

## Reborn 651

### Chapter 651 A Romantic Kiss

Oscar escorted Cian to the gate. A couple of black cars were parked orderly there and some guys were waiting for them.

“Cian,” Oscar called his name when he was about to get into the car.

Cian turned around to look at him.

Oscar bit back the words and stepped forward to pat him on the shoulder, “Safe trip.”

“You know what, Oscar? I’m very happy tonight, though it’s a short time.” Cian said with a smile.

Oscar stared at him.

“I’ve seen you off since I was little. Every time I stood still and watched you drive away. This is the first time that you saw me off.”

Oscar hesitated and didn’t expect that Cian cared so much about it.

“Hannah is a nice person. Don’t let her down.”

Oscar nodded slightly.

Cian smiled and said nothing else. He knew he didn’t have a choice. Their lives had been beyond control since they were born.

Cian got in the car. So did Laird. A line of black cars drove past Oscar. Finally, he knew how it felt to see somebody off. He finally understood Cian’s feelings deep down.

A moment later, he turned around to go back to the house and found Hannah waiting for him not far away. He smiled and felt great to see his beloved one when he was down. It felt like a twist of fate where everything had come back to life after a long winter or the world had been saved from the dark.

Hannah stepped forward to take his hand, and Oscar clutched her to him.

“Did I cause you any trouble?” said Hannah. She meant that she had made it difficult for Oscar by taking Cian to the party. Anyway, Laird was mad. She knew besides Laird, many other loyal people out there were supporting and protecting Oscar and Cian, the descendants of the Royal Wells Family. Laird didn’t complain about it, but it didn’t mean the others would be cool with it.

“Nope.” His magnetic voice sounded better on this quiet night, “Thank you, my wife.”

Hannah smiled.

“I always think I’ve cared much about Cian. I spend as much time as possible with him whenever I go visit him on the island. Most of the time, I do my best to fulfil his requirements. I can tolerate his unreasonable behaviours as long as he doesn’t violate the principles. But, I’ve never thought of what he wants! He told me it was the first time that I’ve seen him off and he was happy. Maybe I don’t know what he wants.”

Hannah leaned on his chest, listened to his strong heartbeats and said softly, "What Cian wants is nothing but your attention and care."

Oscar nodded. He knew there was a strong bond between Cian and him. And that was why they still loved each other as a family though they were bearing a blood feud.

Oscar let go of Hannah and looked down at her, admitting that she knew him well. He thought she would freak out and run away once he told her everything. However, she had taken it readily and warmed his heart by supporting him.

He raised her chin and stared at her red and soft lips. Since Hannah was pregnant, he hadn't made out with her recently in case he hurt the baby by accident. But in the tender moonlight right now, he couldn't help it any more. He thought he could resist the temptation, but he was wrong.

He bent over to come close to her lips. Hannah blinked her eyes and felt her heart racing. She blushed and felt her heart pounding in her chest every time they made out. She closed her eyes and accepted Oscar's hot kiss. They cuddled and kissed and lost themselves in the intimacy.

"I'm thinking I'll have to wait for another two hours if I don't cut in now."

Suddenly, they heard a very familiar female voice. Hannah was stunned while Oscar just stopped abruptly. Being interrupted, both of them felt a bit unhappy.

Hannah pushed Oscar away, who parted his lips with hers unwillingly. But he got turned on again when he saw Hannah's red and swollen lips after the kiss.

Undoubtedly, Hannah knew Oscar wanted her, and she felt desire surging up her chest, too. Most of the time, Hannah didn't think she was the one who had seduced Oscar but Oscar had been enchanting her with his charm and sexiness. They just watched each other quietly.

"For God's sake! Enough!" Susan thundered. She'd been waiting so long. If she hadn't interrupted them, they would never have stopped tonight.

But she must say it was a very hot and great kiss, which did impress her.

Two striking lookers stood there in the soft light of the moon, kissing affectionately, which was much more impressive than any romantic love stories in the TV shows.

It was a pity that they didn't start their careers in the show business. After all, it was eye candy to watch them kissing but she had waited too long.

Then she remembered Hannah had stood her up for Oscar and got annoyed. So, she interrupted them on purpose.

Even so, Hannah and Oscar were still doing the lovey-dovey stuff like nobody else was there. She spoke again and finally got their attention.

"Susan? What are you doing here?" asked Hannah surprisingly.

"You told me not to come. But I'm here!" said Susan, "So, bite me! Humph!"

Hannah couldn't do anything with her. At times, Susan was as childish as a twelve-year-old. But she didn't think Susan was here to mess things up. She must have been in trouble, otherwise, she wouldn't have come uninvited.

What's more, she didn't want Susan to come to the party because Cian would be there. They must keep Cian's identity a top secret. She trusted Susan, but she must respect Oscar and the others. Since Cian had left, she would just let Susan do as she wished.

Susan went into the sitting room without asking them for permission.

"Let's go," Hannah said to Oscar.

Oscar nodded. Clearly, he was still lingering over the hot kiss. Hannah smiled and felt good when she saw Oscar couldn't do anything with her, which she thought was enjoyable.

### **Chapter 652 Susan Drinks with Theodore**

Oscar and Hannah went back to the sitting room hand in hand, while Susan walked in front of them, and began murmuring when she saw the over-jubilant decorations. She teased it all but somehow, it didn't sound annoying. She babbled on and on and walked over to the garden. The lights in the garden looked brighter at night.

Susan was frozen when she came to the dining table. She hadn't expected Theodore would be here, let alone Manuel. She thought Hannah would turn down everyone else since she had said no to her. She thought Hannah would spend the night with Oscar alone.

