery as if he heard of the most hilarious joke.

After all, the proof seemed too conclusive to argue.

"Silent!" the judge huffed seriously.

Soon, the court fell into silence.

Josh continued, "The defendant denies the charge of bribery. All the evidence against him should be fabricated. Firstly, according to the statement of the prosecution, the bribery was worth more than fifty million, which should be rather unreasonable. The defendant has been born privileged enough to despise that sum of money. Here is the statement of the property of his family. The Wells, known as the head of the TOP four families in Kensbury City, owns wealth worth more than hundreds of billion, compared to which the bribery of fifty million seems less worth a penny."

“Besides, here is the statement of the defendant’s actual consumption. Ever since his induction into the City Hall, his consumption has greatly contracted after he pays more attention to both work and family. Before marriage, the defendant’s monthly consumption had ever mounted to even more than fifty million. Here is an example. The defendant has ever spent thirty million as a giveaway during an auction. Such being the case, it appeared less possible that he would be willing to take the risk to receive the bribery of only fifty million.” Josh argued firmly.

Susan found it quite amusing, “If I am not mistaken, you must be the reason accounting for him spending the thirty million at that time.”

Hannah fell into silence.

Of course, she still remembered he spent the money on the sapphire to offer her during that charity auction.

She felt like he must have been planning to pursue her love a long time ago.

Josh paused and then continued, “As for the charge of rape, it’s nonsense. Everyone in Kensbury has been fully aware of how appealing he has been to ladies. Are you sure a gentleman like him with the such charm would have to rape another lady?”

Chapter 544 The Trial (4)

Josh then continued to defend mockingly, “Are you going to charge the defendant just based on a video clip? How hilarious! If he did want to sleep with any other ladies, they would stampede into his house as long as he released a simple sign. Of course, the defendant has specially told me to declare that he reserved no feelings for any others in the world except for his wife, Hannah. Here is the point-the defendant has never committed rape!”

After making the strong statement of defence, he bowed to the judge out of courtesy, “That’s all about the statement.”

The judge nodded and then spoke to the prosecutor, “The prosecutor may start to challenge the statement of defence.”

“Yes, Your Honor, the statement of defence did sound reasonable. However, loopholes could still be noticed.” The prosecutor stood up to speak decently.

Then all eyes were fixed on the prosecutor.

The prosecutor continued unhurriedly, “Though the Wells has been known as a privileged family and the defendant claims himself to be wealthy enough to despise the bribery of more than fifty million, plus the fact that his monthly consumption had once gone beyond that amount of money, there could still be a possibility that the defendant enjoyed the power to abuse the authority brought by his position while the money itself didn’t matter. Think about it. A rich guy like him barely has any clear understanding of the value of money, which means he may even despise it. However, if he happens to get something he has never owned before, he would be likely to indulge himself in it. Power is a typical example that accounts for this matter. Lured by power, the defendant committed bribery while enjoying the superiority brought by power.”

Upon hearing that, Hannah turned into a serious look.

She knew they would resort to sophistry.

However, she still went greatly mad when hearing such despicable sophistry, and so did Susan.

“Damn it, what a cunning lawyer. Well, he can make up everything.” Susan couldn’t help complaining.

“Of course, we have hard evidence.” The prosecutor continued confidently, “And the evidence is pretty conclusive, the financial statement and the cash. The defence attorney failed in proving the innocence of the defendant. That’s the very definition of ineffective assistance of counsel.”

Some people in the hearing seats appeared rather complacent, especially Charles and the rest of his accomplices.

They were confident enough to believe that today would be Oscar’s doomsday.

“Alright, let’s focus on the rape itself. The defendant has been claiming himself to be deady appealing to ladies, self-proclaiming that his charm could get every single lady to go crazy, to which I agree. After further investigation about the defendant, it was found that he did have a lot of affairs with other ladies, who all fell for him with all their hearts. What’s more, none of them had ever accused him.

Undoubtedly, it was out of their own will. However, there was a precondition-the defendant wasn’t married at that time, due to which he wouldn’t be bound by morals. That’s the point the defendant tried to skip during the statement.”

The rest of the world felt like being convinced again, considering the prosecutor’s argument rather persuasive.

Then the prosecutor continued with great confidence, “According to the domestic tradition, there has been a strong moral restraint for post-marriage life. A guy could do whatever he wants before the marriage but he would have to expect serious reproach if he tries the same thing after the marriage. Females are no exception. According to the investigation, the defendant hadn’t had any affairs with any other ladies after he got married, which meant those ladies who ever tried to get close to him started to avoid any affairs with him. Such being the case, if any affairs between the defendant and a lady occurred, he must be the one compelling her.”

“Objection!” Josh stood up to refute, “It’s sophistry to speculate about the defendant compelling the victim! Though morality could indeed discipline most people, there are still examples that some ladies trying to hook up with married guys for the sake of great fortune. The defendant disciplined himself after marriage because he was loyal to his wife. It doesn’t mean that he has a reason to start any affairs with the victim.”

