

Reborn 611

Chapter 611 A Kindness

"I heard my brother held me first when I was born. My parents told him that I was the one he needed to protect and that he must make sure I am alive until he died." Cian said with a look that seemed a little sentimental, "Sometimes I would wonder why did this happen to him? Why has he been abandoned since he was born? The first-born boy is always the heir, the man who gets to have everything. But because of what happened to our family, he had to become a victim."

Hannah listened quietly since she was not in a position to judge.

"Actually, Oscar cried when he was a kid." Said Cian.

Surprised, Hannah had never seen Oscar cry, nor did she think he would cry.

"I heard it from my aunt." Cian said, "My parents are cold, maybe they act like that on purpose, but they don't usually show vulnerability to us. My aunt often does. By the way, do you know who my aunt is?"

"Justine," Hannah answered.

Oscar had not told her but it was quite obvious.

Manuel was their cousin. Accordingly, their aunt should be Manuel's mother, Justine.

She always felt that Justine was different from other ladies of the upper class and there was something more about her. It turned out that Justine was a royal member.

"Well, yes, her original name was Justine Wells. She changed her last name to avoid being noticed. Manuel's last name should also be Wells."

Somehow, Hannah felt Cian cared too much about their last names. In other words, it was a kind of possessiveness towards his family members. Oscar and Cian didn't have many families and it was not strange that they cherished them.

"Back to business," Cian realized he had gone too far off the point and said, "I heard my aunt say it once. She said when he was a child, he went to wilderness training for the first time and he was ordered to kill small animals with a knife. When he used that knife to strike at those animals, he was always crying but he did not stop. Because he knew if he stopped, there would be more. And those animals were so cute and harmless."

Hannah felt there was a sudden sting in her heart. She could not imagine that scene of a boy crying with a bloody knife. Oscar must have been deep in desperation.

"My brother and I had very different experiences growing up. After I was born, I stayed with my parents and was taught to learn a lot of strategies. I was locked in the study every day and received all kinds of education. Of course, I took classes in self-defence, but it was nothing compared to Oscar's training. He is truly the most capable man our family has raised in all these years. Not only good at fighting but also studying. He got many certificates, such as his diplomas, his lawyer qualification certificate, and so on. Besides, he is the best of all the descendants of the family. If we lived in a peaceful time, he would become the greatest king ever."

“But he is not the chosen heir, he’s the one who shed blood to clear the way for me and put me on the throne.” Cian said, “In fact, I thought of giving up. I thought about quitting and many of the followers of our family suggested changing the heir when they saw his abilities. They all think Oscar is more qualified. So am I. I even pretended to suffer from depression and autism. But it didn’t work. I was still the heir. They said it was because he was so bloodthirsty and an heir could not be like that or even have emotions.”

Hannah seemed to have understood why Oscar said Cian suffered more by then.

Outwardly, none of that stuff mattered to him, while actually, Cian was enduring great pain inside.

“And I got beat up by Oscar many times.” Cian suddenly smiled. It was like everything that had just been told was just a story.

“He used to beat me up every time I said I didn’t want to be the heir. And then he would coax me and put ointment on me. He was always cold and aloof, but after I got beat up, he would be very gentle with me and calm me down.”

Hannah felt like he was trying to show off how nice Oscar was to him.

“I always think he treats me the best in the world. Everyone nice to me has a purpose, such as my parents, and those followers, except him. He loves me unconditionally. I would love him even if he hates me, not to mention he’s always nice to me.”

“Because he knows you’re not doing well.” Hannah was quite blunt.

This must be a true brotherhood. They both could see each other’s suffering, so they were always there for each other unconditionally, which was precious. Members of the usual elite family turned against each other and killed each other for power, not to mention a royal family.

“So I don’t need to feel guilty now,” Cian added.

“Er?”

He was always getting off the subject.

“I do not feel guilty for causing him so much pain anymore. Without me, he would not be able to pursue his love. If he is the heir, he cannot love a person with all his heart. The heir has so many responsibilities. Love is the first thing that needs to be abandoned.” Cian smiled happily, “You could always be together because he was not the heir.”

Hannah blushed again. It was true that Oscar and she were very close but it still embarrassed her by saying so in front of her.

“By the way,” Cian said and took out a bracelet, “Oscar did not tell me in advance that you would come so I did not have enough time to prepare. It was my mom’s favourite bracelet, and it’s yours now.”

Chapter 612 An Unexpected Present

Looking at the jade bangle Cian gave, Hannah felt quite puzzled.

It was such an unexpected present to be given by Cian instead of Oscar.

Would it be appropriate for her to take this bangle? Hannah hesitated.

“Don’t you like it?” Cian appeared to be a bit frustrated.

“Sure I do. But it is of special value that once belonged to your mother when she was alive after all, I...” Hannah was deeply moved, but she wasn’t sure if she could take it or not, and how to refuse it.

She had suffered a lot when she was coldly treated by Charles’s family in her previous life.

But in her reborn life, not only was she warmly welcomed by the Wells family in Kensbury City, but Oscar’s brother, Cian, who was now also so friendly to her, made her so humbled.

“That’s why I give it to you.” Cian took her hand and gave it to her without hesitation.

The bracelet felt a bit cold, but the touch of it was soft, as if the warmth was conveyed by its last master, making Hannah somehow want to cry.

“No one dared to take my parents back from the sea after they died. Later, my aunt made a tombstone for them in a hidden place on this island, where there were only their remains buried, except for this jade bangle. It is a family heirloom, as my brother said, and it shall be given to my future wife.” Cian said.

Hearing this, Hannah intended to give it back to Cian. She could not take it, because it since this bangle was for Cian’s wife.

“Take it. I have my reason for it. The relationship between my girlfriend and I is benefit-oriented and we don’t love each other. You know, I’m rich, so I can buy her lots of luxuries.” Cian suddenly started to show off.

Hannah nodded. She couldn’t deny that this guy looked indeed rich.

“The rest of my family’s possessions are much bigger than the average sort of people. When my family was to be exterminated back then, my grandfather secretly took away a lot of priceless antiques and gold bars with him which later supported the development of family businesses in various fields over generations and contributed to my current wealth.” Said Cian, “By the way, do you know that half the fortune of the Wells family in Kensbury belongs to my brother?”

