

Reborn 641

Chapter 641 The Parturition (1)

Oscar also phoned Theodore to let him be prepared.

But he didn't expect that Theodore would say in a hurry as soon as the phone got through, "Oscar, I'm gonna, I'm gonna be a dad..."

Oscar opened his eyes widely, "Little Bunny is having a baby?"

"She hasn't delivered yet, and we're on our way to the hospital. I'm suddenly a little nervous." Theodore was excited.

Oscar could feel his urgency through his words.

"Can you come here to be with me? I'm kind of in a panic now." Theodore said straightly.

Oscar glanced at his watch and nodded, "Right, I'll be right there."

"I'll wait for you."

Then the call was abruptly cut off.

When Oscar was about to ask Jimmy to turn around, he phoned Hannah, "Hannah,"

"Do you come back?" Hannah asked.

She had been upset all night.

"Little Bunny is having her baby and now is on her way to the hospital. I'll go there for Theodore, he's losing his head."

"I'll be there, too," Hannah said immediately.

She didn't know why but she became nervous as she heard that Little Bunny was going to have a baby.

Oscar hesitated for a second and said, "OK, I'll pick you up."

He knew Hannah would want to be there, too. Otherwise, he would have directly asked Jimmy to turn around.

Jimmy drove as fast as he could to the villa and as slow as he could to the hospital.

Hannah felt she couldn't wait one more second.

Theodore also called several times to urge them, but Oscar didn't urge Jimmy to speed up on their way to the hospital.

Finally, they got there.

Oscar took Hannah's hand and walked slowly to the doorway of the delivery room.

Outside the room, except for Laird who was sitting calmly in the hallway, Manuel was also there. Theodore kept walking up and down, looking anxious.

Seeing Oscar, Theodore did not feel better, "Are you a snail? What took you so long to get here?"

"I can't do anything even if I'm here," Oscar said bluntly.

Hannah couldn't help but give Oscar an angry glance, then she walked to Theodore and asked, "How's it going? Is everything okay in the delivery room?"

"I don't know. After dinner, she went for a walk in the yard as usual, and then we suddenly heard her scream. When the servant reached the yard, she saw that her water had broken. And then we drove her to the hospital. She has been in the delivery room for over an hour now, and we have no idea what's going on inside, except for her occasional scream..."

"Ah!" There was a sudden scream in the delivery room.

Theodore was frightened.

Rarely had this man been so nervous.

Then he said to Hannah, "Yes, this is her scream."

Hannah was also a little frightened when she heard the scream, and she hastened to comfort, "It's okay, that's what happened as giving birth."

"I know it. I was not nervous but now... How am I suddenly having a baby?" Theodore didn't seem to be getting it right now.

He didn't even understand why he was suddenly expecting the baby he never expected to have.

Hannah was amused by him.

This guy was so stupid that he looked cute sometimes.

"We can wait quietly. Maybe your baby will be born soon."

Theodore nodded.

At the moment when he was nodding, Little Bunny screamed again.

She screamed and screamed again as if she were getting worse and worse. Theodore had been composed by Hannah, but now he couldn't keep being calm any longer.

Then he began to walk in the hallway. He kept walking up and down.

Laird was used to his son's style, however, he was cranky today and shouted to Theodore, "Can you keep quiet? You're about to be a dad. Can you act like a dad?"

Theodore felt a little aggrieved at being scolded by his father.

He was scolded for being indifferent to his wife before, while now he was scolded for caring about her and their baby.

Hannah couldn't help but laugh, and she said to Theodore, "Don't worry, your wife and your son both will be fine."

Theodore tried to be quiet.

Manuel wanted to adjust the atmosphere and he said to Hannah, "How do you know he's gonna have a son and not a daughter?"

Hannah glanced at Manuel with a look that "you're asking while knowing the answer". Manuel was the only person who knew everything about Hannah in this world.

"Yeah, what if it's a daughter?" Theodore asked immediately.

He hadn't looked forward to a son or a daughter. He wasn't even looking forward to this child at all.

"I just guess." Hannah smiled and said, "He's supposed to look handsome."

She seemed to look at Theodore's son a few times in her past life.

Little Bunny was a celebrity so her son was exposed by the paparazzi once. It was only a glance, but it was clear that her son had perfectly inherited all the good features of Little Bunny's and Theodore's faces. This thing also caused a sensation in the entertainment circle. All the negative effects of her having a child out of wedlock were mitigated by her son's beautiful face.

"Then thanks to your words." Theodore suddenly felt his mood turn better.

After all, everyone wanted to have a handsome son.

The hallway became quiet.

Everyone waited outside the delivery room for a long time.

Oscar asked Hannah to sit in the hallway and then turned around to give Manuel and Theodore a look.

Both of them took the hint and followed him in one direction.

Hannah glanced at their figures, and Laird also looked at them.

No one said anything.

Little Bunny's screams continued from the delivery room and were more and more frequent.

Hannah knew it would turn out to be safe for both mother and son, but she still felt frightened by this process.

Half an hour later, Oscar, Manuel, and Theodore were back in the hallway.

The first thing Theodore said when he returned was, "Fuck, Why isn't the baby here yet!"

Laird took one look at him, and he shut his mouth immediately.

At this moment, the door of the delivery room opened.

And a nurse came out in a hurry.

"Is the baby out?" Theodore immediately walked to her.

The nurse shook her head and said, "No. She's been in there for three hours, but her birth canal is only three fingers open. The baby may be at risk when the mother's water breaks, so we suggest a C-section."

"Will it hurt?" Theodore asked.

His conscience suddenly smote him and made him care about his wife.

"No. After the anaesthetic, she'll feel easier than natural delivery." The nurse explained.

"I choose C-section," Theodore said quickly.

Getting his answer, the nurse hurried back into the delivery room.

For a long time, nobody came out again.

Theodore felt nervous again and said, "Didn't I already choose C-section? Why does she still scream!"

Others were also surprised.

Because they thought the doctors should move Little Bunny to another operating room if she was going to have a C-section.

The door of the delivery room opened again.

The nurse hurriedly came out again and said, "She didn't agree to have a C-section and said she wanted a natural delivery. We have to respect her wishes first."

"Is the baby safe?" Theodore was nervous.

"Safe for now. We'll pay close attention to the baby and forcibly perform a C-section if it's in danger. Please rest assured."

Chapter 642 The Parturition (2) The Birth of Their Son

Hearing the nurse's explanation, Theodore became a little bad-tempered and said, "Are you kidding me? You said it was dangerous and then you said it's not now. Are you trying to scare me?"

As soon as Theodore got angry, the nurse was too frightened to say anything.

She just came out to prepare the expectant mother's family mentally that the doctors would perform the C-section at the first sign of danger.

But she didn't expect that the expectant mother was adamant and didn't agree to undergo the C-section at all. And the doctors would respect the wishes of the expectant mother first when the danger didn't appear.

"All right." Hannah stepped forward to comfort the nurse, "You can tell her that we'll support her whether she chooses a natural delivery or a C-section. Don't let her have any burden."