“I have a proof for my statement! The video about the intimacy between the defendant and the victim denies his loyalty to marriage.”

“Nor did it prove that the victim tried to avoid him!” Josh refuted.

The prosecutor then continued with a sulky face, “The victim just want to send him home out of kindness because he was drunk. That’s why it looks like there was intimacy between them.”

“According to your assumption that most ladies would try to avoid the defendant after he got married, why didn’t the victim call Hannah to pick him up? Instead, she sent him home by herself. Don’t you think it’s rather contradictory?”

“It was getting late. Perhaps the victim found it unsafe to have Hannah go out to pick him up.”

“If the victim was concerned with safety issues, why did she insist on sending him home alone?” Josh had been working hard to challenge the prosecutor’s point.

“The victim is dead. You should ask the defendant for the reason!”

“The defendant declares that it was the victim who tried to seduce him,” Josh stressed out his words.

“Nonsense!” the prosecutor seemed mad.

But meanwhile, he had no idea how to refute it.

“If you don’t believe in the defendant, why do you suggest asking him for reason?”

“Josh, the victim was Hannah’s cousin. It’s against common morals to seduce the defendant. As well-behaved as the victim had been, she would never do that.”

“You’re right about that. It’s against common morals to have sex with the cousin of his wife, of which the defendant should be fully aware!”

“The defendant was drunk, totally drunk! Drunkenness could lead to crazy things. The defendant had been a playboy before. It was likely for him to sleep with any other ladies under that circumstance! But the victim had been self-disciplined. According to the autopsy report, the victim was still a virgin before she was raped. It was unlikely for her to commit something like seduction!”

“It’s nothing but your speculation. Do you have proof?” asked Josh.

“The proof is that the victim jumped into the river to kill herself after being raped by the defendant, which she found unacceptable.”

“Does it mean that the defendant was responsible for her suicide?”

“The defendant was the last one whom the victim ever encountered.”

“You’re wrong! Besides the defendant, there were lots of attendants during the social dinner at City Hall, including Charles Sawyer!”

Chapter 545 The Trial (5) Adjourn

Inside the courtroom, Charles turned into a livid look as soon as he was mentioned.

He coldly stared at Josh, who continued high-spiritedly, “There were guests around during the dinner at City Hall. At the end of the dinner, most of them were drunk. Though we could tell from the video that the victim had ever met the defendant before her death, it didn’t mean that there weren’t other suspects. The victim might still be kidnapped by someone else where the camera failed to record, which is exactly the point the prosecutor fails to prove. Based on that, the prosecutor has no legal right to charge the defendant with rape. Nor shall he be charged with relating to the victim’s suicide.”

“Josh, according to your speculation, who else do you think could be the possible suspect relating to the victim’s death and the crime of rape?” questioned the prosecutor.

“This is a public prosecution requiring certain proof, without which I can’t draw any conclusion about the victim’s death. Similarly, the prosecutor hasn’t provided proof conclusive enough to have the defendant convicted. Such being the case, the prosecutor has no right to charge the defendant of committing rape.” Josh insisted seriously.

Before the prosecutor was about to argue, Josh continued, “If you want my speculation, I have every reason to suppose that Charles might be the suspect.”

As soon as he finished, everyone got stunned.

So did Charles and the judge.

The judge couldn’t help casting a glance at Charles to see his reaction.

“According to the statement from the prosecutor, the defendant’s preference of being a playboy underlay the rape. Similarly, Charles shares the same preference. It was exactly because he cheated on Hannah that their wedding got cancelled. If the defendant were to be proven guilty because he used to be a playboy, Charles, known as a playboy as well, should also be under suspicion. Charles was there to attend the dinner that night. It was still possible that he got involved in this case. More importantly, Charles had cheated on Jane before the wedding eve, the cousin of the victim. According to the prosecutor’s speculation, Charles would be likely to dare to have a second try with the victim. If so, he should be more suspicious. Whatever, Charles seems to have a special crush on any girls from the Coopers. It’s likely to speculate that he loves to develop affairs with Cooper’s girls.”

“Objection! The defence attorney is resorting to sophistry. He is speaking nonsense to cover up the guilt of the defendant. Mr Sawyer has been proven innocent in the case. It’s a sheer smear against Mr Sawyer!”

“Objection approved! The defence attorney should be careful with the language. Your continuous nonsense could disable your right of defence.”

After taking a deep breath, Josh explained respectfully, “Your honour, I was just stating the fact based on the prosecutor’s logic to speculate. If my speculation could be deemed as nonsense, so shall be his.”

Upon hearing that, the prosecutor got choked embarrassedly.

Under the witness of the public, the judge found it impossible to show any bias against the defendant.

Undoubtedly, Josh’s argument worked pretty well.

The judge then banged his gavel. After taking a hint from Charles, he added, “The court shall now adjourn for ten minutes.”

Then the judge walked away.

Soon, the air was filled with noise.

Charles turned into a livid face.