Susan looked back at Hannah furiously. Both Theodore and Manuel were invited, but she was ruled out. She wondered if she was still Hannah's best friend. She felt abandoned and hurt.

Hannah could see Susan was mad but she'd got nothing to speak for herself. She had no choice but to bite the bullet and said, "Take a seat, Susan."

Susan stood still, hit the ceiling and gnashed, "Hannah, we're not best friends any more, are we?"

"Nonsense! Of course, we're best friends!" said Hannah immediately.

"Then why did you turn me down but invite them?" Susan was deeply hurt.

Theodore cut in while Hannah was about to explain, "Hell, don't you know the reason yourself?"

Susan stared at him ferociously.

"Didn't you see that? Manuel is here!" said Theodore deliberately.

Manuel, who was bending over the table, had sat up. He glanced at Theodore, pursed his lips and said nothing.

"So what?" Susan got pissed.

"Don't you know what you've done?"

"It's no big deal. We just broke up..."

"It was a divorce." Theodore corrected.

Susan gritted her teeth.

"Fine. It was just a divorce. No fuss about it. It's not the end of the world. We should move on."

"Yeah. Right. It was only a divorce to you, but to Manuel..."

"Theodore," Manuel interrupted, "enough. Things between me and Susan were not as bad as you thought."

Susan looked at Manuel and knew he was stepping in for the rescue but she felt bad to hear his very indifferent voice.

At the time, Hannah stepped forward to smooth things out, "Susan, take a seat. See? Theodore is drinking alone. You came just in time."

"No need. Thanks! I'm good."

"Are you afraid that I'm gonna knock you out?" said Susan. Susan wasn't mean or petty. Sometimes, she had a big heart and she wouldn't split hairs. She wouldn't stay mad for long.

Hearing it, Theodore was provoked, "Are you kidding me? Think of it! You've been wasted every time you drank with me!"

"Not this time!" Susan sat down across from Theodore, "You'll be stoned this time! I'll win!"

"Funny!" Theodore picked up the wine glass, "Bring it on!"

Saying it, he handed a wine glass to Susan and the two of them began drinking. One second ago, they were still teasing and fighting each other. Right now, they were like drinking buddies.

Hannah looked at them and giggled, "Jesus! They are very much alike!"

Oscar glimpsed at them and agreed.

"Theodore is very different from you and Manuel." Hannah looked him up and down and thought Theodore was supposed to be maturer.

"Don't be fooled by his playfulness. He can handle it well when something is up."

Hannah thought of it and couldn't agree more. She turned to Theodore for help whenever she was in trouble and he had never let her down. Indeed, one couldn't judge a book by its cover. Susan was as restless as Theodore, but she was far less capable. Hannah sighed softly, wondering when Susan could finally grow mature.

Theodore and Susan were drinking and laughing and arguing at the dining table. They had made themselves the focus of the night. The rest three of them had been used to it and just let them have it their way.

It was getting late at night. Oscar went back to the room with Hannah, leaving the three of them in the garden. Manuel watched them leave and looked kind of desperate. Theodore and Susan were drinking,

while he was sitting beside them, restrained. He checked the time and thought it was time to go since the host and the hostess had also left.

“Where are you going?” Theodore stopped him when he stood up.

Susan seemed to have glimpsed at him but she took her eyes off him the next second and looked away on purpose.

“Home.” Said Manuel calmly.

“What about me? Aren’t you gonna wait for me?” Theodore said unbelievably and looked like he was shocked to be left behind.

“You are having fun, right?”

“So? You still have to stay with me. Or, Susan and I... Well, you are going to stay and see who is going to win!” Theodore said seriously.

Manuel was speechless.

“You are not going anywhere!” Theodore insisted.

Manuel had been used to be bullied by Theodore since he was little. He was the youngest among them and Theodore didn’t have the balls to mess up with Oscar. So, he became the doormat. Manuel stayed, watching them drinking. He thought they were ruining their health by drinking like a fish, and guessed it wouldn’t be over until one of them was down.

Manuel couldn’t take it any more. He took over their wine glasses and said, “OK. So much for it!”

“No! Susan isn’t drunk yet!”

“I won’t be drunk!” Susan stood up and looked like she was going to knock him out.

“Nonsense!” Theodore taunted, “I’ll knock some sense into you, so you’ll know your position!”

Saying it, Theodore grabbed the wine glass and tossed it off. Susan didn’t chicken out. She reached out to take over the glass but Manuel took it away when she just touched it.

“What are you doing?” said Susan angrily.

“Time to go home.” Said Manuel coldly.

“I’m not leaving til Theodore gets drunk and admits his defeat.”

“Enough now.” Said Manuel seriously.

“Who are you to make the call? Who the hell do you think you are to me!” Susan burped and stared at Manuel. Her eyes were misty but she still put on the airs.

“I’m nobody to you.” Said Manuel calmly. He was a little mad at Susan’s attitude but he wasn’t emotionally attached to her. He put on a straight face and said, “I’ll call Henry to pick you up.”

## **Chapter 653 The Fight & The Kiss**

Suddenly, Susan jumped over to grab the phone when Manuel just took it out. Manuel narrowed his eyes intensely.

“No! You are not calling Henry!” Susan rejected.

Manuel looked bloody cold and glared at her. She suddenly came close to him and smelled like alcohol, which distracted him for one or two seconds. Susan seized the chance to take over the phone and throw it away without thinking. Unfortunately, she happened to have thrown the phone into the swimming pool not far away. Manuel looked like shit.