Much to her surprise, Hannah didn’t know it at all. She thought Oscar was only an adopted child from that family.

“The Wells family didn’t possess so much fortune before until my parents sent my brother to their family and came to their assistance. We once contributed to the glorious history of the Wells family. You know, David and Thomas work for him most of the time. Don’t be stressed, they are willing to do so or the Wells family would have disappeared without my brother.”

She didn’t doubt what he was saying because she knew clearly that Oscar was truly welcomed by the Wells family judging from their behaviour. However, at the same time, Karen came to her mind. No wonder Karen kept an eye on Oscar-she was not his sister in blood.

“I think I’ve gone slightly off-topic.” Cian sounded a bit sorry and he continued, “My mother loved my brother quite a lot when she was alive, though there was a time when my brother hated staying with

them since she and my father didn't offer him much loving attention. The only time for them to gather together was when he was sent here for those training classes. But I know they feel sorry for him. Her guilt did not allow her to show up at my brother's training, so all she could do was only silently watch the boat he was in going afar. I can never forget when my mother stood still in the rain, staring at the boat. I can never forget her grief, sadness, silence, and compromise..."

Hannah's mind was flooded with the picture of her mother at that time.

"Please keep this bangle well. I believe my mother will do the same for the woman her sons loved." Cian said, leaving no reason for Hannah to refuse it.

Finally, Hannah took it. What she planned was to keep this bangle herself first, and if Cian didn't want to give it to his future wife, she would then give it to his offspring, such as daughters or daughters-in-law.

"Wait, you have a girlfriend, right?" Hannah asked.

Cian talked little about his girlfriend.

"Sure. Will it be possible for me to be single still at such an age?"

Hannah smiled. She did enjoy her time chatting with Cian.

"Well, I mean, I haven't even seen her. You are only 22?" Hannah asked.

Cian was 4 years younger than Oscar, so he was supposed to be 22. He was a year younger than she was then.

"I am. It's been years since I became an adult from 18 to 22! Aren't you getting married to my brother at 22?" Cian retorted.

Well, he won.

"As for my girlfriend, she seldom comes for a visit. We are more like business partners without love. And we only get together for sex..."

"Well well." Hannah choked.

"Sorry," Cian gave a bright smile, "I've got used to this way of speaking since I got along with Theodore."

"Never mind."

"She doesn't know the complex relationships in my family, so I can't introduce her to you for the time being," Cian said.

"It's okay. I'm just chatting. "

"But I'm surprised that my brother told you everything to you. I once expected only when we succeed would he do it. The life we chose must be full of blood. Won't he be afraid that you cannot accept it? More importantly, won't he be worried that you would ruin it all if you were on the opposite side?"

Hannah felt a bit awkward answering that question. She never thought Oscar would have such a glorious family background when she first investigated him. All she only expected was that Oscar would be an ordinary child of the Wells family rather than a royal descendant.

She wouldn't have forced him to tell her the truth if she had known.

How trustful she was to Oscar that he told her everything! By contrast, she appeared to be pretty mean when she felt down about his concealing.

"Whatever, it can only explain how deeply my brother is into you. Anyway, whoever my brother loves and trusts, I'll give the same. So sister-in-law..."

Chapter 613 Oscar's choice

All of a sudden, Cian jumped from the sofa.

Hannah felt a bit nervous.

What did he want to do?

"Sister-in-law, welcome to our home!" Cian bowed, looking sincere.

Hannah's heart was touched.

Whatever Oscar commented on the indifference of Cian, at this moment Hannah made up her mind to treat him as her younger brother.

Hannah stood up as well and reached out her hand, "thanks for your welcome. We'll be a good family"

Cian smiled and held her hand with his long and slender fingers.

They smiled at each other.

Sometimes it was hard to explain the magic power of family affection.

Later, the door opened.

Oscar came in and frowned at Hannah and Cian.

Upon seeing this, Cian let go of her hand and said, "it's late now. I need to go to sleep for fitness."

Then he ran out of the room.

Hannah looked at Cian, then she saw Oscar walking towards her. Oscar was very possessive towards her so he took her hand in his palm and said, "let's go. It's time for sleep."

"Did you finish your talk with Laird?" Hannah asked.

"Yes."

"What happened? Why did he find you at such a late night?" Hannah seemed a bit concerned.

She always felt that Oscar was surrounded by danger after she knew who he was.

Oscar hesitated.

"Well, it's okay if you don't want to tell. I won't suspect you anymore." Hannah explained immediately. She should blame herself for asking more.

“Honey,” Oscar touched her head, “Since I’ve brought you here, I wouldn’t keep any secret from you. I didn’t tell you the truth before not because I was worried that you would betray me or you were not trusted. It was because I was worried you could not accept the truth.”

Hannah’s heart melted.

How tender he was to her as a man who survived in a bloody world.

“Laird knew that I brought you here, so he came to question me.”

“Were you punished?” Hannah felt her heart aching for him.

“Nope. I’m not a child anymore and he won’t give me any punishment. I explained to him so he felt a bit out of sorts.”

“I would feel the same if it were me.”

“Don’t overthink it. He was irritated because he didn’t expect that I fancy you so much. I was once regarded as the successor by him, however, his dream was ended when realizing my love for you and also, I’m not interested in that position. He couldn’t accept it so that’s why he got irritated at me.”

“…”

“He will know that Cian will be a better successor, one day.” Cian was highly estimated by him.

“Have you ever dreamed of, even for once, being the successor?” Hannah asked, carefully looking at his reaction.

“Never.” Oscar firmly responded.

Hannah once thought he would have a huge ambition. In her previous life, Oscar’s competence made her believe his political ambitions were as high as Charles’s.

“Personally, what I really want to do is to help Cian get what he deserves.”

“Great.” Hannah nodded.

Surely did she trust Oscar. She was once worried that Oscar would be determined to pursue a political position. But she didn’t want to share Oscar with the people of the country after all.

“Well, what did you talk about with Cian?” Oscar asked on their way to the bedroom. They were chatting hand in hand.

It was a precious moment for Hannah to enjoy the peaceful time of life with Oscar.

“We talked about your childhood. He said you always beat him up.”

Oscar’s face changed.