Sitting next to him, Loretta couldn't help huffing, "I didn't expect his lawyer could be so capable."

"So what? Oscar will still be proven guilty if they fail to provide any conclusive evidence. The judge has the power to make a conviction. However capable his lawyer is, he could never turn the table." Charles gritted his teeth.

Loretta looked a bit more relieved, "Luckily, we have the judge bribed."

"Of course." Charles nodded.

"As soon as he's imprisoned, I am gonna torture that little bitch!" huffed Loretta viciously.

She felt like tearing Hannah apart as soon as she thought of how aggressive she had appeared these days.

"Just be patient." Charles beckoned her to keep quiet.

Soon, Loretta put on a serious look again.

Ten minutes later, the judge returned to his seat to continue with the case.

Once again, the prosecutor repeated the statement of the prosecution and concluded that Oscar should be proven guilty after presenting his speculation based on certain testimony and proof.

When it was Josh's turn to make a statement of defence, Josh suggested, "Your honour, the defendant asks for adjournment due to sickness."

The judge turned sulky.

"Your honour..." Josh insisted.

The judge glanced at Charles.

Of course, the very first thing he wanted to do was to have Oscar convicted right away, leaving him no chance to appeal.

He couldn't help wondering what kind of tricks Oscar was planning.

However, before the judge made any comment, Oscar suddenly slumped onto the ground, unconscious.

The atmosphere suddenly turned chaotic.

Hannah hurried to stand up while seeing him faint away.

"Silent! The court is now adjourned! Take the defendant to the hospital!"

Then the bailiff hurried to take Oscar out of the courtroom.

After that, the judge left.

The rest of them all dismissed themselves.

Hannah stood still to watch Oscar being taken away.

"How come he becomes so feeble?" stunned, Susan didn't expect him to faint away either.

“Hannah, I heard from Theodore that you had met Oscar last time. Why is he so feeble? He has been strong and healthy. How come he suddenly faints away?” Venus hurried over.

Not until then did Hannah recollect herself.

“I have no idea.” She answered coldly.

Before Venues could continue, Hannah walked away.

Susan didn’t expect her to simply ignore Venus. After a short pause, she hurried over.

As they left, Loretta walked over to Venus. She just heard of their conversation. Then she sneered mockingly, “All couples are meant to separate when posed by difficulties. Am I right about that, Mrs Wells?”

Chapter 546 Trap

Venus turned rather displeased upon hearing Loretta’s mockery, “Mrs Sawyer, I am afraid I can’t agree with you.”

“You still reserve hope for Hannah, huh?”

“Hannah is a part of the Wells. Mrs Sawyer, are you trying to drive a wedge?” Venus refuted coldly.

Loretta soon turned sulky.

She had always been hostile to Venus.

Exactly speaking, she was being jealous.

Venus, known as the hostess of the Wells which was the head of the Top Four families in Kensbury, had been highly respected. However hard Loretta struggled among the upper class, she always appeared a bit inferior to Venus. Thus, she had been dreaming to grind Venus beneath her heels.

Then she simply sneered, “Mrs Wells, I don’t mean to provoke but to kindly remind you that some ladies are talented in covering up themselves.”

“You’re right. You set a great example yourself.” Venus nodded to mock.

“Venus!” irritated, Loretta didn’t expect such a straight mockery from her.

“Mrs Sawyers, I am afraid the family business of the Wells is not your concern.” Showing no intention to continue the conversation, Venus left with the rest of the Wells.

Watching her back, Loretta couldn’t help trembling out of the madness.

She thought she could just humiliate Venus. After years of being the inferior one, she had been growing a great grudge against her. Of course, it would be better if she could drive a wedge between Hannah and the Wells, by which she could instigate the conflict between the Wells and the Coopers so that the Sawyers could eventually benefit from it.

Meanwhile, Charles, together with Martina and Sarah, saw an embarrassed look of Loretta.

“Come on, let’s go. They are just playing tough. I swear they will soon regret it.” Said Charles.

Loretta held back her anger and then huffed, "I swear I am gonna make them suffer!"

Charles nodded.

He expected the doomsday of the Wells.

As soon as they walked out of the court, a group of journalists surrounded them.

Charles hurried to stand in front of Sarah to show how caring he was to her. Meanwhile, Sarah kinda enjoyed it.

"Mr Sawyer, it was said that Oscar fainted away under the pressure of struggling to deny conviction. Was that true?" one of them hurried to ask.

"Yes, that's why the court is adjourned," Charles answered.

"Mr Sawyer, do you believe that it's part of Oscar's plan? He did this to buy himself more time before being sentenced."

"I am not a doctor to provide professional comment."

"It was said that the defence lawyer had been resorting to sophistry. Was that true?"

"Indeed, the way he defended didn't sound strict in logic."

"It was said that the defence attorney strongly speculated that you got involved in Mary's death. Was that true?"

"That's why I consider the way he defended didn't sound strict in logic." Charles refuted it seriously.

But of course, he got to do everything he could to avoid suspicion, especially when exposed to media.