Even Theodore had chills. Normally, Manuel seldom lost his temper. He would just grind and bear it when he got bullied, and he would explode only when someone touched his phone and laptop, which were the most important things to a hacker.

Theodore remembered he once play games on Manuel’s laptop and got beaten up. It was very scary when Manuel blew his top. He wondered how Manuel was going to deal with Susan later. He watched them and saw Manuel’s anger surging up his chest.

However, Susan acted like she couldn’t feel Manuel’s anger at all. She threw his phone away and looked very complacent, “There! How dare you call Henry!”

All at once, Susan screamed out of pain and fear. Manuel dragged her by the arm and pulled her away, which nearly killed her. He dragged her so hard that she couldn’t struggle to get rid of him. She had drunk a lot and was very weak and dizzy. Right now, she felt like vomiting.

“Jimmy!” Manuel dragged her out and shouted to Jimmy in the house, “Come with me.”

“OK.” Jimmy caught up with them.

Manuel opened the door and pushed Susan into the car, then he sat down next to her. Susan kept twisting her body to struggle.

She wasn’t done yet. She wanted to have more wine! She needed to defeat Theodore. Damn it! Susan was about to explode.

But Manuel didn’t give a damn. He even sat far away from her deliberately to keep the distance. He looked out of the window and turned his back to Susan.

Somehow, Susan stopped being mad all at once. She looked at his back and felt like crying, feeling that Manuel was so far away from her. He was sitting next to her but his heart had drifted apart. They fell into silence in the car. Manuel hadn’t turned around to glance at her all the way.

The car arrived at Susan’s luxury apartment building. But Susan didn’t get off.

Manuel waited for a while and turned back to remind her, “You’re home.”

Susan just looked at him, and said nothing or did nothing.

Manuel frowned and opened the door the next second. He went past the car to Susan’s side and opened the door for her, “Get out of the car!”

Susan managed her emotions and wondered how Manuel could be so indifferent to her.

“Get out of the car.” Said Manuel impatiently.

In the end, Susan got off. She knew Manuel would kick her out rudely if she insisted on staying inside. She couldn't struggle or fight him.

Manuel closed the door and got ready to leave, but Susan seized his clothes to stop him. Manuel paused his steps.

“I wanna ask you something,” Susan said in a very low and careful voice. She didn't know when she had been so timid and sweet in front of Manuel.

“Go ahead.” Manuel swallowed and said.

“Henry told me you've taken the 20% of the company he had.” Susan went straight to the point.

She had been very down since she talked to Henry today. She even turned Henry down when he offered to drive her home. She went home alone but still couldn't figure it out.

She was so down and bothered that she went to Hannah's place without calling. She wanted to talk to Hannah and get the shits off her chest. However, it turned out that Manuel and Theodore were there. Then she began drinking like crazy with Theodore since she was gonna take it out. It was quiet around and she couldn't feel worse after drinking.

“Hmm,” Manuel admitted.

“Henry can't have sex with me if he still has the shares in hand. Once it's gone, we'll be free to...”

“What are you getting at?” Manuel interrupted and looked poker-faced.

Susan was heartbroken. She just wanted to know if he would mind if she was gonna have sex with Henry. Without a doubt, he didn't care, otherwise, he wouldn't have taken the shares.

“Nothing.” She said and left.

Manuel also left without hesitation.

“I'll talk to my father and tell him not to fire you,” Susan said all at once.

Manuel stopped his steps.

“Henry keeps telling me that you want our family properties only, but I think you could have them long ago if you really want to. My father is smart, and he wouldn't see you wrong.”

“Henry was right.” Said Manuel bluntly.

Susan was stunned and looked at Manuel. She didn't know what to do at the time.

“I once loved you, but not any more. All I want now is your family properties. Love and money? I must have one of them!”

Susan felt like crying and said, “Manuel, I want to be good to you. My father and your mother will possibly get back together. We'll see each other a lot. Can't we stop being enemies?”

“Let me just tell you again. I’m trying to take your father’s properties.!” Manuel said coldly, “Stop me if you can. Otherwise, you’ll lose everything!” Manuel said it and left decisively.

Susan watched him leave and stepped forward to stop him. Seriously, she hated to turn against him. Manuel grabbed her hand hard as soon as she touched his shirt. It hurt so much that Susan burst into tears. She thought Manuel must hate her guts, or he wouldn’t have done this to her!

She struggled and tried to get rid of him. Suddenly, Manuel pressed her against the car and kissed her on the lips. Susan was shocked and couldn’t take it. One second ago, they were still fighting. Was she out of her mind or was Manuel insane?

### **Chapter 654 It Stings Her**

Susan was tense all over and could smell nothing but Manuel’s breath as well as alcohol. She was afraid of him but she didn’t push him away. She stared at his face closely and always knew that he had perfect skin, which any girl would be jealous of. She was so close to him but she could see no pores but his beautiful eyelashes.

Her heart was beating faster and faster. She got so turned on. Reasonably, she was supposed to push him away. It was wrong to kiss him. But sensually, she had accepted his kiss. She parted her lips and tried going deep down.

While she was about to use her tongue, Manuel let her go. He seemed to have kissed her wildly but did nothing more as if he was taking it out on her. He kissed her and then left with disgust.

Susan looked at him with confusion. She had to admit she was horny, and couldn’t help getting physical with Manuel. Probably, she was out of her mind. Susan was in tears and torn. She’d got a lot to tell but just said nothing.

It made no difference that they had kissed. Manuel said coldly, “I’m an invader, Susan.”

After it, he pushed her away violently. As a result, Susan slipped down the car and took a few steps backwards. The next second, she saw Manuel get in the car and leave. She pursed her lips hard. What Manuel had done had stung her. Heartbroken, she was in tears but still trying to smile. All in all, it was her choice, and she didn’t want to regret it.