"Yes, I'll be right in to tell her." The nurses immediately said.

Because she couldn't wait to leave there.

After the nurse came in, everyone was waiting outside again.

Then another two hours passed.

“Fuck!” Theodore couldn’t bear it again, “Does it take that long to give birth? Do the C-section, immediately!”

Laird squinted at him.

Theodore felt annoyed because of his dad’s staring and said, “Well, I’m worried about Little Bunny and the baby. If anything happens...”

“That thing will happen to you!” Laird scolded, “Shut up!”

Theodore was speechless and felt wronged. Then he was freaking out again in the next second.

“Why did she stop screaming!” Theodore was frightened.

When he said this, the others were frightened, too.

Theodore was the kind of guy who scared the hell out of you.

At that moment, the door of the delivery room opened.

Theodore rushed up and shouted, “Is anything wrong?”

The nurse was stunned by his roar. She was too frightened to speak, which seemed that something bad happened.

Everyone felt anxious at that moment.

“Do I have to decide whether to save the mom or the baby?” Theodore looked serious.

The nurse stammered, “No, no...”

“So neither mom nor baby survived?” Theodore was getting more anxious. He was about to jump up because of anger and sadness.

The others were also agitated because of him.

“No...” The nurse managed to breathe smoothly and said, “The birth-giving has finished. It’s a boy.”

Theodore’s exploding mood suddenly calmed down again.

“Mother and baby are doing well. The baby will be taken out in a moment, and the mother needs to wait a while.” The nurse hurriedly added.

When Theodore understood, he rolled his eyes at the nurse and said, “Why are you acting like she’s gonna die?”

The nurse was wordless and thought.

Others’ moods also went up and down because of Theodore’s comical reaction.

Fortunately, Little Bunny and the baby were all safe. Now the baby was carried out by another nurse.

“Who’s Little Bunny’s family?” The nurse asked.

“Me!” Theodore hurried over.

“It’s a boy. You can hold him.” The nurse handed Theodore his baby.

When he saw his son for the first time, he thought his son looked like... a little monkey.

Then he thought of Hannah’s “prophecy” and got somewhat confused since the baby’s appearance was kind of unexpected for him. Theodore thought their child would be as good-looking as he and Little Bunny.

“What’s wrong?” The nurse was a little embarrassed by Theodore’s reaction.

Theodore didn’t reach to hold the newborn baby.

Theodore came to his sense and asked the nurse twice, “Are you sure this is Little Bunny’s baby?”

“Yes.” The nurse nodded and said, “She’s the only one giving birth today. So you can rest assured, we won’t mistake your baby.”

“How can he be so ugly!” Theodore couldn’t help but say it bluntly.

Everyone there got wordless because of his words.

They had never seen a father so dismissive of his baby.

Hannah leaned over and took a look at the baby. She did not believe what Theodore just said.

“Babies will look prettier as they grow older and older.” The nurse explained, “That’s what newborns look like. Your baby is pretty good-looking than others!”

“Really?” Theodore asked the nurse.

The nurse hurriedly nodded and didn’t forget to remind him, “You can hold your baby now, and we’re gonna take him to get a foot blood sample and then get him vaccinated.”

“Oh.” Theodore still took his son.

His baby was soft and light in his arm. The way he was holding him was just funny. Because no matter how he held his baby, he looked ridiculous.

“Do you know how to hold the baby?” Laird couldn’t help but say.

Theodore glanced at his father, “It’s the first time for me! If you know how to hold the baby then do it!”

Laird said to Theodore for a dare, “Give him to me!”

Then Theodore handed his son to Laird.

The way Laird carried the baby also was funny. But no one dared to laugh at him.

The moment Theodore tried to laugh at Laird, Laird gave him a stare and made him dare not to say anything.

Then Laird showed a rare smile of joy. Let alone Theodore, even Oscar, and Manuel hadn't seen Laird smile a few times.

But at this moment, Laird was smiling widely at the baby and said in a tender voice, "I'm your grandpa."

Theodore had goosebumps. And Oscar and Manuel also felt a very strange feeling. Only Hannah thought it was normal between a grandfather and a grandson.

"I'm your grandpa." Seeing that the baby didn't respond, Laird repeated.

His voice was very tender.

Then Theodore rolled his eyes at his father. He had never seen his father be so gentle with him since he was born. He was a bit frustrated to find that his father was so gentle to his grandson while he was not kind to his son at all.

And he muttered, "He's so ugly, why do you so treasure him?"

He felt kind of uncomfortable about his father's discriminatory ways to treat him and this little one.

"You're the ugly one!" Laird's face clouded as he heard Theodore's words.

His attitude toward Theodore was different from that toward the baby, which made Theodore in a bad mood.

"You didn't look as pretty as him when you were born. How dare you say him ugly!" Theodore got mad.

Theodore compressed his lips and muttered, "I take after you."

At the moment Laird was going to lose his temper, the nurse said hurriedly, "We're gonna take the baby to get his vaccinated, Who's going with us?"

"Me," Theodore said. Because he didn't want to quarrel with his dad.

"You can't go!" Laird was angry again, "Bunny's even not out of the delivery room, No way you can leave here!"

With this, he said to the nurse, "I'll go with you!"

Theodore thought his father was exaggerating.

The nurse hastily followed Laird.

Watching his father's back, Theodore kind of wanted to say F words.

Oscar pat his shoulder and said, "I haven't seen Laird this happy in a long time."

Theodore was stunned for a second and then nodded.

Although he was scolded, he felt relieved to see his father smile like this.

Chapter 643 Time may Dilute All

The door of the delivery room opened again.

Little Bunny was wheeled out in a wheelchair, with her face looking a little tired. But she was still fine. She was surprised to see there were a bunch of people waiting outside the delivery room because she never expected these people to be outside.

She even thought she might be alone when she gave birth, and Theodore might not even come to the hospital.

She looked at him.

Now Theodore actively came up to her and asked, "Feel better after giving birth?"

Little Bunny nodded, "I feel better now."

"Does it feel like you finally pooped a big shit?" Theodore just said what he wanted without thinking twice.

Little Bunny was at a loss for words. So were others.

"I read it on the Internet." Seeing Little Bunny's expression, Theodore explained, "I was nervous just now, so I read posts about having birth on the Internet, and someone says it feels like just I said."

Little Bunny was too embarrassed to answer him. Although she felt he described it well. She felt pain before the baby was out. But when the baby was born she felt comfortable as if her chronic constipation had been cured.

She just felt relaxed.

"I also read a post that women who can insist on natural birth love their husbands very much. Because true love can be the power to bear so much pain for her husband." Theodore was rarely sensational. And he said that in front of all these people, which made Little Bunny embarrassed.

Besides, she didn't insist on a natural birth because of him. It was just because she didn't want a scar on her stomach. She was an actress and would show her waist inevitably on the screen. If she had a scar on his stomach, it could end her career.

"I didn't know you love me so much!" Theodore couldn't help but sigh.