"But people are believing that the statement of defence seems reasonable. Everyone involved remains suspicious before there is certain proof to conclude that Mary was once raped by Oscar." One of the journalists suddenly proposed.

Charles soon turned into a livid face.

He was here to prove himself innocent instead of bringing himself suspicion.

Then he huffed, "You're not the judge. You have no right to make comments about the case!"

"Mr Sawyer, why are you being angry? Are you trying to cover up something?"

"How dare you! It's nonsense!" Charles got mad.

However, the journalist didn't seem to care. He continued loudly, "Mr Sawyer, you have been claiming that only the judge has the right to make comments. If so, how could you consider my doubt as a kind of nonsense?"

Charles was livid about it.

"Mr Sawyer, your anger of no reason is causing you misunderstanding. Or perhaps...were you involved in Mary's death?"

“If you keep slandering me, I am gonna sue you!” Charles threatened.

The journalist showed no fear.

Of course, it was part of Hannah and Theodore’s plan.

They got Charles involved in the trial on purpose so that Melvin Balderston would have a reason to play his role in the investigation.

The journalists then continued, “Sorry, Mr Sawyer, I was just expressing my speculation. I sincerely apologize to you if I have offended you. However, before the trial is settled, whoever met Mary before her death shares the same suspicion. I don’t mean to indicate that you might be the suspect. I was just making comments about the case itself. Mr Sawyer, please don’t have my opinion distorted in case of worse misunderstanding.”

Of course, Charles wouldn’t believe his explanation. He could decidedly tell that the journalist was indicating.

So Charles continued seriously, “No one is responsible for the case but the court itself. Nor shall anyone have the right to draw any conclusion before it’s settled. Sorry, I am too busy to handle any more questions. Everybody, please get out of the way.” After that, he pushed the journalists standing in the front away and then supported Sarah to leave.

Loretta and Martina hurried to follow with sulkiness.

Sitting inside the car, both Hannah and Theodore watched them breaking away from the group of journalists.

“Let’s go.” Hannah talked to Jimmy.

Then Jimmy stepped on the gas.

While browsing his phone, Theodore said, “The questions just now have all been sent to media. The headline shall be ready soon.”

“Tell Manuel to get prepared in case the Collins censors all news. If that happens, tell Manuel to hack the media to keep the news released and make use of his technology to grow public attention.”

“Okay.” Theodore nodded.

After that, the air fell into silence.

Of course, every one of them was concerned about Oscar especially after they saw how haggard he looked during the trial.

...

At about 2 PM, a piece of breaking news was released, “Charles Sawyers is likely to be involved in Mary Cooper’s death!”

As soon as it hit the headline, it attracted tremendous attention. It spread so fast that Charles was pissed upon seeing that.

With the help of the Collins, all related news had been erased.

However, at midnight, a post relating to the news on social media, which couldn't be deleted, started going viral again.

What was more, the post seemed to be able to hack all devices whenever people started browsing.

Soon, the gossip that Charles got involved in Mary's death started to arise considerable suspicion among people.

Chapter 547 The Balderston Family Got Involved

The next day, Hannah got a call from Charles while she was working in the office.

She didn't sleep well last night out of concern about both the post and Oscar. Even when she managed to fall asleep, her dreams were overwhelmed by Oscar's haggard face. She was easily roused from sleep. But she had to struggle to make herself fall asleep again and again.

She picked up the phone, "Mr Sawyer, what can I do for you?"

"Hannah, you start conspiring again, huh?" Charles shouted straightforwardly.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Oh, you don't? You mean you know nothing about the post?"

"Oh, the post... I have no idea what kind of gossiper would post something like that. I can't believe it was said that you were involved in Mary's death. But Charles, I do wanna know if you had anything to do with that?"

"Enough!" his voice was mixed with burning anger.

The post greatly impacted his reputation.

"Charles, I am working right now and there is a meeting waiting for me. I gotta hang up if there is nothing serious you are gonna talk about." Hannah still maintained an impassive tone.

"You'd better pray that no one can get the evidence to prove your connection to this!" Charles threatened.

Then he hung up the phone.

Hannah stared at her phone, looking serious.

Then she dialled Manuel's number, "Hi, Manuel."

"What's the next move?"

"You have attracted enough public attention. It's time to shape public opinion."

"Okay." Manuel agreed.

"Be careful. Charles has kept an eye on you. If you are found to spread the gossip and hack the media, you will be charged."

“Don’t worry.”

At 1 PM, another post caught the public attention again.

The title read “Shall the Collins do something to avoid suspicion?”

Such a post with shocking content shed light on Collins’s secretive involvement.

Besides, the post was developed with thorough analysis, the major indication of which could be concluded into two points: firstly, Charles, as both the son-in-law of the Collins family and one of the suspects involved in Mary’s death, the Collins had every reason to take actions to avoid any suspicion. It was known to all that Collins ruled the judicial system in Kensbury City. Whatever the judgment turned out to be, misapprehension about the Collins would be still inescapable. What was more, according to domestic law, the judge in charge should have no direct nor indirect connection to the case itself. Secondly, it was also known that Charles and Oscar had been opponents against each other with great feuds. However, the trial was now conducted by the judicial system mostly ruled by the Collins, with which Charles was greatly connected. There was no doubt that such a situation would appear rather unfair.