Susan turned around and saw Henry standing in the darkness. She had no idea how long he had been there or what he had seen. The point was, she didn’t know how to explain to him.

She was thinking if Manuel had suddenly kissed her only to piss Henry off after he saw him in the darkness. Otherwise, she couldn’t understand why Manuel suddenly went out of control and kissed her. Well, he wasn’t totally out of control. He wasn’t turned on even though she had put her tongue inside him. She swallowed and held back the tears.

“Are you waiting for me?” She went up to Henry and said.

“I see you’re upset today and wanted to keep you company. I went to your place and found you were out. I called you but your phone was off. So, I’ve been waiting for you here.”

Susan looked at Henry. He was so calm and peaceful even after he saw her kissing Manuel. Suddenly, Susan felt guilty.



“Henry, just let it go if you can’t carry on with it. I cheated on you... Sorry.” She said.

“I won’t give up.” Henry said firmly, “I know you feel bad and I understand your feelings. But time will tell. Manuel bears ill will on you and I can’t just sit back and watch you fall for it!”

Susan smiled lightly. Even she didn’t know what it was for. In fact, it was just a facial expression.

“It’s late. Just go home.” She compromised and didn’t want to talk more about it.

Henry looked at her and knew she hated him. She would just hate him more if he insisted on staying. He gritted his teeth secretly and acted to be soft and tender, “OK. Sleep tight. Call me if you need anything. I’ll be on for you 24/7.”

Susan nodded.

She used to be very touched when she saw Henry cared so much about her. But she was afraid of this feeling at the moment. She turned around and went into the apartment building.

Henry watched her leave until she went out of sight. Then, he pulled a long face and clenched his fists and his eyes were blazing with anger.

Jimmy drove Manuel back home. Manuel was silent all the way.

Jimmy tried several times, and finally spoke it out when they waited at the red light at a crossing, “Why don’t you just tell Susan you love her?”

Manuel blinked his eyes slightly and pursed his lips, where he could still smell Susan’s scent. He kissed her only to piss Henry off but he nearly lost control.

“Not any more.” He said.

Jimmy smiled. He seldom smiled and he didn’t look nice with that smile on his face. It meant he didn’t buy it. Jimmy was older and watched them grow mature. He had worked for Oscar, Manuel and Theodore for a long time and he knew them inside out and could read their minds but he never said it out. He guessed Manuel’s love for Susan was probably as much as Oscar’s love for Hannah. But Jimmy wasn’t a big mouth. So, he would just take it if Manuel said so.

One week later, Oscar’s transfer order was announced. He was going to the capital the next day. Hannah couldn’t calm down when she read the news, which meant they had to live in separate places again. More importantly, Oscar would be in danger this time. She was on pins and needles and thought of spending more time with him at night. But she got a text message from Oscar, saying that the City Hall was going to throw him a farewell party and he would be home late. Suddenly, she felt it was bad to have a husband who was devoted to his career.

She thought it over and called Susan. Honestly, she had cared too little about Susan recently and was afraid that Susan was driven crazy by her love life.

As she expected, Susan was angry to receive her call.

“Oh, look who’s calling!”

“Come over to my place for dinner tonight.” Hannah pursed her lips.

"Nope." Susan turned her down immediately.

"Oscar is leaving for the capital tomorrow. I've spent more time with him these days and he'll be gone tomorrow. Then I'm yours, right?" Hannah explained.

"Do you think I mind you sticking with Oscar and doing the lovey-dovey stuff?" Susan exploded and complained, "What I mind is that both Theodore and Manuel were invited to the birthday party, but I was rejected!" shouted Susan. Probably, it had been a pain in the ass for her.

### **Chapter 655 Susan Speaks for Manuel**

Hannah thought of it and added, "In fact, I've turned Theodore and Manuel down, but they came to the party uninvited just like you did. They were here earlier."

"Really?" Susan doubted it.

"Yes, you're my best friend. What made you think I would turn you down only? That was impossible!" said Hannah seriously.

Susan thought it made sense and accepted it because she believed Hannah would never leave her alone. Then she stopped being mad and said, "See you tonight?"

"Yeah."

"Will Oscar be home?"

"He's got a dinner party."

"That's why you think of me."

"Didn't you say that you don't mind it?"

"But I'm too proud to be a backup."

"Don't be silly, there is no such a gorgeous 'backup'."

Susan couldn't resist her sweet words, and gave in, "Fine. I know you need me and I'll drop by after work. Tell Max I like the broth he cooks."

"You got it."

"Great. See you soon."

"OK. See you soon."

Susan hung up the phone and felt in a good mood. She checked the time. There were three hours to go before she could leave the office. Thus she got bored soon and later she went through the entertainment news on the phone. Seriously, she had no interest in work, and couldn't understand why her father forced her to take the job. Did he want her to fool around?

Susan was attracted by one piece of financial news, to which she never paid attention. She read Manuel's name on the title and clicked it.

Such news was published every one or two days in the past week, saying that Manuel had taken the position of General Manager in Phillips Bank but he wasn't good at his job. He had made a promise and he was supposed to tell the public even if he wasn't going to keep it. His silence had made him a terrible General Manager.

Susan read the news and went through the comments as well.

Very few people had read and commented on it, but some of them still gossiped. She must admit that Manuel's constant silence would hurt Phillips Bank and it would also get her father involved. To the outsiders, her father was standing on Manuel's side like a fool.

Susan put down the phone and hesitated to talk to Henry in his office. Henry would always make time for her no matter how swamped he was.