“Isn’t he too old to tell on me now? How come he didn’t say that I will treat him better every time I beat him up?”

“He did, and it made me jealous.” Hannah pursed her lips immediately and continued, “Fine. He knew you earlier than I did after all.”

Oscar chuckled, looking at her adoringly.

“He gave it to me.” Hannah took out the jade bangle.

Oscar was not surprised at it, as if it had been expected.

“Take it then.” Said he.

“What I want to say is that though Cian had a bad relationship with his girlfriend, he would somehow love his children. So I’m now doing him a favour to keep it for his children!”

Oscar smiled, “how thoughtful you are!”

Hannah thought it was a good plan.

They went to the bedroom and lay down on the bed talking and laughing.

Hannah felt a bit sleepless since she had been sleeping for a whole day.

Oscar felt the same, and he stayed next to her.

They were hand in hand, feet by feet.

The island was quiet as if they were the only two on it.

Hannah suddenly came up with the thought of living a peaceful and joyful life like this. At that time, they would have two or even more children.

Thinking about this, Hannah giggled. She couldn’t believe that she just had a thought to give babies to Oscar just because he wanted.

“What are you thinking about?” Oscar asked tenderly.

“I feel so happy.”

“Happy for what?”

“For being alive.”

“...”

Hannah smiled more broadly.

All at once, she turned over and pushed Oscar under her body.

Oscar started to breathe heavily.

The man couldn’t stand her teasing, not even for a while nor her look.

“Do you want a kid... Oops!”

Oscar turned over and pushed her under instead. And then started to canoodle with each other, with all kinds of noises of love echoing in the room. And sometimes the noises could be heard outside the room.

Looking at Laird in front of him, Cian appeared to be quite pleased as if his goal was achieved.

Laird put on a long face and took it out on Cian, "stop looking at me, go on!"

He had known that this old man wanted his brother to be the successor of the family but failed to persuade him to do so. Laird had struggled for years but still, he didn't dare to force him. And every time he felt annoyed he would take it out on Cian. Cian had gotten used to it.

All of a sudden, Cian stood up, walked to the window and closed it.

Laird's face fell, "how can you achieve greatness if you are easily distracted?"

"It's you who got distracted," Cian responded purposely, "We young men have got used to such voices after all. But as for your well-being, I will get fairly worried if you tried for even once..."

Laird got red with anger. As he was about to get steamed up about it, Cian immediately recited the text that Laird tested on him.

Consequently, Laird gradually calmed down.

Laird had a personal interest and a deeper feeling for Oscar since he was the child Laird brought up. The successor for the royal Wells family should be a perfect one.

Laird sighed, Cian might be a better choice since Oscar was not an ideal successor who devoted more to his love, while Cian could stay calm to face all of the questions and pains.

Hence Cian was the one qualified enough to be a politician.

Chapter 614 Back to Kensbury City

Hannah and Oscar spent a week on the island.

Laird left early in the morning with the thought of "out of sight, out of mind."

It was said that he left in a bad mood, but no one cared. If he was told that his feelings were ignored, he would surely get steamed up about it.

Life on the island for Hannah and Oscar was as joyous as living in heaven. They went to sea, went fishing, hunted, swam, and bathed in the sun.

It was the first time Hannah had forgotten all her troubles and completely indulged in her time for so long. So she felt disappointed somehow when Oscar told her they had to come back tomorrow.

But as she thought, the most reluctant one to say goodbye was Cian because he and Oscar rarely got together for a week. Obviously, they had a solid brotherhood and Cian kind of had psychological dependence on his brother.

Cian silently ate his meal as if he had not been disturbed and expected it to come. Perhaps, Hannah thought, Cian had gotten used to being apart from others.

Hannah replied, "I see."

Then no one continued this topic.

After dinner, Hannah walked around the island with Oscar.

It grew dark and cold outside.

"Oscar, I want to see your parent's grave." Suddenly, Hannah suggested.

Holding her hand, Oscar paused.

"Can I?"

"Aren't you afraid?"

"Nope. Your parent is not in it after all." Hannah responded deliberately in a light tone.

"Yes, so it's not worth it."

"Oscar!"

"It's just a joke," Oscar laughed. "I can take you there if you want. It's just a tombstone."

Then they went across a garden in the back of the villa, and arrived at a hidden place where a small tombstone lay. His parents' names were incised on the stone.

Hannah gave a bow and said to the tombstone, "You can trust me. I'll take good care of your son."

Oscar's heart was touched and he gave a beautiful smile.

Hannah wondered if Oscar's parents should badly want to take care of him in person at that time.

"You don't need to tell them, just tell me." Said he.

Hannah kicked Oscar slightly for his naughty words.

"Why did your mother marry your father? Your father was a descendant, was your mother the same?"

"Strictly speaking, she was." Oscar said, "My great-grandfather arranged their marriage before their birth. The old generation made a pledge with another royal family that their grandchildren would marry each other in the future and everything went well as they expected."

"Was it a political marriage?"

"Yeah, but they were in love."

"To be honest, I do envy their solid relationship. I can feel it though we spent little time together."

"So is it why you are longing for a relationship and marriage?"

"It isn't."

Hannah somehow felt it was Oscar who wanted to save his face so he didn't admit his love for his parents.

"My longing for a relationship and marriage started from you who tempted me."

Hannah was at a loss for words.

"Let's go," Oscar held her hand, "I need to spend more time with Cian."

Hannah frowned.

“Are you jealous?”

“It seemed Cian didn’t want you to leave,” Hannah replied.

Oscar smiled without any explanation as if he didn’t want to do it because Hannah couldn’t understand it.

When they came back to their room, Hannah went to the bed immediately and Oscar left. She didn’t know when Oscar would be back. When he was finally back, Hannah smelt booze in his breath.

He must be drinking with Cian.

In the morning, Oscar went on the cruise with Hannah and left.

Hannah looked back, but she didn’t see Cian. Earlier, Amy said Cian got drunk last night and was still sleeping.

Hannah looked at Oscar, who was with an impassive face as if he knew about it.

Then the cruise set out and drove away. They were getting further and further from the island. All at the moment, Hannah felt reluctant to be apart. It was like she was far away from a tranquil life. And there were dangers and troubles waiting for them in Kensbury City.