As soon as the post was released, it led to overall agreement among social media.

Discussion about the matter soon turned into people calling for the Collins to step aside from the trial.

The Collins certainly got a negative impact under the stress of public opinion.

Soon, Charles got a call from Rowan.

“Charles, what the hell are you doing? You let Oscar find a chance to turn the table even after he’s kept imprisoned?”

Charles was rendered rather embarrassed.

He thought he had held the trump cards.

However, never did he expect Oscar to manage to exploit an advantage.

“If the situation goes on like this, we will not convince the public even if we settle down the trial as we wish!”

“May I have your suggestion?” asked Charles respectfully.

“We have no alternative but to get the Balderston family involved.”

Upon hearing that, Charles gritted his teeth.

If there came another influential family, it would be much more difficult to manipulate.

Then Charles continued worriedly, “Will the Balderstons also try to manipulate the case? Though they have been keeping a low profile, they are still known as equally significant as the Collins. I am afraid the Balderstons is more complicated to tell than we expected.”

“Whatever it is, I am sure at least the Balderstons won’t try to offend us. We have been living in peace with them these years. Neither we nor they will break the bottom line. And I am sure they should be

wise enough to know that. If they mess up with us at this moment, there will be a war. As far as I know about the Balderston family, they aren't powerful enough to fight us."

Undoubtedly, the Collins ascertained that the Balderston family would not offend them.

Charles nodded.

Of course, he had a clear understanding of the Collins's power.

"Even if the Balderstons are to get involved, it won't make any difference to the case even though there might be some chores to deal with. But it doesn't matter. I know how to balance that. But Charles, if Sarah were not with child, I would have dumped you. I don't care if you have anything to do with this case. You've got me disappointed these years. From now on, you'd better behave yourself!"

After that, the phone was hung up.

Charles's hands were still trembling.

From the very beginning, the Collins had been despising him.

With a vicious sneer, he swore he would build his success on the top of the ruins of the Collins someday.

...

When Hannah got a call from Melvin, she just left the office.

While staring at the screen of her phone, she took a deep breath and answered it, "Hello, Mr Balderston."

"The Collins has talked to me." Said Melvin straightforwardly.

Never did Hannah expect the Collins to make the move so soon.

They decided after the post was released within hours.

She somehow felt amazed by the Collins's decisiveness.

"They want me to get involved in the case. That means I am going to supervise the case but the trial will still be conducted in Kensbury."

"OK." Hannah nodded.

She knew it was unlikely for the Collins to give away all the power to Melvin.

"I am calling to tell you that I will play my role in the case, and also let you know that I won't offend the Collins in this matter. That's to say, I won't dig deeper into the investigation unless the Collins give up on Charles."

"Don't worry. I won't put you in a difficult position." Said Hannah.

"I want to know how much you can do." As soon as he finished, he hung up the phone.

Hannah stared at the phone blankly.

He was indicating something.

Gritting, she tried not to get herself distracted.

But more importantly, she got to figure a way out to alienate Sarah from Charles.

The answer was obvious-to get Sarah miscarried would be the best solution.

Determined, she was aware that she couldn't show any mercy to Sarah!

Chapter 548 An Encounter?

Inside the car, Hannah had been contemplating.

Then she got a call from Theodore, "Hannah, Sarah has left the Sawyer Manor."

"Is there anyone with her?"

"Martina."

"Only Martina?"

"Yes."

"Where are they going?"

"I don't know. I will have my man tailing them. I will call you back."

"Okay." Hannah nodded.

Then she said to Jimmy, "Take me to Celina."

"Yes, ma'am."

Half an hour later, Theodore called back, "They are at the Symphony Kitchen. You coming over here?"

"Of course, I gotta talk to Sarah, alone."

Then she dressed herself and dialled Manuel's number, "Hey, Manuel."

"Have you finished your work?"

"Not yet."

"I will be waiting for you at Symphony Kitchen."

"Okay." Manuel didn't hesitate to nod.

After saving the files, he turned off the laptop and left the office.

He had been working flexibly. Thus he often forgot about the time while working.

He walked into the elevator.

But on his way downstairs, Susan happened to come in.

She looked rather displeased whenever encountering him.

Manuel simply ignored her arrival.

But meanwhile, he was a bit surprised to notice her quitting time was getting much later than usual.

After a second thought, she must be waiting for Henry, he reckoned.

But Manuel didn't intend to ask further questions.

Standing next to him, Susan felt uneasy.

She worked overtime this time just because of boredom.

Commonly speaking, Manuel had been working late until 10 PM. But he left at six today, which Susan found surprising.

Then Manuel's phone started ringing.