Hearing this, Little Bunny couldn't say a word. And others also felt disgusting about his words.

"I'll never treat you badly as long as I live," Theodore promised

Little Bunny nodded. She didn't dare to make him lose face. Her shy silence, however, made Theodore believe even more firmly that she loved him deeply.

"Mr Wold, we're gonna get her back to her ward now." The nurse reminded, "And we'll take the baby there later."

Theodore nodded then swaggered in front of his wife and the nurse.

The nurse was confused since she had expected that the husband would have taken the arm of the wheelchair and wheeled his wife who just had birth back to the ward.

Besides, this man had just told his wife how much he loved her.

But Little Bunny had used to it. She would only be afraid when Theodore was nice to her.

Hannah glanced at Theodore walking in front of them and felt speechless.

She went up to Little Bunny but didn't wheel her wheelchair because she was afraid that Oscar would get angry.

And now she was warned by Oscar's look.

"I saw your baby just now, he's very cute." Said Hannah.

"Yeah." Little Bunny smiled happily. Maybe that was the kind of smile a woman showed when she just became a mother.

"You're so brave." Hannah smiled and said, "Many choose C-sections nowadays."

"It was not as painful as I thought it would be." Little Bunny hurriedly said, "I'm not saying no pain, I just want to say everything will be fine the instant the baby is born. So I'm like nothing happened now. When it's time for you to have a baby, you have to insist!"

"Well..." Hannah swallowed what she almost said.

"You're pregnant, right?" Little Bunny said in a low voice.

Hannah glanced at her.

"I know you're not supposed to tell anyone you're pregnant for the first three months, so I won't tell anyone."

"How did you know?" Hannah was surprised.

'I don't think she can tell I'm pregnant from the way I look now.' Hannah thought.

"Theodore told me that."

Hannah felt even more surprised now. Oscar was such a tight-lipped who would no way tell this to Theodore.

"Theodore found out it." Little Bunny seemed to read her mind and explained, "When you went to the hospital today, he guessed it because he saw the way Oscar was protecting you."

Hannah suddenly became gloated, thinking that Oscar was doing a fool's errand by hiding the truth of her pregnancy from everyone else. After all, the idiot Theodore had known what was happening.

They all went back to the ward.

Soon the baby was brought back and put in the cot. The nurse said he cried a lot when he got vaccinated and now was asleep.

Lying in the bed for a while, Little Bunny also fell asleep.

After settling down the baby, Laird asked Oscar to go out and talked alone.

In the room, Theodore was leaning over the cot. He felt excited about the baby he had not been expecting before and kept watching his son, He even didn't blink even though kept saying he was too ugly.

Hannah and Manuel sat on the sofa and looked at Theodore's oddness.

"I didn't know Theodore likes kids."

Manuel nodded and said, "The one least likely to get married and have kids among the three of us is the first one to become a father. Can't believe it."

"Yeah," Hannah replied.

She suddenly thought of Manuel's child he should have had. If Susan had been a little more careful, their baby would have been born a long time ago.

At the thought of it, Hannah was silent. Manuel didn't say anything more, either. Maybe, he thought of his child, too. He was just better than others at hiding his emotions.

After some quiet time passed in the ward, Oscar and Laird returned.

When Oscar came back, Hannah could see a grim look on his face.

He walked to her and said, "It's getting late. Let's go back."

Hannah nodded.

"Let's go together," Oscar said to Manuel.

"Right." Manuel stood up, too.

"Are you going away?" Theodore looked up at them.

He seemed to be unwilling to separate from them.

Hannah sometimes felt Theodore was dependent on Oscar.

After thinking it over, she realized the three of them had become each other's rock growing up in the wilderness. They had gotten used to it.

"Take good care of your wife and the baby," Oscar said.

"Okay." Theodore felt a sense of loss.

Without saying more, Oscar held Hannah's hand and left the ward. Manuel also left together with them.

They walked to the car park.

When Manuel was going to his car, Oscar stopped him and said, "Don't put your eggs in one single basket."

Manuel nodded. He was clear that what his cousin was trying to remind him.

"Theodore now is good," Oscar said.

What he meant was to persuade Manuel from putting too many feelings in Susan.

“OK.” Manuel nodded again.

Hannah had always felt Manuel and Theodore were both obedient to Oscar.

Then Oscar took Hannah back to the car.

And Manuel also returned to his car.

After watching the car in front of him pulled away, Manuel slowly hid the light smile on his face.

The moment he saw Theodore’s son, it was hard to describe his mood. He was thinking if his child was still alive, things would be much different.

Manuel started his car and left the park.

Time might dilute all. Manuel knew it.

It would all pass in time.

Chapter 644 A Birthday Cake

In the car, Hannah curled in Oscar’s arms. There was silence in the car, and both of them seemed to be worried about something.

“Rowan said he’ll take me to the capital and let me work for him.” Oscar suddenly said.

Hannah compressed her lips. She had gathered the result.

In her past life, Charles was also taken to the capital after he developed for a while.

Oscar was, however, quicker than Charles.

“When I go there, I may come back less.”

“Uh-huh.”

After all, she couldn’t do anything except accept the truth. She always thought she can help Oscar before. But that was only because she thought he was just trying to get a seat on the political stage, and she could help him crumple Charles and take his place. But she didn’t expect that the hatred he bore was about his family and nation. Facing such responsibility as his, she felt her capacity was limited.

“Everything will be fine when this is over.” Oscar hugged her more tightly.

He also couldn’t bear to leave her.

“I trust you, but...”

“But what?”

“I feel like there’s nothing I can help you with.” Hannah felt a little lost. She also wanted to lend Oscar a helping hand in his world.

“Little fool.” Oscar gave her a dotting smile, “Because of your sudden appearance, you help me get this position at least a decade early.”

Hannah looked at him.

Oscar touched her nose and said, “Don’t underestimate how important you’re in my life!”

“Yes.” Hannah leaned her head on Oscar’s chest.

“You take care of our baby. I’ll deal with other things.”

Hannah nodded.

“Since I promised you I’d get back to you with a clean identity, I’ll keep my word.”

“I’ll wait for you!” Hannah said.

At this moment, both of them hadn’t ever known what would happen next.

Half a month later, it was Oscar’s birthday.

Hannah got up early and carefully pull back the quilt.

“Ah!” She screamed lowly.

Oscar took her straight into his arms and asked in a hoarse but charming voice, “Where you wanna go?”

“Toilet.”

She thought he was still sleeping.

“I carry you to the toilet.”

“I can go on my own.”

But Oscar didn’t listen to her at all and picked her up from the waist.

Hannah hugged him by the neck.

This guy’s arm strength was amazing.

Oscar put her on the toilet and said, “You can pee now.”

“Can you pee if I watch you?” Hannah felt angry, “Go out.”

Oscar fondled her head and smiled, “I’ve seen you pee before.”

“Oscar!” Hannah was getting furious.

“Don’t be angry, you’ll wake the baby.”

“... You should go out.”