The moment she was about to look back, she noticed someone standing in the distance. A fairly small figure silently stood there to see them off.

Hannah’s eyes went red with weeping. All of a sudden, she remembered the time Cian had told her how his mother had seen Oscar off when he was a child. She realized that Cian would understand his mother’s complex feelings because he experienced the same when he grew up.

All at once, Oscar held her in his arms.

Hannah got touched. She swallowed the tears and said, “let’s spare more time to visit Cian here.”

“We will.”

Hannah’s heart ached for Cian, who had always been alone for years.

Before they came back to their villa, they went to Robert’s house when they were back in Kensbury city.

Venus was fairly worried about Oscar, so she urged them to come back.

Hannah felt a bit different when she came to Robert’s house this time. She once thought Oscar was their child, but now she knew he was not.

But when she saw how much Venus cared about Oscar and how the Wells family treated him like their own son, she was aware that she overthought it.

The Wells family should be a warm place for Oscar in his bloody life.

After dinner, Hannah and Oscar were about to leave. Both of them were so tired after a long journey and visit.

As they were about to fall asleep in the car, Oscar suddenly got wary and opened his eyes.

Hannah was startled.

Jimmy pulled over the car and turned around to say to Oscar, "Mr Wells, there is a car blocking our way."

Then Oscar opened the door.

Hannah immediately pulled his arm to stop him as she felt the strange car was a dangerous sign.

"Take it easy. Criminals won't show up in a public place."

Hannah bit her lips.

Oscar gave her a reassuring look and then walked to that car that later changed their lives.

Chapter 615 A Fierce Battle

In the moonlight, Hannah watched Oscar walk toward that dangerous black car, feeling extremely nervous.

Oscar stopped in front of them, A man in a black suit went off and opened the door for him, and then Oscar got into the car.

Hannah's heart started racing violently as the car was driven away.

She felt helpless. So did Jimmy.

Without the permission of Oscar, neither Hannah nor Jimmy dared take any action. They were afraid that they would mistakenly ruin Oscar's plan. So what Hannah could do was wait patiently in the car. She suffered every second she waited for him.

Finally, the black car came back into their sight.

Oscar got off from the car and went back.

Hannah immediately had a check for him.

Oscar looked the same as before. Then he called Jimmy to drive away.

However, Hannah had a feeling that something bad might happen. Otherwise, it was hard to explain why Melvin took Oscar away and sent him back this way.

It was quiet in the car. Hannah was controlling her feelings, so she didn't ask anything about it. She sat on the thorns.

"Melvin asked me to work undercover in the Collins' house," Oscar spoke. He might notice Hannah's concern.

His voice was quiet and plain as if he was not worried about it.

"SO he asked you to work for the Collins family?"

"You once met up with Sarah, right?" Oscar asked.

“Yes, that was when Charles was to be sentenced in court. Sarah came to persuade me and wanted to draw me to their side, but I refused. Let alone I promised Melvin, I still believed it was not a wise choice for us to take part. We should wait and watch instead.” Hannah expressed what she thought at that moment.

Oscar nodded his head, showing his agreement with her opinion.

“But Melvin knew it. And he was planning to play them at their own game and had me be the one secretly helping him in the Collins family. ”

“But it’s suspicious to give the Collins a favour after refusing their request.” Hannah said.

They were all experienced. At a time when battles between families were about to break up, they would sure be scrupulous enough in every action.

“So you won’t get involved in it,” Oscar said. “It’s only me. I will do it. ”

Hannah frowned.

What did he mean?

“This is the condition I proposed to him.” Oscar explained, “I can work for him since he saved my life, but you won’t get involved in it.”

“Did he agree?” Hannah was surprised.

Melvin was the one who would take every advantage from every possible one.

How could he give up opportunity of the Cooper family?

“There are two reasons. You turned Sarah down. So as you said, we would surely be suspected by them if you suddenly changed your mind and agreed to join them. What you can do is keep your stand and never get involved. What’s more, although we are a couple, the husband’s ambition might still be different from his wife’s. So your stand doesn’t always stand for me. Since you rejected Sarah’s offer, they would surely come to ask my opinion. And at that time, they won’t suspect me if I secretly accept their offer.”

Hannah thought Oscar was such a thoughtful person who considered all possibilities, and that might also be the reason why Melvin chose to trust him.

“And second, I told him that I can do anything for you. In this case, he has to accept my offer if he wants to take any advantage of me, and at the same time he wouldn’t suspect the death of Tan.”

At that moment Hannah wondered if Melvin would suspect Oscar’s identity, for the death of Tan was somehow suspicious.

Smart as Melvin, wouldn’t he suspect Oscar?

“As for the death of Tan, I’ve told Melvin that I appointed Jimmy to kill him. Jimmy was once a member of Men of Sacrifice, so he could kill Tan. No family would suspect his death. What’s more, Men of Sacrifice are actually monitored wherever they are, so they would know every change in Tan. I mean,

they've already known changes in his attitudes towards you that made them believe his death was caused by his hesitation for you."

Oscar could always figure everything out and logically responded to every question, Hannah thought.

"Melvin's trust in me is not true." Oscar smiled.

"why?"

"He is testing my faithfulness," said Oscar, "He asked me to work undercover with the Collins family because he wanted to throw the danger to them. If I'm trusted, then the Collins family will face their downfall. If I'm not, then I won't be a threat to him either, since I've been controlled by the Collins family. Melvin is circumspect and farseeing. The forbearance and retreat of the Balderston family for these years were all on purpose. "

"There is no such thing as a good man among politicians!" Hannah couldn't help but say.

Oscar felt a bit awkward.

All of a sudden Hannah was reminded that her husband and his brother were politicians.

Hannah laughed, "I mean them."

"Indeed, we are all not good men. We have to achieve our goals at any cost."

"I know, you don't have any choice."

"But the truth is that many people died because of me," Oscar stared at Hannah, "But I promise I will get out of this field and never come back when everything is settled."

"You will," Hannah nodded confidently, "At that time, we will have a lot of babies and live a happy life."

"A lot of babies!" Oscar smiled at her adoringly.

Indulging in his words, she accidentally slipped out her inmost thought. Hannah slightly blushed.

"What Melvin asked you to do next? Are you ready to work for the Collins family later on?"