"What's up, sweetheart?" Henry smiled softly and thought she was tired of her work again.

"Withdraw the news." Susan cut to the chase.

"What?" Henry narrowed his eyes and hid the gloominess on his face.

"I said, withdraw the news that you've told the media to publish." Susan said, "Manuel is qualified for his job. And my father knows what he's doing. You don't have to do that."

Henry tried to explain.

"And it doesn't help much." Susan went to the point, "This kind of news has very little impact on Manuel and he can still do it with ease. But what you have done will get Phillips Bank involved."

Henry was stunned by Susan's words. He always thought Susan cared none about the company and she couldn't be so insightful. It was true that he tried to use the media to urge Manuel. And it was also true that he wanted to pressure Manuel by getting Phillips Bank involved.

"Susan, please trust me. I did that for the group..."

Susan looked at him peacefully.

"It might bring some negative effects on our company now, but as you can see, the effect is nearly inconsiderable. I just want to expose the whole thing to the public and pressure Manuel. Manuel bears ill will for the company, so I can't sit back and do nothing to stop him. I've been under great pressure to do so." Henry looked guilty, "I also know it's good for none if it goes too far. Even so, I insist on doing it because I know what Manuel wants. And I won't let him hurt you and your father!"

"Even if my father gets hurt, he asks for it." Susan said bluntly, "Phillips Bank belongs to my father, and he can decide who will have it. What else can I do if he hands it to Manuel in the end? I'm his daughter and I inherit his family name. Besides, I've done nothing good to the company. How can I take over Phillips Bank and inherit his business? If he wants Manuel to take over the company, just let him. I don't care any more."

Henry couldn't believe his ears and just stared at Susan intensely.

"So, just stay out of it," Susan said.

Henry pursed his lips hard. Susan meant whatever he was doing was nothing in his business. Even Susan and her father, Edward didn't mind it. As an outsider, he didn't have to do so much or he was unqualified to do that.

Henry was furious but still restrained himself.

"OK. I'll stay out of it since you and your father have made the decision."

Susan looked at him, feeling guilty as if she had wasted Henry's effort.

Henry made a call in front of her, "Stop publishing the news about Manuel."

"Are you fucking kidding me? I strove to publish it regardless of all. Now you're telling me to stop? What do you want me to tell my boss..."

A restless and angry voice came from the other end of the phone. Henry was apologizing to him, while Susan just stared at him quietly.

A moment later, Henry hung up the phone and turned to Susan, "It's done. No more news."

"I'm so sorry, Henry."

"Silly girl." Henry smiled with love and said, "Whatever I've done, I did it for you. If you are upset about it, I will stop it. It's OK. I just want you to be happy."

"Uh-huh."

"I'll take you out for dinner," said Henry, "I went to a nice restaurant with my client the other day. I'm sure you'll love it."

"Sorry. I've got a plan tonight. I'll dine with Hannah."

"Oh. OK." Henry looked a little disappointed.

"How about tomorrow?" asked Susan.

"Good." Henry agreed, "I'll make the reservation first."

"OK." Susan nodded, "I'll leave you to it."

"OK."

Henry looked gloomy and furious right after Susan left, and punched hard on his desk. He could feel that Susan cared more and more about Manuel, so he must do something to stop it.

### **Chapter 656 It Isn't Good to Be a Two-timer**

Susan got off work on time in the evening. Hannah was just there when Susan arrived at the gate of her house. Susan saw her from afar and ran towards her. Jimmy stood in front of her instantly before she came close to Hannah.

Susan was mad. Damn it! She thought Jimmy was guarding against her.

Hannah saw Susan's unhappy face and explained immediately, "I'm pregnant. Jimmy is a little too tense. Don't take it to heart."

"What?" screamed Susan.

Hannah stroke her belly to calm the baby and Jimmy was also stunned by Susan's scream.

"Oh my god! You're pregnant? When? Why didn't you tell me? How long have you been pregnant? How are you feeling now? Are you suffering from morning sickness?" Susan gabbled on and on.

Saying it, she pushed Jimmy away. Jimmy got a hint from Hannah and gave way, but he dared not let the guard down. Instead, he stayed beside them and paid close attention to Susan.

"About eight weeks. So far so good. It's just, I have slight morning sickness when I brush my teeth in the morning. Besides, everything is fine." Explained Hannah, and she went into the house with Susan.

"Really! Lucky you!" Susan murmured, "I suffered like hell when I was pregnant. How I envy you! I threw up badly. Whenever I think of me at the time..." Suddenly, Susan zipped it. Probably, she was too sad to continue.

"It's Okay, Susan. You'll have babies again." Hannah held her hand tight and comforted her.

Susan nodded.

But when would she have babies again? Even if she had babies again, it wouldn't be Manuel's. Suddenly, she was terribly upset. She once hated the baby so much but it turned out to be the greatest pity in her life. She would freak out whenever she thought of it.

"Oscar must be very nervous, right?"

"He's overreacting." Said Hannah.

"How? Fill me in." Said Susan excitedly. She was always open to gossip.

Hannah told her everything that Oscar had done recently, which sounded more like complaining than sharing. Susan listened and laughed her ass off. Usually, Oscar looked quite serious but he was so funny in private. Hannah also told Susan that Theodore had become a father.

"Seriously? Theodore is married, with A CHILD?"

That was out of her expectation. She used to think an irresponsible playboy like Theodore would be punished by God sooner or later.

"Yes. That's true." Hannah nodded.

"Who's his wife? She must have been cursed to marry him!" asked Susan.

"Little Bunny."

Susan would never let the cat out of the bag if Hannah told her to keep the secret.