Then Oscar reluctantly went out of the bathroom.

Hannah took a deep breath and thought he was not easy to play at. She had planned to get up early to make him a birthday cake. But now she felt she had no way to give him a surprise.

Hannah quickly used the toilet and washed up.

Opening the bathroom door, she found Oscar had waited outside.

"I don't want to sleep more," Hannah said.

"Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

"I want to make you a birthday cake."

Oscar paused for a second.

"Today is your birthday, isn't it?" Hannah looked at him.

Oscar felt something that seemed to be in his throat, "I've never celebrated this birthday."

He had just mentioned it to her casually but had never celebrated it. Growing up, he was used to celebrating Thomas Wells' birthday as his.

"That was before. I'll be with you to celebrate your birthday on this day after every year." Hannah smiled sweetly.

"Okay." Oscar immediately agreed.

"And now I'm gonna go downstairs to the kitchen."

"You can let Max do that."

"Oscar!"

He tried to stop her every time, which made Hannah upset.

She was just pregnant, not disabled, Hannah thought.

"I'm afraid that you don't know how to make a cake."

"I've eaten the food you cooked in River Town last time."

"So, you're worried about the cake I make will taste bad, aren't you?" Hannah was irritated.

It turned out that she was foolishly sentimental.

Smiling widely, Oscar said, "No. I'm just afraid you'll get hurt."

"I don't care. I want to make one for you." Hannah turned her charm on him.

Oscar actually couldn't say no to her. Especially when she showed her white feather, he would be defeated immediately.

He kissed her cheek and said, "Right, but I need to accompany you."

"... OK."

Then they went downstairs together. Not expecting they would go down so early, Max hurriedly said, "I'll make you breakfast right away."

"That's OK, Max. I want to make a cake for Oscar."

Max simply looked at Hannah with a surprised look.

Hannah paused a second and then turned back to look at Oscar, "Doesn't Max know it?"

She thought Max must have known about Oscar's real birthday if he had been with Oscar for so long.

"No." Oscar shook his head, "Everyone around me knows that except you."

Hannah felt angry.

"Max just didn't expect you'd know it." Oscar explained and walked up to Max, "She has known everything."

Max nodded and he seemed to be relieved and delighted.

"You can do your work. I'll be with Hannah."

"Yes." Max left respectfully.

Oscar waved his hand, "Let's go, Chef Hannah."

Hannah felt Oscar was making fun of her. She had watched so many tutorial videos for today's cake that she didn't believe she would fail.

Hannah stepped into the open kitchen with Oscar.

When Hannah was busy, Oscar hugged her from the back all the time to show his affection. And he also caressed her lower stomach and bosom occasionally, which got her in a mess.

Finally, Hannah got her cake done with some decorations. Then she reached out to carry the plate.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, she got scalded by the oven. Oscar hastily caught her hand and put it to his mouth. And he licked her fingers with his tongue.

The way Oscar licked her finger was too erotic, Hannah thought.

"It doesn't hurt." She flushed.

Oscar replied and removed his tongue from her finger.

Hannah almost lost control because of him, and then she hastily pulled her hand back.

Watching her reaction, Oscar felt itching to make love with her.

The process of pregnancy needed ten months, which would probably torture him to death.

Carrying the cake, Oscar walked to the dining table together with Hannah.

Oscar took a mouthful of cake with a fork. Staring at him early, Hannah was waiting for his comment for ages.

"It's not good?" Hannah sounded nervous.

Oscar shook his head.

"Is it taste good?"

Oscar shook his head once again.

"Oscar!" Hannah thought he was making fun of her.

"It tastes like my mom's cooking."

"My mom," Oscar muttered, "My biological mom once made me a cake on my birthday."

Chapter 645 Hannah's Promise

In the dining room, Hannah watched Oscar very closely.

She felt this man always said the saddest things in the plainest tone.

"Once my birthday was on the training day." Oscar said peacefully, "My mom brought me a cake she made before parting. And she said her biggest wish was for Cian and me to live a long life."

Hearing this, Hannah felt her heart twitch.

Although all parents wanted their children to be healthy, many seemed to take it for granted. Especially for kids, no parents would frequently talk about living a long life. Because these words were basically for the elderly. Parents would wish their children happiness, academic success, and so on.

"How helpless was she to this world to make this kind of wish?" Hannah thought.

"The cake made by her did not taste good, just like yours," Oscar commented.

Hannah couldn't distinguish much emotion in his indifferent tone.

"But it's warm and toasty." Oscar smiled and said, "That was the first and the last time I ate my mom's cake. The next time I saw her, her body had been dumped at sea. At that moment I suddenly understood the meaning of living a long life my mom said. And I also seemed to understand their abandonment and cruel training in my childhood."

"Oscar," Hannah took his hand tight to warm him, "I'll make a cake for you every year."

Oscar slightly smiled, and his eyes seemed to sparkle because of tears, "Right."

And those sad feelings were just hidden by him. He never allowed himself to get down or to be sad.

Oscar was about to go to work. Hannah had asked for a day off today. After dropping Oscar off, Jimmy turned back to the Cooper building to pick up Hannah and headed for home.

She wanted to give Oscar a surprise.

As Hannah arrived at the villa, Max also felt surprised looking at her. But he quickly knew what she was going to do. Then Max accompanied Hannah in decorating the room.

Max was no less careful with her than Oscar. He even was more nervous than Oscar. If she had any big body movements, he would have almost had a heart attack.

Hannah couldn't help but sigh that Max and Oscar were such a consistent family.

Finally, they gave the villa good decoration. And Hannah rest satisfied to wait for her husband to come home.

In the afternoon, Hannah called Manuel and Theodore respectively to invite them for dinner. Both of them accept her invitation immediately.

Theodore was even kind of excited. He had to look after Little Bunny who was in her rest of confinement, so Hannah guessed he must have felt bored at home. And now he could get some fresh air outside.

Compared to Theodore, Manuel was calmer and more collected. He just said he would try to leave work on time.

After hanging up, Manuel continued to concentrate on his work. Sometimes he even wanted to enrich himself with work or numb his mind.

"Mr Johnson." Callie knocked and opened the door.

"Uh-huh?"

"The inner council will be held in ten minutes."

"OK." Manuel nodded.

Callie wondered if she had imagined that Manuel had become more addicted to his work since Susan left him. Although he also worked hard before, his attitude towards work didn't seem so fanatical at that time. Currently, he was just like an AI machine without a human soul.

Then she sighed because she had no idea why Susan would choose Henry. In the public eye, Manuel was so much better than Henry.

Ten minutes later, Manuel was sitting in the conference room.

There would be an inner council every week to reanalyze the work from last week and make plans for next week.

Manuel gave an earnest and methodical report on the operation of the whole company, which focused on the current maintenance business of the large groups. And he concluded that it had a good trend.

For the moment Sway Bank didn't end well, and there was a rumour among the bank that it would withdraw its hosting in Northfield.

It wasn't a rumour.

Henry was clear that Sway Bank had prepared for its escape. And he also offended them openly.