"Yes. I will start my work tomorrow, and this is also why I have to come back. City Hall informed me of my work tomorrow, so I came back today. I'll on my position for days until the Collins family comes to me. Then I will accept their offer and be taken advantage of by both of the families. Finally, when the game was to an end I will give them a beating and crush them once."

Although Oscar said it breezily, Hannah knew that a fierce battle was expecting them.

Chapter 616 The Romance on Your Face

Hannah went back to work the next day while Oscar went to the office of City Hall.

Both of them went back to their own workplaces.

Upon stepping into her office, Hannah was greatly surprised by the presence of Rose.

Not until then did she remember that when she was kidnapped by Tan, Rose was also on the spot. Hannah had experienced a lot these days.

She once thought Jimmy wouldn't think much of it and would kill Rose to keep the secret that night. However, now Rose was still in her office as her secretary.

She tried to calm down and sat down in the chair.

Although this was much to her surprise, she was greatly grateful to Oscar, without whom Rose might have been killed by Jimmy.

"Ms Hannah, would you like a cup of milk or a cafe?" Rose asked.

She behaved the same as usual and didn't ask anything about Tan or how she survived the danger.

"Milk," Hannah said in a plain voice.

"Yes, ma'am," Rose replied in a respectful tone as before.

Then she walked out of the office.

Later, she went back with a cup of milk as well as a cup of cafe.

Hannah frowned, noticing that Rose had given the cafe to Jimmy.

Jimmy was like being shocked.

At that moment, Hannah felt curious about what was going on between them.

"I made it myself. Take a try." Rose was pleasing Jimmy.

"... Er... I don't drink cafe. I only drink water. "

"Didn't you drink it that day in my house?" Rose rebutted.

Hannah couldn't believe what she heard. Something must have happened between them during the days she was gone.

Jimmy noticed Hannah looking straight at them. This tough guy blushed and said to Rose, "Don't make fun of me."

"Didn't you go to my house?" Rose sounded a bit hurt.

"I did, but I..."

Rose interrupted, "Take it. I prepared it for you."

Jimmy failed. He was awkward in speech. And he wasn't able to resist Rose's teasing. So he immediately took the cup over and drained it.

Jimmy's face went pale as the cafe was still too hot to drink.

"It's hot..."

Jimmy had finished it before Rose could remind him.

Jimmy bore it and didn't change his face, though his mouth might get scaled.

"What a man!" Rose got crazy for him.

Looking at this, Hannah couldn't stand it anymore.

"Rose, are you flirting with your lover during work hours right now?"

Jimmy's face turned even redder.

He immediately explained, "No ma'am. There's nothing between her and me..."

"But there's something in me." Rose interrupted.

Jimmy seemed to feel panicked.

Hannah didn't want to make fun of him anymore, and she said seriously to Rose, "Give me the schedule of today's work."

"Yes, ma'am." Rose was still a responsible secretary.

She was in a rush, but still ogled at Jimmy when she left.

Hannah never expected Rose, a serious woman, would daringly woo the one she loved. She once thought Rose was a bit lousy in her feelings since she had been single for years, so she would be awkward when wooing others.

She had to say that Rose had a special preference for her lover's type.

Cooper Group was filled with elites who looked attractive and well-behaved while she was into a common strong big man. She would definitely fear Jimmy's appearance if she didn't know him, Hannah thought.

"Ma'am, it's not what you thought." Jimmy felt a bit embarrassed and intended to explain to her after Rose left.

"So the truth is?"

Jimmy was once a stern man who wouldn't talk too much, but now Rose seemed to push him too far. They were somehow like a couple at that moment.

"I let her go when she spotted you were kidnapped. Later, I was afraid she would gossip with others, so I went to her house. Accidentally, her mother and brother came over to ask for money that day, so to save time, I drove them away. I was not helping her, but she misunderstood it, saying she would turn to me next time if they came again. In return, she would keep quiet about what happened that day, so I agreed." Jimmy explained.

"I see." Hannah nodded.

"So it's a misunderstanding between us. She is treating me like this just because I helped her." Jimmy blushed again as he spoke.

"In my opinion, it's time for you to get married." Hannah sighed.

“I never thought of a marriage.”

Will you stay single for the rest of your life?”

“Perhaps... I will.”

“It’s impossible. Humans have always lived in groups. It’s better for you to have a wife. You can try to accept her. ”

Sometimes Hannah felt that she was also a gossip girl.

As Jimmy was about to rebut, Rose knocked on the door and came in with the schedule.

Jimmy immediately turned back and walked away at the sight of Rose.

Hannah couldn’t help but smile.

Someone was talking about being single but behaved as if wanted a marriage.

Rose got puzzled about Hannah’s smile, “is there anything on my face, Ms Hannah?”

“Sure.”

“What is it?”

All at once, Rose started to touch all over her face.

“Romance.”

Rose paused for a second, then put on a shy face.

Hannah gave a sign to her and Rose immediately acknowledged it.

What a caring boss Hannah was.

Rose immediately finished reporting work.

Then Hannah’s phone rang.

“Hi, Manuel.”

“I heard you and my cousin came back from the island.” Manuel said.

“Yes.”

“Did you see Cian?”

“I did.”

“You knew it then.” Manuel murmured.

“Yes.”

“You must be alright then since you can still stay calm now.”

“Are you worried that I cannot accept it?” Hannah smiled.

“A bit.”

“So that’s why you gave me a call?”

“This call is important.”

“How come?”

“If you cannot accept it then it will mean Oscar will be in a bad mood. And it’s spooky if he’s down after all...”

“...”

“By the way, I have something to tell you. My mother said she wanted to have a meal with you in your spare time.”

Chapter 617 A Tit-for-Tat Struggle

It was perfect timing, Hannah thought.

After all, Justine was Oscar’s aunt, who also represented their family.

“Don’t worry. She’s nice. She just wants to meet her nephew’s wife formally.”

“Well, which day?”

“I’ll tell when she fixes the time.”

“All right.”

“I gotta go for a meeting.” Manuel saw Susan at the door.

“Bye.”

Manuel hung up the phone, and said to Susan, “Has the meeting started?”

“Ten minutes later.” Said Susan.

“OK.”

Then Susan turned around and left. She thought it was unfair to her since she needed to do the job of both an assistant and a secretary of Manuel. She was kind of pissed about it.