"Who's Little Bunny?"

"The spokesperson of our shopping centre. She's an actress."

“Oh, I see.” Susan remembered it, “So, she must be in hell now! What a pity!”

“Who knows? Time will tell!” Hannah smiled.

“Oh?” Susan was stunned, “You think Little Bunny can nail it when she’s with Theodore?”

“Let’s wait and see.”

“Hannah,” Susan looked at her meaningfully, “I think you’ve got a superpower.”

“Sorry?” Hannah raised her eyebrows.

“You can foresee the future.”

Hannah giggled. It was true that she had the superpower of foreseeing the future because she had lived ten more years than them.

“Otherwise, how could you choose Oscar especially?”

Hannah chose Oscar over Charles. However, Charles was a promising young man at that time but meanwhile, Oscar was a notorious playboy. Until now, Susan still couldn’t figure out why Hannah could have made such a smart choice, which made her admire Hannah a lot. If she was as smart as Hannah, she would have a much better love life.

They had a good time chatting and gossiping. Susan didn’t leave until Oscar came back from the dinner party. Susan was quite observant. She knew Oscar was leaving the next day, so she left and gave them some private time.

Sometimes Susan would be moved by Hannah’s thoughtfulness like Hannah told Jimmy to drive her home. She sat in the back seat and looked out of the window, in a daze. Suddenly, she remembered Manuel was sitting next to her last time when she was in Jimmy’s car.

“Miss Phillips?”

“Have we arrived?” Susan came back to reality and found she had drifted off. She looked like she was enjoying the view out of the window. In fact, she had drifted off.

“Not yet.” Said Jimmy.

Susan was a little embarrassed and thought she was a fool sometimes.

“I just fell asleep.”

Jimmy glimpsed at her through the door mirror and said, “Are you good with Mr Johnson?”

Susan didn’t expect that and was a little panicked, “Not really.”

“Do you love him?”

“Sorry?” said Susan surprisingly. She had never thought Jimmy was a big mouth.

“I mean, if you don’t love him, stay away from him.” Said Jimmy bluntly.

“Are you close to Manuel?” Susan said and pursed her lips.

Gradually, she found Manuel, Oscar and Theodore were close to each other. Manuel visited Hannah's place a lot but it wasn't for Hannah. Anyway, she didn't bother to ask much of it. She believed Hannah would have told her if she could, and she didn't feel like making it hard for her.

Jimmy skipped her question and spoke his mind, "It isn't good to be a two-timer."

Now, even Jimmy couldn't stand her for being such a lousy person.

Jimmy drove away after he dropped Susan off. He had no idea if he'd crossed the line tonight but he thought Manuel deserved better.

In the evening, Hannah sat on the bed and waited for Oscar to finish his shower. She knew he was leaving and she was ready for the departure. But she still found it hard to face up to it when he was leaving. She sighed and saw Oscar coming out with a bath towel around his waist. Some water was dripping down his hair and his muscles were so sexy and seductive. She looked away on purpose. She would rather ignore it since she couldn't make out with him at the time.

Oscar noticed it and giggled, "We must restrain ourselves for our baby girl."

Hannah was tired of arguing with him on the "baby girl" thing. Anyway, it would be a slap in his face if they had a baby boy in the end.

### **Chapter 657 Parting**

After changing into pyjamas, Oscar went to bed. Hannah was already in bed. Neither said a word in the dimly lit room, immersed in the endless sorrow of parting. Hannah felt Oscar's sadness whenever he left Cian, from small to large. She reclined sideways on Oscar's chest. Oscar was lost in thought then. He was momentarily astonished when Hannah approached him and then took her into his arms tightly but gently. Hannah heard his forceful heartbeat, which was not accessible tomorrow.

"How often will you come back, Oscar?"

"I'm not sure." Oscar shook his head.

"I'm afraid I'm gonna miss you." Said Hannah in distress.

"Come on," Oscar smiled deliberately, "Strip out 'I'm afraid'."

Pursing her lips, Hannah heard Oscar saying firmly, "I will miss you." Her heart was pounding. Oscar was the man who could always take her breath away. She couldn't tell how much she wanted Oscar to stay, which was as much as her desire to leave with him. There was too much helplessness in the adult world.

Hannah nodded silently, swallowing all the sentences that rose to her throat, except this one, "Take care and stay alive."

"All right." Oscar embraced Hannah tightly.

It was a sleepless night. Hannah fell asleep after all. When she woke up, it was empty by her side. It was Oscar's style to leave silently. He seemed to fear parting, possibly because he had often parted his brother. Looking at the emptiness beside her, Hannah felt a sense of loss. She sighed. After adjusting her

mood, Hannah got up. It was shocking that she had already been used to the everyday life with Oscar—he brushed her teeth, washed her face, and even carried her to the toilet...

Finishing the morning wash, Hannah went downstairs and took the breakfast prepared by Max. While eating, Hannah asked, "What time did Oscar leave?"

"Before 6 am, madam, Jimmy sent him to the airport," Max answered.

Hannah looked at the clock and counted the time. It was more than one hour's flight to the Capital, so Oscar must have gotten off the plane. But he didn't give her any phone call, short message or whatever. Was he far too occupied to do so? Hannah finished her breakfast without a word and went to work in Jimmy's car. Jimmy was a silent man. He tended not to say anything unless Hannah asked him. So Hannah didn't know anything about his sending Oscar to the airport. She sighed, seeing the scene through the window in a daze.

"Madam," It was rare that Jimmy offered to talk to her.

Hannah's eyes moved, "Yes?"