If he hadn't caught out the responsible person in Northfield appointed by Sway Group, both of them, Henry and the representative from Sway, would have been held legally responsible. Besides, their business cooperation was already against commercial law. So the person in charge of the other side also dare not offend Henry and could only eat grievances quietly. But since then he had been blacklisted in the international banking market and was certain to be excluded. That meant it was difficult for him to develop in this industry in the future if he didn't work at Phillips Bank.

The flames of anger inside Henry were fanned by Manuel's report.

He wanted for the end of Manuel's presentation while gritting his teeth secretly.

After listening to the result, everyone applauded Manuel. They hadn't had much hope for this business or expected he would deal with it. Accordingly, Manuel did impress them all this time.

If anyone still claimed that Manuel got where he was with the help of a personal connection, that would be seen as making trouble out of nothing.

Later, Manuel went back to his seat. And the board members were all complimenting him.

As always, Susan attended the meeting too. Sitting in the corner, she could still see Manuel shine like a diamond now. Unexpectedly, Manuel had become an abler, better person since she left.

Susan put a slightly bitter smile on, although she felt good for him in her heart. She lowered her head, listening everyone to praise Manuel.

Only a few people knew how hard he worked to get where he was now.

In such a harmonious meeting, a member of the board suddenly stated, "I have to say Mr Johnson has been a great surprise to our company since he came here. In this case, we gave Sway a loud slap in the face! That dismisses the minds of those who want to enter Northfield!"

Other members of the board echoed him, which was obviously to please Manuel.

"I admire and even esteem you with all my heart, but..."

As if having anticipated what he would say, Manuel looked at him calmly.

"I'm wondering if the promise you made when you joined the company still holds up."

No matter how well Manuel did, there would still be someone who spitefully cared about his former promise.

Before Manuel could say what he wanted, Edward spoke, "Manuel has already delivered more than what he promised before. So we don't have to go back to the past, right? Markets need to be flexible, and we need that, too!"

He was clearly defending Manuel, which made Henry's expression more malicious.

Chapter 646 A Suggestion From Manuel

In the conference room, the air suddenly weighed.

A board member went on with Edward's words, "You're right, and I also admit that his capacity is beyond our imagination. Of course, I'm not forcing him to do what he has promised. I just want to ask it before we get to the end, so people won't think too much."

"No one should think much more. I can tell you unequivocally right now that he is capable enough and qualified to do what he's doing. There shouldn't be any objections." Edward made a prompt decision.

The board member said nothing more but he glanced at Henry at that moment. Obviously, Henry still had a bunch of supporters.

Henry had been colluding with some people secretly. Manuel had always, however, handled his relationship with all board members fairly and impartially. Many board members couldn't get much out of Manuel, let alone draw water to their own mill. So some people were trying to help Henry get this position because of their self-interest.

Henry gave him a slight nod and said, "I agree with Mr President."

He was the first to state his position, which made everyone in the meeting room surprise. Everyone knew Manuel and Henry were competitors. And people in the company would think that Henry deserved better while working as Manuel's junior officer and that Henry was the one the Phillips Bank should focus on and nurture. After all, he was the son-in-law of the bank's boss. And Edward had only one daughter, which would make him more powerful. However, he was robbed of everything by an outsider, Manuel.

Everyone in the group was clear of the bad blood between the two of them. Hence, Henry's support for Manuel publicly surprised everyone.

"During this time, Mr Johnson has kept Phillips Group safe from Sway Bank takeover. He did things that the average couldn't do, so it makes sense for him to stay on as the general manager of the Philips Bank."

Manuel turned around to glance at him but the former didn't give any response.

Finishing his words, Henry didn't say anything else. He just seemed to speak his mind without any personal emotion.

Edward also nodded delightedly when he heard what Henry said.

Since Susan was together with Henry, Edward was agitated and unsatisfied. Until now he was still thinking about how to get Susan and Manuel together. But now he thought a little higher than before of Henry because of his generosity.

"Now that we're all in agreement, this matter is over. And I don't want to hear it mentioned again." Sid Edward.

The meeting ended successfully.

Manuel followed Edward into his office.

Susan watched them and turned back, and then she saw Henry, who was waiting for her.

Walking up to him, Susan smiled and said, "You were mercy to Manuel."

"He's truly capable, I can only admire him. But..."

She waited for him to finish his words while staring at him.

"Forget it. You just need to be my lovely princess, I'll deal with other matters." Henry fondled her head.

But at that moment, Susan ducked his hand.

Henry's fingers paused in the air.

"This is a workplace, I don't want to create any bad influence," Susan said naturally.

Henry nodded. But the smile on his face faded gradually. Pretending not noticing this, Susan strode ahead. Henry slowly followed her with clenched fists.

In the office of the Phillips Bank's president, Edward said seriously to Manuel, "You don't need to feel burdened by the promise you've made before, and this matter is over now! If anyone mentions it again, I'll punish him."

He knew Manuel well that he wouldn't get any advantages from others' profits. So he called Manuel in specifically to tell him this.

Manuel didn't nod. He didn't think he couldn't get through this thing. After all, he wouldn't have put so much effort into this business and might have reached his original goal if someone hadn't been trying to mess with it. So he didn't have much personal baggage in this case.

However, he was also clear that it was not going to be that simple since he knew Henry wouldn't let him go so easily. Henry would take advantage of what he had gotten from him.

Seeing Manuel didn't reply to him, Edward was a little anxious, "Manuel, don't be stubborn!"

"Yes," Manuel answered.

He didn't spit out what he was worried about. After all, that was all he could deal with.

"Well, you and Susan..." After getting the answer, Edward changed the subject to personal feelings.

"Mr President, I need to go back to work now." Manuel refused to talk about this straightly.

Edward was a little helpless. He also knew that nothing forcibly done was going to be agreeable, so he just sighed.

While standing up and leaving the room, Manuel said, "If you want Susan to develop well here, I suggest... you should let Henry out of the company."

Edward changed his look visibly.

He glanced at Manuel.

"It's just my suggestion."

Edward nodded. For all these years, he had always been expecting something of Henry. And he thought the best way for Susan was that she could learn how to manage a company with Henry's assistance. He didn't really want to make Henry have nothing.

Manuel knew what Edward was thinking about. So he didn't push Edward too much.

Susan was obviously trapped in her comfort zone by herself and had no way to come out. And he had decided not to waste too much time on her. So Manuel just left the topic there.

Returning to the office and turning on the computer, Manuel planned to do some work and then go off duty. He didn't want to work overtime because he need to attend his cousin's birthday party today.

When he was thinking of this, his secretary knocked and opened the door with an anxious look.

"Mr Johnson, something goes wrong! Now the press has released the promise you made when you joined the company. The content reads your deadline is coming, and their wonder if the Phillips Bank will choose to let you off the punishment due to your excellent performance recently."

Manuel showed a calm look as if that was also predicted by him.