Ten minutes later, it was meeting time for a high-level conference of Phillips Bank.

Susan sat behind Manuel.

An atmosphere of tension suffused the conference room.

“Things look black. Sway Bank has extended its business to commercial lending and borrowing service. Our Inbound Market Department has collected much information that shows quite a few companies are planning to establish cooperative ties with Sway.” Joe Harper, the chief marketing officer began.

“Which companies are negotiating with Sway Bank?” Edward asked, wearing a serious expression.

“Here is the list. As matters stand, these are our cooperators whose contracts will expire soon.” Joe showed the list on the screen.

Edward’s face turned sterner.

“Sway Bank is new in Kensbury City. Why do they have access to accurate information about our customers?” Manuel raised a question suddenly.

Joe was struck speechless. He didn’t know what Manuel wanted to convey, so he remained silent.

Henry took a glance at Manuel. He was a bit surprised by Manuel’s perspicacious remarks. Then he began, “Sway Bank is a top-class bank. Hadn’t they undertaken market research before they came here? Manuel, it’s not the time to raise doubtful points about them, but to think what we should do next.” Henry’s words were a bit overbearing.

Manuel didn’t get angry but just said, “You talk a lot of good sense. You’re also responsible for the management of the marketing department, what’s your opinion on Sway Bank’s market penetration?”

Henry was dumbfounded, for he didn’t expect Manuel to put the issue to him rightly. He felt a bit embarrassed now.

Henry stopped, and said imperturbably, “In my point of view, public relations ploys should be adopted now, and we should wage a tit-for-tat struggle against Sway Bank. We should prevent them from taking our customers away. Frankly, I think we can allow our customers to retain more profits. We must maintain our market, not the revenue.

At the moment he just finished speaking and some executives were about to echo, Manuel said bluntly, “I don’t agree.”

Henry’s countenance changed abruptly. Tensions were building up in the conference room.

Susan sat behind Manuel, and she could distinctly feel his charisma. She stole a glance at Henry, who seemed to be a little aggrieved. But she suppressed her dissatisfaction in silence. She had known that it was not proper to offer her opinions causally under such an occasion.

“So, you just want to watch them take away our customers and we should do nothing?” Henry asked.

“No, I disagree with your opinion for I have my reasons. Because of the market commonality, if we cut down profits to retain those customers, others will also know about it. Then we would have to extend the expiring contracts between other customers, at the lowest price. At this rate, Phillips Bank will just get diminishing revenue. Will we ensure that Sway Bank won’t lower its price to compete with us?” Manuel stated.

Henry looked a bit displeased.

“Price war is a cut-throat competition. It would make both sides suffer, and I will never consider it.

“So, you have a better strategy?” Henry asked.

There was a touch of irony in his words.

Manuel took a glimpse at him and turned about to face other executives.

“These companies cooperate with us not only because of the price, but also our service, quality, efficiency, integrity, and customer emotion. I’ve made a thorough investigation of these companies, which have worked in close cooperation with us for many years and have confidence in us. The first step is to find out the real situation to confirm whether they are willing to change a bank as their partner or not. Then, draw up personalized plans for their different needs. It’s unwise to wage a price war without careful consideration.”

With a long face, Henry remained quiet.

Proceeding from the company’s interests, profit was an important factor. Henry’s price strategy, of course, could hardly get the support; instead, Manuel’s ingenious personalized plan was much more practical.

Henry was often humiliated before Manuel those days. He looked at Susan sitting behind Manuel but just found that she was earnest about Manuel’s words and she seemed to support Manuel.

Henry looked more displeased. He tried to hold in his anger.

“President, in my opinion, it’s necessary to form a special group to react to the Sway Bank’s competition,” Manuel said to Edward.

“I agree, and I give you full power to handle it.” Edward agreed without a second hesitation.

“Thank you, I will not betray your trust.”

“Great.” Edward nodded. It was obvious that he had perfect trust in Manuel.

The conference was over soon. After all, more time was needed for market competition at this critical moment.

A special group was quickly set up when Manuel went back to his office. One to three key members from each department were chosen to form the team with 30 members.

However, Henry was excluded. Henry was extremely angry when he heard the news since he thought he was isolated by Manuel, and he would be in an increasingly adverse situation if Manuel made a success of this work.

“No! I’ll not let him meet his expectation.” Henry thought in anger.

Chapter 618 Shift Love to Another Person

Susan hadn’t imagined that she would be so busy. Manuel was like a workaholic as he worked from eight o’clock in the morning to midnight, and sometimes even all night. Susan had slept in Manuel’s office for two nights. She thought she could no longer endure such busy work, and she would die from overwork if she went on like that, even if she was just sleeping in the office while Manuel was busy drawing up plans.

She must not work extra hours today no matter what happened, Susan thought to herself. So she rushed into Manuel’s office and said, “I’m off work.”

It was just 5:30, which was the quitting time.

Manuel cast a glance at the clock and nodded in approval.

Unexpectedly, Manuel readily agreed. Susan thought he would have not released her without a fight. And now she was kind of at a loss.

Standing still for a moment, Susan turned to leave. She in no way cared about Manuel's feelings. Or perhaps he was playing some tricks.

The door was closed. Manuel had a look at it and continued his work.

After an in-depth investigation, Manuel realized that Sway Bank resorted to every means to compete with Phillips Bank. The latter would lose its position in the market if there was any wrong strategic decision. Therefore, he couldn't ease off. He had to choose the best plan in a very short time, retain the regular customers and develop potential ones.

Susan went into her office and made her desk go off.

Staring at herself in the mirror, she found there was some acne on her face and dark circles under her eyes. That was awful, she thought. Then she called the beauty salon and made an appointment for a facial this evening.

Susan got out of her office happily and happened to see Henry at the gate. She was surprised that Henry went off so early while Manuel was still busy with his work.

Henry saw her too. Susan had worked overtime these days and declined Henry's invitations to dinner. There was not enough contact between them, so it appeared a bit abrupt at the moment.

Susan quickened her pace and walked toward Henry.

"Henry, you got outta work early today."

"Uh-huh, and same early these days."

"Haven't you been busy recently?"

"Not really." Henry smiled resignedly. He thought he was undervalued by the company.