"Master Oscar said that time would be beyond his control when he arrived in the Capital, so he hoped madam did not worry about him if he couldn't call or send you a message timely." Said Jimmy.

Hannah was astonished that Jimmy should make such a long speech.

He added, "Master Oscar also said he would return whenever possible. And he wanted madam to care for yourself and your baby, not miss him too much."

Hannah smiled softly, being warmed by Oscar's consideration. Sometimes simple words between the beloved could please them for a long time.

The car arrived at Cooper Group. Hannah sat in her office and listened to Rose's work report. Finishing reporting, Rose said, "Ms Hannah, have you heard the news about Phillips Bank?"

"What?" Hannah's countenance changed.

"It is said that there is a boardroom power struggle in Phillips Bank, but I'm not sure about the specifics. I guess it is no small matter as it hit the headlines." As a secretary, she should also know about the industry news.

"Got it." Hannah answered, "Can you get me a cup of milk?"

"Sure."

Before Rose left, she glanced back at Jimmy, who tensed up when feeling her stares. Rose pursued him relentlessly these days, ignoring all his plain statements and coldness. She approached him again and asked, "What will you have?"

"Mineral water," answered Jimmy indifferently.

"Just like you."

Jimmy frowned in confusion.



“An unromantic backwater,” Rose muttered.

Jimmy pursed his lips without a word.

Rose found it incredulous. Did she chase after a ball of air for over a month? How could Jimmy neglect what she had done all the time? She tossed a sachet in her hand at Jimmy while he blocked it with a slap. The sachet fell on the ground a few feet away. Rose’s countenance looked dreadful,

“Did you think I threw a dynamite at you?”

Jimmy’s Adam’s apple moved slightly—he did have thought so.

“It was made by myself. Take it or leave it!” Rose walked away without another word, angrily.

Seeing their interaction, Hannah thought there were hardly bosses who would indulge their employees in flirting during working hours. Hannah turned her eyes away and dialled Manuel’s number to ask about the affairs inside Phillips Bank. She had a feeling that it had much to do with him.

The phone put through quickly, “Good morning, Hannah.”

“Good morning, Manuel. I heard that there is something wrong with Phillips Bank?” Hannah asked.

Manuel expected this phone call as the news hit the headlines. He said, “Henry and his clique want to force me to resign under public opinion.”

“Who is him to do so?” Hannah was a bit angry.

“I set a goal when I took office but haven’t achieved it yet because of many accidents during this period.”

Hannah nodded, comprehending Manuel’s choice, which she made to barely secure her seat in the company.

“But don’t worry, I can manage it.”

“What can I do for you?”

“No, I’m afraid,” Manuel said frankly, “I’ve checked out that the close cooperation between you and Phillips Bank is not helpful for me. So don’t bother; I can manage.”

“So you look down on me?”

“No, I don’t.”

Hannah was just kidding, “Anyway, feel free to call me if anywhere I could help.”

“Sure.”

“And don’t get ahead of yourself.”

“I won’t.”

“All right, that’s it.”

“By the way, did my cousin leave this morning?” Manuel asked.

“Yeah, earlier than I could catch a glimpse of him.”

Manuel smiled, knowing it was Oscar’s style.

He said, “Theodore is likely to go there with him. So don’t worry, he’ll be fine.”

“All right,” Hannah nodded.

She could only think that way instead of imagining the worst.

“OK, that’s it. I’m going to deal with the work at hand.”

“All right.”

Manuel hung up the telephone and looked at his secretary, who had just knocked on the door and entered. She said nervously, “Mr Johnson, there is a meeting in the boardroom.”

### **Chapter 658 Manuel Delivers a Big Blow to His Opponents**

Manuel nodded slightly. That he didn’t make any response didn’t mean he was terrified of them, but he needed time to handle the affairs at hand. He stood up and walked towards the boardroom. Other executives trickled in.

Manuel got all eyes on him, including Susan’s while stepping into the room. Susan wondered why Manuel’s being chief executive faced so much objection. It was weird that Susan told Henry to withdraw the newsflash yesterday while the news became even hotter today. She asked Henry early this morning, who denied the matter had anything to do with him. Of course, she trusted Henry; she just wanted to confirm it. Not being Henry, it must be another one who resented Manuel. Susan thought all executives should have welcomed Manuel’s coming, except her father, who might be mindful and frightened by Manuel’s marked ability. However, her father stood by his side, so what was wrong with the others? Susan was slightly annoyed but had to hold back on this occasion.

The meeting began after everyone arrived. Edward said thoughtfully, “Today, I call for this top emergency meeting to clarify Manuel’s incumbency. First, he deserved the position of the chief executive of Phillips Bank, and no one should have any dissent. Don’t let me repeat it a third time.”

He took a firm position at once, which made Henry’s countenance dreadful. He had imagined that Edward would stand behind Manuel, But he felt terrible when he heard Edward’s words.

“Second, that Manuel’s appointment became a media frenzy was undoubtedly the trick of someone inside the bank, who must get an important post. I understand your unprejudiced heart and will cut you some slack as long as you manage to solve the matter. Or I will show you no mercy!”

The atmosphere was depressing. The executives didn’t expect Edward should back Manuel up so much. It was silent inside the meeting room, and everyone was scared nearly out of breath-the chairman’s fury was the most significant matter for the company, and who dared to upset him? Looking at each other, several executives were a bit anxious. They meant to force Manuel to resign and also put some pressure on Edward. But Edward’s firm and unwavering support to Manuel was unexpected. They were astonished that Edward preferred to face public opinion rather than abandon Manuel. In the suffocating room, Edward said coldly, “Behave yourselves and never again!” He stood up and turned around, intending to leave.