Indeed, if everything was fine, he might still be a little worried, which meant he didn't know what Henry was doing behind his back. Now Henry had started his action, and Manuel felt relaxed.

Then Manuel replied, "OK, I've learned it."

Callie looked at him with a confused face.

"Anything else?" seeing Callie standing still, Manuel asked.

Callie shook her head, "No, I just..."

"Then you may leave."

"Yes."

Behind the office door closed, Callie couldn't help but relief.

By the way Manuel responded to the news content, she admired Manuel so much for his calm and collected manner.

Chapter 647 Susan Overheard Henry's Conspiracy

The news didn't make a stir. People simply read it and forgot about it soon. But, it caused some inner riots in Phillips Bank. Now, the thing was exposed, leaving the staff wondering how the senior managers were going to deal with it.

It was hardly possible for Manuel to reach his primary goal. But it was still unknown if the company would bow to the pressure and gossip and make Manuel quit. People could judge these from the current situation.

As the central figure in this event, Manuel didn't act like one. Instead, he clocked out on time and left calmly while the other employees were watching. So, more people joined the discussion and guessed

what the catch was! Reasonably, he should keep up appearances, which at least would be one good reason for the senior managers to make him stay.

Susan held a low position in the company and she'd joined some staff chat groups. That was how she read their comments on Manuel, most of which were positive. Quite a few of them thought it was a pity that Manuel would be fired. Undoubtedly, the majority of these people were female. Susan bet they must have been attracted by Manuel's charm.

But, to be fair and square, she also thought it was a pity if Manuel would be fired. She didn't believe her father was so stupid as to make Manuel quit. Maybe Manuel thought the same way and that was why he took it lightly. Susan suddenly thought of something and realized it was time to get off work.

"I'm off. Wanna go with me?" she texted Henry. That was how they communicated in the past two weeks. Things between them were way too dry and dull. Passion had worn off. It seemed they were back together only because they thought they should be.

"I'll work overtime today. Take care. I'll bring you night snacks." Henry texted back.

"OK. See you later."

"OK."

Susan turned off the computer and left the office. She was bored to death in the car, wondering what she was going to do with the long night. She looked out of the window and saw the sun still glowing in the sky, thinking that she would have dinner alone again.

Then she phoned Hannah, "Hi Hannah. Wanna dine out tonight?"

"Oh, sorry, Susan. I've got a plan tonight."

"Are you gonna work extra hours?"

"Nope."

"Then why did you stand me up?"

"It's Oscar's birthday. We'll celebrate."

"I'm coming over to join you guys." Said Susan immediately.

"Sorry, Susan. I'm afraid not!" rejected Hannah.

"Hannah! Why not!" said Susan angrily and thought she had abandoned her for Oscar.

"Not tonight."

"Aren't we friends?" Susan got mad and snapped.

"How about tomorrow? Come over to my place. I'll tell Max to cook your favourite dishes."

"What kind of friend are you? Bye."

"Hello..."

Susan hung up the phone abruptly and was pissed off. She couldn't accept the fact that Hannah had turned her down for Oscar, and felt she had been abandoned by the whole world.

She thought about it and dialled another number, "Dad."

"Susan? What's up?" answered Edward surprisingly.

"I'll go home for dinner tonight. Tell the servant to cook some of my favourite food."

"I'll be out tonight." Said Edward frankly.

"Out?" Susan frowned.

"Yeah. I'll take Justine out for dinner. If you wanna go back, I'll tell the servant to prepare more..."

"No need." Susan rejected it instantly, wondering why they all had dates but she was left alone.

Susan hung up on Edward in anger and felt distraught.

"Where are we going, Miss Phillips?" asked the driver cautiously.

"Back to the office. I'll be on overtime!" said Susan decisively.

The driver was stunned to hear that, but he still turned around and headed back for the office. Susan just wanted to wait for Henry to finish work because she hated to be alone.

She came back and went straight to Henry's office. She went in without knocking on the door and heard Henry's voice, "Manuel will quit if we pressure him a little harder..."

At that moment, their eyes met. Except for Henry, a few other board members were also in the office, including the one who had mentioned Manuel's goal at today's meeting. They were sitting on the couch and discussing something big.

"Susan? Why are you back?" Henry asked with a smile, acting as if nothing had happened, "Didn't you leave first?"

"I was bored, so I came back to wait for you. You seem very busy. I'll leave you to it." Said Susan, and closed the door immediately.

She went back to her office and couldn't stop thinking of Henry's words, which meant he tried to kick Manuel out of the company. She thought it was very big of Henry to speak for Manuel at the meeting. After all, not only the outsiders but also she thought Manuel had taken his place.

Someone knocked at the door and brought Susan back to reality.

"Come in."

Henry came into her office.

Susan forced a smile and said, "Don't mind me. I'll just come up with something to kill time."

"Don't be silly, honey. How can I focus on work now? We've done with the discussion. We can go now." Said Henry calmly.

Susan nodded.

“What do you want for dinner? I’ll cook if you wanna eat at home. I’ll make a reservation first if you wanna dine out.”

“Henry.”

Susan was never good at hiding her feelings and doubts.

“Yes?”

“Do you want to make Manuel leave Phillips Bank?”

“Yes,” Henry said and gave Susan a firm yes.

“But at today’s meeting…”

“I just pretended it.” Admitted Henry.

Susan heard it and bit her lips hard.

“Dear Susan, actually, I didn’t want to tell you because I don’t want to get you worried. But now I think it’s necessary to make it clear to you. I don’t want any misunderstandings between us.”

Susan had no idea what Henry was going to say, and she was disgusted with it deep down. However, she still listened to his explanation silently.

“Manuel joined Phillips Bank with only an evil purpose. He wants to have the group as his own. You might not know that I once had 20% shares. But Manuel played dirty tricks and took them away from me.”

Chapter 648 Susan Was Torn

Susan was shocked by Henry’s words. She had no idea what kind of deal they had made behind her back.

Henry looked at her surprised face and went to the point, “I’m sorry, Susan. I’ve kept it from you not because I didn’t want to tell you, but because they didn’t let me tell you!”

“What the hell was it about?”

“When Manuel injured his legs and forced you to marry him years ago, your father gave me 20% of Phillips Bank’s initial shares and told me I had to leave you. I accepted his offer because I didn’t want Manuel to have you in such a despicable way without paying any cost. In fact, Manuel was very jealous.” Said Henry.

Susan bit her lips. It turned out that she was the one who had been left in the dark all the time. She couldn’t stand being isolated like this, not to mention the 20% of Phillips Bank’s initial shares.

She was silent and kind of desperate.

Henry went on speaking, “I’ve taken 20% of the initial shares. Do you know what the condition is?”

Susan shook her head and felt tired of guessing.

“The condition is, I can’t have sex with you.” Said Henry sarcastically.

Susan stared at him unbelievably.

“Now you know why I’ve always refused to make out with you, right?” said Henry slowly.

Susan nodded and finally got to know the reason why he had refused to make out with her. He just didn’t want to lose the shares. Suddenly, she felt like a product, which had been valued, bought and sold by the closest ones.