"Let's go for dinner tonight." Susan began.

She thought they became distant these days, and sometimes she even forgot she had a boyfriend. She used to think the world of Henry and now she deemed it necessary to give them back their former relationship.

"Sorry, I have an appointment with a client. I thought you are always busy these days. So..."

Henry felt a flicker of regret.

"It's okay. I'm going to the beauty salon. I've been exhausted from Manuel's work recently."

"Why do you have to follow him?" Henry asked abruptly.

Surprised, Susan thought that Henry seldom expressed his emotions before her although she knew he was unhappy with that.

“My father said...”

“It might be because of your father, but you also want to work with Manuel.” Henry interrupted her.

Susan didn’t know what to say at the moment since she was not sure about the answer.

Henry noticed that she was hesitating. After a short spell of silence, Henry said to her in a soft voice, “I don’t mean to force you to do something. I’m just a bit jealous.”

Susan said nothing.

“All right, let’s go. I’ll see you in the car.” Henry stretched out his hand to hold Susan’s.

Susan’s fingers moved slightly. Then she walked away together with Henry.

Edward had arranged a personal driver for her because Susan didn’t want to drive. She suffered from the shadow of driving.

She fidgeted in the car, feeling unutterably depressed. Then she called Hannah.

“Hannah, I feel so depressed these days. I want to relax.”

“What’s wrong?” Hannah was also on her way home. She wanted to spend as much more time as she could with Oscar, so she went home as soon as she was off work.

“Don’t know. Perhaps because I’m heavily oppressed by Manuel.”

Hannah laughed.

“What did he force you to do?”

“I’ve been working overtime for over half a month. Do you believe some acnes have erupted on my face?”

“It’s some sort of endocrine imbalance.”

“Our early, home late. How can I keep regular hours?”

“You didn’t keep regular hours before, but there’s no acne on your face.”

“Hmm...” Susan could never outargue Hannah.

“You just need to satisfy your lust.”

“What?”

“Everyone has sexual desire, and you just need sex.”

“Oh my god, you did not just say that. Did you learn that from Oscar when you were flirting with him?”

“I’m just telling the fact.” Hannah guided the conversation to another subject, “Did you sleep with Henry?”

Susan looked wistful.

“No, we were quite busy.”

“Do you feel something repressed?”

No, she just felt a bit lonely, Susan thought. She wondered why she encountered sexual inhibition at such a young age.

“What’s the feeling of shifting love to another person?” Susan whispered suddenly.

“Well, one would feel sorry for the man that you loved. She would feel uncomfortable when the man came near her but was sorry to turn him down. She would not miss the man when he was absent; however, she would feel ill at ease when they got together, but just want to make up the lost time when they get together.”

Susan felt tightness in her heart suddenly. She felt reluctant to acknowledge that she was changing her affection to another man.

“She would form an attachment to another man. She would still be attracted to him even if she knew she shouldn’t. She would perform intentionally as she hates the man, but try her best to dutifully do the job that he asked her to do, seemingly a mission to her.” Hannah continued.

Chapter 619 Blindsided

Susan sat mute in the car, watching the sunset outside of the window.

“All is like as you feel now,” Hannah said.

“I was just asking about how it feels.” Susan refuted. But it was a poor lie.

“I supposed you’re the one who knows how it feels the best. You should enjoy life and love while you are young, Susan.”

“Don’t say that to me. I’m almost at the beauty salon, I gotta go.”

Hannah didn’t say more, as she knew it was appropriate to stop the talk with Susan when the implication was conveyed.

She believed that Susan must love Manuel. She found it in the last moment of Susan’s life. But Susan was just unwilling to admit her true feelings for Manuel. Furthermore, Susan might feel she was not a fine match for Manuel and didn’t want to intrude into his life. Hannah couldn’t forget that Susan even hadn’t sent that message out to Manuel till her death

At the thought of Susan’s pathetic ending in her previous life, Hannah felt a sense of heartache. She swore to herself, she would try everything to protect this girl.

Susan was a top VIP in the beauty salon. Wrapped in a bath towel, she was about to take a soaking bath. Then, she confronted Justine.

She hadn’t seen Justine since her divorce from Manuel. She always thought Justine would get reunited with her father. After all, her father was so rich, and Justine married her father because of his money. Even if money wasn’t what she coveted, they might get reunited as they cherished a deep affection for each other. However, there was no such indication.

What did she think?

Justine looked displeased when she met Susan. She didn't complain about Susan's abortion, but she was critical of her divorce from Manuel.

"It looks like your life hasn't been easy since Manuel left you." Justine looked Susan up and down and saw her poor skin with acne on her face.

"I'm just under work stress. You seek a life of pleasure and keep well-preserved. Who knows which old man will be seduced by you."

Justine turned livid with rage. But she didn't continue arguing because she thought it was beneath her dignity. So she regained her composure, assuming a haughty air.

"I came here because I have an eye for beauty. A woman should live a confident and elegant life. I can't figure out why the young today have an idea that beauty is just for pleasing others." Said Justine eloquently.

Susan was infuriated.

"Oh, by the way, I heard that you work under Manuel. You said you are a wreck from overwork, but you just work under my son. Do you want me to praise you for your diligence, or criticize you for your lack of ability?"

"Justine Knight! You were eager to please me when you were my stepmother, don't you remember it? Now, look at you. You turn on me, huh? How can you be so hypocritical?" Susan gnashed.

"In those years, I took care of you just because you were a kid. I didn't feel offended by what you said or acted. But now, you're an adult. You've begun your work, your marriage and even divorce. Why haven't you seen much of the world yet? I won't humour you anymore."

Susan felt like starting a fight against her.

"Luckily, Manuel's heart is away from you, otherwise it would be a big concern to me." Justine's lips curled in a contemptuous smile. Then she strode off.

Susan stamped her feet in anger.

Anyway, it was she who had dumped Manuel. How could Justine say that?

The staff there spent quite a while soothing her. And finally, she was going to the spa.

After that, Susan fell asleep on the luxurious bed in the beauty salon. She hadn't had a good rest these days, overwhelmed by the work. She slept soundly here and went off to dreamland soon.

Susan made some lovely sounds in her dream from time to time.

The beautician couldn't help laughing, wondering if Susan was dreaming an erotic dream.