He took a look at it and answered, "I will be there in fifteen minutes."

"I don't mean to prompt you to hurry up. Instead, I need you to spruce up a little."

"What?"

"You gotta take advantage of your charm."

"Okay." Said Manuel.

After hanging up the phone, he noticed Susan's gaze.

"What's the matter?" he remained cold to Susan.

Meanwhile, his smile also faded away within a blink.

"Going for a date?" asked Susan.

Manuel didn't answer.

He didn't consider it necessary to respond.

"What's your relationship with Martina?" Susan asked curiously.

She felt like they were dating.

However, sometimes she didn't think so.

"We are just friends." Answered Manuel.

He didn't mean to make a declaration about his relationship with Martina. Instead, he tried to avoid trouble.

As far as he knew about Susan, she would keep persevering unless she got a clear answer.

"You're not dating her?"

"NO."

"So who's calling?"

As soon as the door was open, he walked out of the elevator.

His impatience and indifference to Susan appeared rather conspicuous.

Susan gritted angrily.

'Why the hell should I care?' she thought to herself.

...

When Manuel arrived, Hannah had been waiting for him at the portal.

"I have dressed up in a suit. Is that okay?" asked Manuel.

Actually, he didn't get himself changed on purpose.

He had been dressing the same every single day.

"Okay, you look good." Hannah nodded.

He looked exactly dashing and refined in a suit coupled with his statuesque figure.

Then Hannah took the initiative to walk arm-in-arm with him.

Manuel was a bit stunned.

"Hey, I don't mean to. But I need you to accord yourself with my plan." Hannah explained.

After composing himself, Manuel nodded.

Then they walked into the restaurant.

A waiter led them to a table next to the window respectfully, while Sarah and Martina were sitting nearby.

Both of them hadn't noticed them yet.

Martina reserved the greatest friendliness to Sarah. According to Charles, Sarah was considered the saviour of the Sawyers, who deserved the greatest respect. Never should she do whatever she wanted to Sarah until Charles managed to dominate the situation. But at this moment, she got to ingratiate herself with Sarah.

That was why both Martina and her mom listened to whatever Sarah requested.

When Sarah simply blurted out that she wanted some Chinese food, Martina immediately took her to the best-known Chinese restaurant in Kensbury. The conversation between them sounded rather joyful.

"You have no idea how much my brother falls for you. You know what? Before you came to Kensbury to announce your relationship with him, he always stared at your photos on his phone. I have never seen him so obsessed with any other girls."

"Really?" Sarah tried to stay humble.

Ever since she moved into the Sawyer Manor, she, as a spoiled girl from the Collins, had been looking down upon both Loretta and Martina.

She took every respect from them for granted.

“Of course it’s true!” Martina hurried to say, while she greatly despised Sarah.

As ambitious as Charles had been, he would never truly fall for any other ladies.

The ultimate power was what he truly fought for. And it would be doomsday for Sarah as soon as Charles achieved his goal.

“But he used to fall in love with Hannah, didn’t he?”

“Are you joking? Charles has never loved her. If it weren’t engagement set by grandpa, he would never have started a relationship with Hannah! You’re the only beloved one of my brother.” Martina faked a serious tone.

“Don’t you think your brother falls for the power of my family?” Sarah joked.

Stunned, Martina noticed that she might not be as stupid as she expected.

She hurried to explain, “Sarah, I bet you can tell that Charles has been nice to you. I am sure you know the answer better than anyone else of us.”

Sarah seemed rather satisfied upon hearing that, “Of course, I know he truly loves me.”

“Just rest assured. You don’t need to doubt his obsession with you. It’s such a pity that he got something else to do and thus he can’t dine with you tonight. But he had specially told me to take good care of you. Check the message he sent me. I am so jealous!” while speaking, Martina showed her those messages from Charles on her phone.

Of course, all messages had been specifically fabricated.

After taking a few glances, Sarah was pleased.

Martina couldn’t help sneering.

What a stupid girl.

While speaking, they suddenly noticed a woman walking past them.

Martina took a glance out of instinct.

Actually, sometimes ladies would appeal to each other out of the minds of rivalry.

When an attractive lady showed up, she would inevitably catch the eyes of others.

However, as soon as Martina noticed who was walking past, her face turned sulky.

It was Hannah!

Why was she wearing so coquettishly today?

Chapter 549 Provocation

Hannah deliberately walked past to draw their attention. But she pretended not to notice them while passing by.

Martina soon turned hostile, "Why is the bitch here?"

Sarah looked over where Martina fixed her eyes.

Then she saw a lady with a sliver slip dress walking coquettishly. Though she could only see her back, she could tell how charming she must be.

Soon, Sarah turned into a jealous look.

She dressed casually today because of her pregnant belly.

Nor did she put on any makeup as she was here to simply dine with Martina.

However, under Hannah's radiant charm, she appeared more like a common-looking one.

She showed conspicuous jealousy on her face.

So did Martina, who grew grudges whenever she saw Hannah.