“I can’t stand that, but I couldn’t let Manuel get his way. When you divorced him, he threatened me to sell him the shares, but I said no. I admit that I wasn’t resigned to it. Who is he to twist you and me around in his little finger? I can’t accept it!” said Henry angrily.

Susan had said nothing in response.

“But I still gave him the shares unconditionally not long ago.” Henry mocked himself.

“It was on the day when we got back together. I guess you still remember that day when I came to help pack your stuff, Manuel sent me to his office and made me sign a letter of share transfer. He threatened to keep hurting you if I refused to sign. You know what, Susan? It isn’t true that he still loves you. Whatever he has done, he did it to fool me and make me more afraid of losing you. He’s good at manipulating people. He was sure that I dared not risk losing you. He knew once you’ve shown your love for him, I would give him the shares unconditionally to save our relationship. He knew I care about you more than anything else and you are everything to me!”

Susan blinked her eyes slightly. In some way, she felt repelled.

“We’ve been together so long. Don’t you think it’s time to give the shares back since my father gave them to make you leave me in the first place?” she said.

Henry was shocked to hear that and didn’t expect Susan would think this way. As far as he knew about Susan, she would feel resentful as he did and seek justice for him! Anyway, he was at a disadvantage in this relationship and in front of Manuel. What’s more, Susan was sympathetic.

“I said I wasn’t willing to accept it. I hate to be manipulated by Manuel. No one knows how much I’ve been through after I left you. I just couldn’t bear to see Manuel have everything his way. But he’s smart and he’s got thousands of ways to make me give up even though I’m unwilling to. I’ve planned to give the shares back to your father, but I must admit that I’m selfish and gave the shares to Manuel instead because I’m afraid of losing you. The only condition is that he would leave you.”

Having a sense of inexplicable frustration, Susan felt a little weepy. She didn’t know if it was true that Manuel wanted the shares only.

“Susan, I kept it from you because I don’t want to hurt your feelings. I’m afraid you can’t accept the truth. But it’s nothing when compared with losing you and letting you down. I planned it and pretended to support Manuel at the meeting, and tried to let his guard down. I want Manuel to leave Phillips Bank. Otherwise, your father will trust him more than ever considering his current position and achievement. If your father was back together with his mother, he would gain more in Phillips Bank. In that case, he’ll have Phillips Bank to his own sooner or later.”

However, Susan felt that the Manuel she knew was different from the ambitious guy Henry described in front of her.

“Susan, Phillips Bank is your family business. It’s been built and prospered from generation to generation. I can’t watch Manuel take it away and do nothing!” Henry said and tried to take Susan’s hand.

Susan avoided his hand. There was a moment when Henry’s hand froze in the air.

Her growing antipathy was uncovered gradually, while she couldn’t tell whether she had it towards Henry or towards the deal they made without being known by her.

At the moment, she just felt like running away. The more she knew, the more desperate she was to escape.

“Please trust me, Susan. All I’ve done is for you. Maybe you can’t see it now, but later you’ll see how ambitious Manuel is! He’s aimed at your family properties from the very beginning!” Henry said firmly, “But don’t worry, I won’t let him get his way! I’m your boyfriend and I have the responsibility to protect you!”

Susan heard Henry’s promise and felt nothing for it. Instead, she didn’t want to hear any of his words. She didn’t want him to protect her or her family’s properties.

She realized that her father was wise and smart, otherwise, he wouldn’t have brought Phillips Bank to such a big success. Edward was willing to trust Manuel but why Henry insisted on doubting him? Manuel would have taken over Phillips Bank long ago if he wanted to. And he could have reached his purpose easily because Edward was lost in the charm of Justine.

However, she still believed Henry, because she thought he wouldn’t lie to her.

Chapter 649 Cian Comes to the Party

Susan was so conflicted inside, not knowing how to react.

She saw Henry trying to take her hand again in a very careful way. Henry was always humble and inferior to her and he humbly longed for her love and trust. She allowed it when Henry took her hand this time.

“I’m more relieved without the 20% of the company in hand. I’ve been heavily burdened and bothered not only because I couldn’t have you. More importantly, I don’t think I’m qualified to have them. Now that they’re gone, I’m so relieved and won’t be so stressed in front of you anymore. Susan...”

Henry called her name softly and Susan looked him into his eyes.

“Let’s start over and be good to each other, OK?”

Susan said nothing and found it hard to agree with Henry again.

Henry tried to hold back his anger. If it were before, Susan would have thrown herself into his arms without hesitation. However, she didn’t trust him as much as she used to. He hid his rage well and acted to be gently, “It’s OK. I understand it’s hard to accept it now. Take the time.”

Susan didn't want him to be humble and inferior to her. His humbleness and inferiority would only make her feel bad and drift her away.

"Alright." Said Henry.

In Susan's eyes, Henry was saving himself from embarrassment. He had always been too cautious in order to keep their relationship.

"No worries. Just leave it to me. All you need to do is be my happy princess. I just hope to see that happy and carefree smile on your pretty face." Henry said it and held Susan in his arms.

Susan leaned against his chest. It was too much information for her. But it seemed she didn't have any other choice but to accept it.

The villa was decorated with coloured lanterns and flowers, which made it look jubilant. Everything on the set was slightly overdone.

Oscar got off work on time. He noticed the unique decoration as soon as he came home. He didn't think it a big deal of celebrating his birthday but still expected it when he saw Hannah's delicate decoration. He thought life should come with a sense of ceremony.

He went into the drawing-room happily, looking for Hannah to give her a big hug. Then he paused his steps abruptly and stared at the young man in front of him. For one second, he couldn't believe it was Cian, his younger brother.

Cian felt uncomfortable with his stare and said, "Did I disturb you?"

Oscar blinked his eyes and turned to Hannah.

"I told Cian to come." Said Hannah.

"I'm so glad that Hannah still remembered me. I thought you'd forgotten me once you left." Cian smiled and said.

Oscar was at a loss for words. Hannah couldn't understand the look on his face.

She wasn't sure if Oscar wanted Cian to be here. She wasn't sure if Cian's appearance was a happy surprise to him. But Cian was one of the only three family members to Oscar. She could feel how much Oscar longed for family love though he never said it out, and he was even strongly attached to his parents and brother.

"Oh, look who's here! Cian!" Suddenly, a playful voice came into their ears. Theodore came in and looked much calmer than Oscar.

"Long time, Theo." Cian looked towards him and addressed him politely.

"I can't believe you left that stupid island. How did you get here?" asked Theodore casually. His voice warmed up the proceedings.

Hannah seized the chance to go up to Oscar, held his hand and acted like a kitten. Oscar sighed lightly.

“Hannah invited me.” Answered Cian, “It’s very kind of you, Hannah. My brother just left and disappeared without a trace, but you still remember me.”

Surely, Hannah knew it was dangerous to take Cian back from the island. Telling from her experience of living ten more years, Cian’s identity hadn’t been found out from the beginning to the end, which meant the aristocratic families didn’t know Oscar had a genetically related brother. In that case, none of them would pay any attention to him, and he would still be unknown if she covered it better.