Susan's cheeks reddened and her ears burned. She was gasping for breath, with limp and coy groans occasionally. The beautician blushed at the sight.

After a while, Susan awakened from her dream, on the point of something like a climax. She sat up, looking around dozily. She wondered where she was and where was her wonderland.

“Miss Phillips?” The beautician asked.

Susan turned around, and after a quite while she realized she was in the beauty salon now. She just found out that she didn’t have sex with a man, but that sexy hunk kept arising in her mind.

It was an erotic dream. Susan felt it kind of incredible.

“Miss Phillips, how about taking another soaking bath?”

Not until now did Susan notice that the root of her thighs was also dripping wet.

“OK, I’ll take a bath.”

She got off the bed quickly. Somehow, she found it awkward to admit the desire inside.

The beautician prepared a bath for Susan, with milk and rose petals.

Susan felt much more refreshed after a bath.

Looking at her creamy skin in the mirror, she kept sighing with wonder at her radiant face. She thought she should pay more attention to herself.

Susan got out of the beauty salon with both physical and psychological pleasure. She thought it would be nice if she went for a drink.

When she was about to make a phone call to somebody, her phone rang in no time.

She knitted her brows, and muttered, “I won’t go to work overtime tonight.”

Then she answered the phone reluctantly, “Hello?”

“Susan, Manuel demands original data now. Do you have one? I’ve sent a message to you.”

It was Manuel’s secretary, who said urgently.

Susan looked down at her phone impatiently, and said, “I think I have one.”

“Is it on your computer? Can I use your computer now?”

Chapter 620 They Look Like an Old Couple

Susan knew about Manuel’s character. He seldom got into a temper at work, while he was very strict about work. No matter who dragged his feet on a project, he would be punished severely by Manuel. Therefore, Callie was quite anxious because she had lost the data.

“Of course, you can.” Susan agreed.

“Thank you, Miss Phillips.”

After a little while, Callie phoned Susan again to ask for the password. Susan told her several ones coming into her mind, but it turned out that all of them were just wrong. Susan was confused, and Callie was so anxious that she was close to tears.

That was queer indeed! Susan remembered one of the passwords must be right.

After Callie's pleadings, Susan had to drop the idea of going for a drink and went back to her office.

Soon, Susan got into her office.

"I'm sorry for letting you come back so late. I have no intention to bother you. But I don't know what I should do next, and I had a good scolding just now." Callie began, with tears in her eyes, and a sense of blame on her face.

"Just forget it. I'm well aware of Manuel." Susan comforted her. Then she sat at her computer and entered the password. Only when she touched the keyboard did she realise that she had changed a word of the password. She got the file soon.

Callie left after a few thankful words.

Susan was about to power off her computer and leave the office when Manuel opened the door. He asked, "Make a coffee for me." And then he closed the door, without even a glance at Susan and Callie.

Susan stopped her and said, "I'll do it."

She couldn't take it anymore, as Manuel was very hard on Callie. She was exhausted, as she had to work overtime till late at night with Manuel every day.

"Miss Phillips, you're so nice. I'll sort out the data and hand in it to Mr Johnson." Said Callie.

"You just get on with your work."

Saying, she went to make a cup of black coffee. Manuel usually refreshed himself with a cup of coffee when he felt tired. Susan reckoned that he would die of work in his office one day.

Later, Susan pushed open the door of Manuel's office, while he was busy with his work and didn't cast a glance at her. Susan just wanted to put down the coffee on his desk, and by coincidence, Manuel stretched out his hand to get a file and hit the cup. Coffee was spilt all over Manuel's white shirt and black pants.

Susan let out a scream, and hurriedly pulled Manuel's shirt and tried to wipe the coffee away.

Manuel endured the pain of scalds and grabbed her hand.

"Don't move." He said.

More coffee penetrated his skin as Susan pulled the shirt.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do this." Susan hastened to explain, feeling very sorry.

Manuel stood up, being wet through.

"Call the cleaner to clean the office now." He asked with knitted brows. Then he turned and walked into the restroom to change clothes.

Susan looked at his back, with nameless emotions. She gulped and thought it was reasonable that Manuel was displeased with her as she made a mistake. But she couldn't understand why he still wore a long face since she had apologized.

Manuel came into the restroom and changed his wet shirt and pants. He sighed, for he was attracted by Susan's scent, which was not a scent of perfume, but one of flowers and milk probably as Susan liked. Then he got out of the restroom in another suit and saw Susan carefully wiping up the coffee on the desk.

"Where is the cleaner?"

"She went off." Susan replied, "Please be assured. I'll take care of it."

She thought Manuel had never believed her that she could do things well.

"Stop it, and get out, please." Said Manuel.

"I said I'll do it well."

"You're wasting my time here. I don't work through the night."

Gritting her teeth in anger, she wanted to put her duster into Manuel's mouth.

Susan was ready to go off. And the next second, she staggered as she was in high heels and walked on the wet floor.

"Ah!"

When she was about to fall, the man held her in time, firmly. She sank into his arms, and she felt the warmth of the man. She raised her head and met Manuel's eyes. She was surprised, as she never thought he would give her a hand.

At that moment, Susan was attracted by his neck and Adam's apple. And the scene of her erotic dream arose in her mind suddenly. Somehow, she felt the guy's neck and Adam's apple in her dream looked similar to Manuel's.

She couldn't help but move her fingers up to touch Manuel. Suddenly, Manuel took his hands off her. Susan withdrew her hand hurriedly, realizing that she was seduced by Manuel. She thought it must be the erotic dream that left her in a stupor.

"Get out, and don't bother me anymore," Manuel said.

Susan was thinking about how she would have sex with Manuel, while he only wanted to send her away. She turned and walked away in a huff, without a glance about the man behind. She assumed, perhaps she would find Manuel's cheeks reddened if she turned around.

"Miss Phillips!" Callie saw Susan go out of Manuel's office abruptly, and called her.

"I'll do nothing for Manuel, even if he's dying of starvation or thirst," Susan shouted.

Callie wondered why they had to quarrel with each other every day. And somehow, she felt that they looked like an old couple who quarrelled daily.

But nobody wanted to meddle with their affairs since they had already divorced, and besides, Susan and Henry were love-struck now.