After Hannah walked out of the restroom, she bumped into both Sarah and Martina.

She faked a surprised look, "Oh, what a coincidence!"

But Martina responded with indifference.

So did Sarah.

Hannah didn't seem to care. Instead, she smiled to reply, "Wish you having a nice dinner."

Her voice somehow sounded a bit delightful.

However, it appeared rather offensive to both Sarah and Martina because they felt like Hannah was faking a generous response to satirize them for being narrow-minded.

Hannah elegantly walked past them and then returned to her seat.

While staring at her, Sarah said, "Hey, she's dining with Manuel."

As soon as Martina heard Manuel's name, she was stunned.

She hurried to turn around, only to see them chatting intimately with happiness.

"That goddamn bitch!" Martina was furious.

Sarah also stared at them coldly.

"The bitch starts to look for another backup because she knows Oscar is gonna be sentenced?"

"The conviction has not been settled yet. How dare she start hooking up with Manuel?" Martina huffed.

Sarah couldn't help frowning, "You mean she's hooking up with Manuel?"

"What else could it be? See the way she dresses? She gotta be flirting with him!" Martina's anger was growing, "that bitch is planning for a way out. Gentlemen in the upper class in Kensbury, my brother has married you. And she won't be likely to seduce Oscar's brothers. Now Manuel is the only suitable

option. Though he hasn't owned the Phillips Group, he will still be likely to be the heir if it goes on like this. That shameless bitch! She cheats on her husband with the ex of her bestie!"

Sarah could tell why Martina got so mad-she was infatuated with Manuel but she had been failing. That was why she hated whoever ladies tried to get close to Manuel.

But she couldn't help wondering if it was the fact that Hannah started to look for a way out because she had given up on Oscar.

As she contemplated, she noticed that Oscar was doomed to failure this time if that was the case.

"I can't bear it!" Martina shouted.

"What are you doing?" asked Sarah.

"I am gonna kill that bitch!"

"Martina, watch your manner! You are on behalf of the Sawyers!" Sarah warned.

However, Martina simply turned a deaf ear to her warning, "No, I gotta do something!"

Then she stood up to walk over.

Sarah tried to hold her back. However, out of concern about her reputation and the child, she simply sat by.

Hannah was sitting with her back on Martina. So Manuel hinted at her to indicate that Martina was coming over.

With a sneer, she could tell that Martina had fallen into her trap.

"Hannah, you slut! You can't wait to lie with another guy before your husband's conviction, huh?"

Hannah took a look at her furious face. She responded casually, "Miss Sawyer, it's not your concern to interfere with my decision. Don't act like a shrew."

"Hannah!" Martina got choked by anger.

But still, Hannah remained composed.

Martina felt like strangling her. But suddenly, she gritted to grab Manuel's arm.

A slight change flashed across his eyes.

Martina struggled to drag him away.

With a bit of hesitation, Manuel turned around to glance at Hannah, from whom he took a hint to go.

Meanwhile, Sarah noticed what Martina was doing.

She got displeased with Martina's willful act.

Martina left her alone while walking away with Manuel.

Though feeling annoyed, she needed to maintain a decent look in public.

But then she saw Hannah walking over, which she found a bit surprising.

Then Hannah took Martina's seat on the opposite side of Sarah's.

Sarah looked rather displeased.

"We both got left behind. What a coincidence. Shall we dine together?" suggested Hannah.

"Ms Wells, I am afraid that's part of your plan, right?" Sarah sneered.

Hannah smiled. But she didn't seem to care even though Sarah had noticed her intention.

"Well, if you think so..." Hannah smiled to respond ambiguously.

Gritting her teeth, Sarah wondered what she was planning for.

Meanwhile, she tried to reach her phone on the table.

Noticing that, Hannah continued casually, "Don't worry, princess of the Collins family, I bet no one dare to do anything bad to you. I just want a simple talk with you."

Sarah looked a bit embarrassed as her intention was noticed.

"Mrs Sawyer, what do you think of Charles?"

"What do you mean?" Sarah looked a bit sulky.

"Just talk about Charles."

"We love each other. Don't tryna drive a wedge between us." Sarah huffed.

"I know how much you love him. But are you sure he loves you in the same way?"

"Absolutely."

"I used to believe so just like you at that time." Hannah then added, "Never did I expect that he was faking it."

"I am different from you."

"So, Mrs Sawyer, do you think you are excellent enough to make him fall for you? More excellent than me?"

Sarah turned much sulkier.

"Are you sure when it comes to appearance, figure, capability, family, talent and everything..." Hannah looked at her to repeat, "Are you sure after taking all these into consideration?"

Chapter 550 Instigate

Sarah was rendered rather embarrassed.

She got to admit that Hannah was extraordinary in all aspects.

She was better-looking with a sexier body and a talent for business. Besides, she was born into a privileged family. Though the Collins family was more powerful, the Cooper family should be prestigious enough to be Charles's in-laws. And, Hannah had once surprised the world with her outstanding talent and status after being exposed.