“Cian! Is that you?” At the time, another male voice came into their ears. Manuel came in and was shocked to see Cian in the room.

“Yeah, Manuel,” Cian said and smile at him.

Outwardly, Cian was more easygoing than Oscar since the former was always kind to people, while Oscar was so unapproachable that both Theodore and Manuel were afraid of him.

“There you are! What a nice surprise!” Manuel seemed to have expected him.

Hannah called Manuel the other day and told him the idea of taking Cian to Kensbury City, and he agreed. He thought Cian could go around from time to time instead of being isolated on the island. Cian and Oscar spent little time together but they loved and admired each other though they never said it out. Indeed, they were pretty close. He believed Oscar would be very happy if Cian could come to his birthday party.

“Yep.” Cian put on a bright smile, “I couldn’t turn down Hannah’s invitation.”

Hannah thought Cian was a smart guy, who kept telling people that he came to the party only because Hannah insisted, which had shifted the blame to her, because Oscar was a little unhappy to see him there.

How could he be so tricky?

She remembered he was over the moon when she called and invited him to the party.

“Now you know how tricky he is, don’t you?” Oscar whispered in her ears and gloated.

Hannah pouted.

“Now that everyone is here, let’s dig in!” Max stepped forward and said respectfully.

Hannah nodded. Then everyone went to the dining room. The dining room was in the garden, which was delicately decorated with all different kinds of coloured lanterns, ribbons, balloons and flowers, warm and romantic. In a word, Hannah had done her best to throw a fabulous party for Oscar.

Chapter 650 An Overt Secret

A fancy dinner was ready on the table. Night breeze stroked their faces. The nice weather and beautiful scenery, the good wine and the delicious food made it a remarkable day.

“At first, I thought Hannah is nothing but a trophy wife. Later, I found she was also a very tough and ambitious businesswoman. But now it surprises me that she’s also a thoughtful woman who can take good care of family affairs. Oscar, you lucky dog!” said Theodore.

Oscar smiled. Finally, Theodore said something nice that pleased him.

Hannah was shy. Although she had been constantly praised since she was little, and had won a lot of approval and applause in the business circle, she was still shy to be praised by Theodore. She thought she was a nobody when compared with any of them.

“Indeed, Oscar has better taste than someone. How come, Hannah and Susan, are so different?” Theodore flattered Hannah. Probably, he was very unhappy with the love relationship between Manuel and Susan.

Manuel was at a loss for words.

“Susan Phillips?” Cian got curious and cut in.

“Gosh! Even you know it!”

“Of course. How could I not know the girl who Manuel is crazy about.” Said Cian.

Manuel simply remained silent no matter what they said.

“Then, do you know Manuel has been dumped like trash?”

“Really? Tell me!” Cian got excited. He was so curious that he looked like any other big boy.

Hannah wondered if Cian was the real royal heir, who was bearing a blood feud.

“Don’t doubt him.” Oscar noticed Hannah’s confusion and whispered in her ear.

Hannah came back to reality but didn’t join them in the gossip.

Susan was her best friend and she just couldn’t talk behind her back. But she wasn’t partial to Susan as well when it came to her relationship with Manuel. She just listened and said nothing.

“Alright now, today is Oscar’s birthday. Let’s get back to the topic! To Oscar!” proposed Manuel. Maybe he couldn’t stand the gossip any more.

Everyone raised their wine glasses to drink, including Hannah.

“No wine.” Oscar stopped her.

“It’s grape juice.” Retorted Hannah.

“Have water instead.” Said Oscar.

“Oscar!”

“It’s my birthday!”

Hannah thought he was always so bossy even when it wasn’t his birthday. They argued as the others watched them as if they were enjoying a show.

“Hannah, are you pregnant?” Theodore cut to the chase.

Oscar’s face turned sulky.

“Drop the act. I’ve seen it through.” Said Theodore confidently.

Oscar looked bad but Theodore didn’t give a shit.

“No fuss! Take it easy. Little Bunny has been there. See? My son is healthy and strong.”

“No fuss? How did you know what on earth she has been through? You didn’t care about your pregnant wife. Who are you to talk to!” Oscar retorted.

Theodore heard it and was about to blow his top.

Hannah burst into laughter and found it very amusing that Oscar had shut Theodore down each time.

“Is that true, Hannah?” Cian asked out of curiosity.

Hannah nodded.

Oscar pursed his lips and knew he couldn’t keep it from them any more.

“Congratulations!” Cian said with a big smile, “We’ll have a new family member.”

Hannah looked at his smiling face and felt empathetic for him. Maybe they’d been alone for too long.

“Is it a boy or a girl? If it’s a girl, she must be a perfect 10 since her parents are so good-looking. If it’s a boy, he must be a dreamboat. Maybe he’ll be the little Oscar...”

“It’s a girl.” Oscar interrupted.

“How did you know?” asked Cian.

“I put the baby into her. Of course, I know it.”

Hannah was speechless, wondering if he could stop being so full of himself.

“Don’t tell others,” Oscar said seriously.

Theodore didn’t think so. To him, having babies was one of the most common things and there was nothing to be fussy about.

They calmed down and began pigging out again. It wasn’t easy for Theodore to hang out, so he was going to drink like a fish. He challenged Manuel, and the latter got drunk soon. To his surprise, Cian was neck to neck with him.

“Are you not going to stop Cian?” Hannah pulled Oscar softly and thought Cian’s health meant a lot to them.

“No worries. He’s more reasonable than any of us.”

Hannah looked at Cian and couldn’t see that.

After three rounds, Theodore got slightly drunk. He raised the wine glass generously and said, “It’s a big day! It’s Oscar’s birthday. Cian is here. Hannah is pregnant. Let’s get hammered! Cheers...”

Suddenly, Theodore screamed out of pain as someone was pulling his ear. Everyone fixed their eyes on Laird, who was in a temper. Hannah had imagined he would be here because Manuel had reminded her.

She hid behind Oscar, and Oscar smiled lightly, "Scared now?"

Indeed, she wasn't scared but she just didn't want to argue with the seniors.

"Ouch! Easy easy! Dad! You're pulling my ear off." Screamed Theodore.

Where there was Theodore, there was fun. Laird let go of him and went straight to Cian without looking at him.

"Master Cian, let me drive you back." Said Laird respectfully.

Cian put down the wine glass calmly. He was sober and didn't complain at all. He simply stood up and left, as if he had been used to it.

Oscar caught up with him. Laird wanted to say something but bit it back in the end. Hannah saw Oscar leaving with Cian and Laird following behind them. Manuel was stoned and lying on the table. He suddenly looked up towards them and went back to sleep.

"Hope Cian can be happier in the future." Murmured Theodore.

Hannah blinked her eyes slightly. She couldn't see Cian was unhappy if she didn't hear it out from them. She wondered how much it took to hide his feelings so perfectly well.