At the thought of that, Sarah looked a bit more displeased.

Indeed, Hannah was much more excellent than any other lady in the world.

A lady like her had been deadly appealing to guys.

But Sarah still insisted, "Love is hard to be measured. Perhaps it's destiny that brings us together."

"Destiny? A benefit-oriented guy like him would believe in destiny? If it was because of destiny, how are you gonna explain that every lady he once dated happens to be rich and noble?"

"Family is also an element worth consideration."

"He only picks up those valuable for him!" Hannah concluded.

"Whatever you say, it's useless. From my perspective, you are just being jealous of my relationship with him. Now since you lost your hope in Oscar, you are trying to rekindle your relationship with Charles. Hannah, I am not a fool. I know what you are conspiring about." Sarah mocked to reply.

"Whatever will happen to Oscar, Charles has been a jerk in my eyes."

"Hannah, you'd better watch your language!"

"Do you have any idea about how many ladies he has lain with all these years?"

"It was just an old story happening before our marriage. He shouldn't be responsible for that."

"Oh, Mrs Sawyer, your love for him does go beyond my expectation. I gotta admit that he knows how to make a lady fall for him."

"No, that's only because he loves me."

"How could you be so sure?"

"No one else could tell except for those involved in the relationship themselves."

"I bet you still haven't known enough about him."

"I don't want to waste time talking to you..."

"How about that? I suggest you should test him a bit."

"Why should I?"

"Well, it's up to you. I am just suggesting. After all, in my humble opinion, a guy like him doesn't deserve a lady like you."

Sarah sneered, "I am afraid you can't alienate us from each other however hard you try."

“Think about it. Was he in his worst time ever when he got into a relationship with you?” Hannah didn’t mean to respond. Instead, she continued, “You always helped him out whenever he got into big trouble. Was that a coincidence? Or was that part of his plan?”

Sarah maintained a gloomy face.

Then Hannah added, “If you wanna know if your relationship is based on his love or his desire for the power of the Collins, you only need to have him tested with the baby in your belly.”

“How do you know I am pregnant?” Sarah was stunned.

Hannah smiled, “I am quite well-informed, well-informed enough to tell his true feelings for you.”

“What do you want?”

“A man like Charles deserves nothing but retribution.” Replied Hannah frankly.

Sarah gazed at her with suspicion.

Then Hannah took out her phone to show her a video clip.

Sarah soon turned into madness.

The video exactly showed the trap Hannah set for Charles during his wedding with Sarah.

But at that time, to meet Oscar, she threatened Charles with this and deleted it in front of him.

But, before that, she had already turned to Manuel for a backup. She never deleted the video thoroughly.

Dirty means were needed when it came to fighting Charles.

Staring at the madness growing stronger on her face, Hannah continued, “It’s hard to change one’s nature.”

Sarah felt like blasting in anger.

She could notice Charles’s desire for Hannah in the video.

She used to believe that she had been the only beloved one of Charles and that he never reserved any feelings for other ladies.

She had never doubted Charles’s love for her. After all, he had been caring enough to go beyond any suspicion.

“I was fooled in the same way back then.” Hannah stood up and said.

It was time to end the talk.

Before leaving, Hannah added, “If you wanna test his love, just think about my suggestion. But remember, I don’t mean to help you. Instead, I just hate Charles for trifling with women’s affection and paying no price for what he has done. He deserves the worst retribution!”

After that, Hannah walked away without hesitation as if she was sure Sarah would do as she suggested.

Sarah couldn't help gritting her teeth.

But then she thought about the video.

Her body started shivering in anger all over.

...

Hannah walked out of the restaurant.

Outside the portal, Martina shouted at Manuel crazily, "Susan and Hannah are both bitches! Birds of a feather flock together! Can't you see that? Why haven't you learned your lesson after being deceived again and again? Manuel, can't you tell that I have been the one loving you the most?"

But Manuel remained impassive.

He reserved nothing but indifference to Martina.

"Not your concern." Said Manuel.

"Manuel, what can I do to make you realize how much I love you? I truly do! What else can I do to convince you?" Martina burst into tears.

"Sorry, there's nothing else you can do."

"Do you want me to prove that with my life?" Martina questioned.

Tears streamed down her face while her mind was overwhelmed with hopelessness.

Manuel felt like speaking.

He wasn't that cold-blooded to feel no sympathy about her tears.

"Manuel," Hannah uttered.

Hannah noticed from his eyes that he had been holding back his emotion.

Of course, she was aware that his relationship with Susan had turned into an irredeemable old story, which she had accepted.

However, there was one thing for sure-he could be with any other lady in the world except for Martina, who never learned to change her evil nature despite her true affection for Manuel.

She could never be a perfect match for him.

That was why Hannah would interfere.

She walked over to hold Manuel's arm, "Come on, let's go. I don't have the mood to dine here."

"Hannah, I am gonna kill you!" Martina was on the edge of losing control.

She rushed over to fight Hannah.

However, Manuel pushed her away and stood in front of Hannah.