“Mr Phillips,” Manuel called him. Edward paused.

“Since these days there is so much dissent to me on the board, I should give all the executives an answer.” Manuel stood up.

Edward was a bit nervous as he knew Manuel, who would likely do something drastic in this situation. So did Susan. She was worried that Manuel might fall into their trap.

“You don’t have to.” Said Edward firmly, “Remember what I told you.” The implication was to remind him of not being threatened by them.

Manuel nodded, “I do remember it. But it would be hard for me to work if I, an executive, couldn’t be supported by the people.”

“Manuel,” Edward wanted to stop him, while Manuel had a hunch about what he would say.

However, Manuel didn’t stop. He stood up and said frankly, “As long as I made the promise, I would not break it.”

On hearing that, Edward looked terrible. This guy could be as stubborn as a mule when he wanted to be! Susan also looked at him, worried. Was it worth walking into the trap just to save his good name?

Henry had a smirk when he heard Manuel’s words. It turned out that he hit the right notes. Henry was acting when he withdrew the newsflash in front of Susan yesterday. Secretly he made the news dramatized to disconcert Manuel. Henry knew something about Manuel through the years, a guy who must be conscientious in everything he did and couldn’t bear being maligned. That was why he thought Manuel was unsuitable for professional development. It was rare to find a businessperson who was not wily and flexible. Henry gloated at heart but showed nothing in appearance. Other executives responded at once. Among them, a meddlesome one said, “Mr Johnson, do you mean to resign from the post?”

Manuel lowered his brows, giving off a powerful vibe that slightly threatened the executive. He tried brazening it out, “What I said just means literally. I hope you don’t get me wrong, Mr Johnson.”

Glancing at him, Manuel said, “As promised, I will make the net income of Phillips Bank rise by 40 percent.”

“But apparently, it is less than 10 percent till now.” Said the executive outspokenly.

Henry sneered at Manuel at heart as well. The goal Manuel had set was unachievable. How dare he mention it for the moment? Ridiculous!

“If someone would like to have a ten-year time deposit of 10 billion at the basic interest rate in Phillips Bank, will it increase the net income by over 40 percent?” He enunciated each word slowly.

“Where did you negotiate such a big deal?” The executive didn’t believe it, “Ten-year time deposit of 10 billion at basic interest rate!”

No company could come up with the money throughout Northfield. Even though some plutocrats could pool this sum, it was impossible for a ten-year time deposit. Was he clear about what he was talking about? The fund flow was of vital importance for the wealthy. It was insane to deposit a huge sum for ten years to help the bank make profits.

“Here is the contract.” Stopping beating about the bush, Manuel took out the contract and put it in front of all executives. Incredulous, taking the contract, they gathered together and read it. They were shocked when they saw the name signed on party A, depositor: Manuel Johnson.

Manuel himself had 10 billion in cash? How did he manage to get such a huge sum of money? Wasn't he an illegitimate son no older than 23 years old? Where did the money come from? The boardroom was in shock.

### **Chapter 659 Manuel Stands Out**

“Where does the money come from?” One of the board members doubted.

“Is there a possibility that the money was appropriated from Phillips Bank and deposited back in our bank?” He said boldly, not minding demeaning Manuel.

On hearing his words, The meeting room was in an uproar. It would be ridiculous if that were the case. Did Manuel take them as fools? This exercise of self-deception was no better than Edward admitting his favoritism to Manuel. There were more and more questioning sounds in the room. Henry sneered at heart. Was Manuel that stupid to underestimate all the executives? He would humiliate himself. Susan was anxious about Manuel for the moment.

Manuel pursed his lips and said, “I am not that shameless.” His words appeared to be a refutation but implied satirizing his opponents. The executive turned scarlet with embarrassment.

Manuel took out the operating and financial statements, proving that no penny was appropriated from Phillips Bank. The heavy ammunition made the executive awkward.

He hemmed and hawed, “I just raised my questions. Mr Johnson's huge deposit was absolutely a good thing for the bank.”

Manuel ignored his words, not minding demeaning him as well.

Another executive came out to help his partner, “We are all moved by Mr Johnson's generosity to support Phillips Bank's development. However, we could not tell how much net profit will the 10 billion bring to the bank. That is, we have no proof that this sum could increase Phillips Bank's net income by 40 percent!”

He was attacking Manuel. The benefits that a ten-year time deposit of 10 billion could make definitely increased by more than 40 percent. It was hard to tell the specific rate as the sum was not invested.

Edward was annoyed by their quibbling. When he was about to say something, Manuel said, “Hurricane Ventures wants to borrow 10 billion from our bank at a basic interest rate. They promised to share 5 percent of the dividend with us on condition that the money arrives within a week. Here's the contract, which was signed and sealed by Hurricane Ventures. If none of you has any comment on it, I can sign it now.”

He sent the contract to the secretary, who showed it to all the executives at the meeting. Edward was surprised when seeing the contract. How did he make it in such a short time? He didn't only take out 10 billion cash but managed to find loan investors for it. Manuel was such a genius! Edward used to envy that Cooper Group had Hannah as a successor, while now the rise of Manuel surprised him.

“Is Hurricane Ventures capable enough to borrow 10 billion? Are the enticing conditions just deceiving us? They promised the dividend, but what about the principal?” The executive began to find fault again.

Manuel answered, “The Capital behind Hurricane Ventures is Wold Group, that is, the Wold family. You could turn to the last page and check the guarantee issued by the Wold family, which says that they will cover the principal and interests if the investment fails.

The financial resources and clout of the Wold family were indisputable. No one in the room had any doubt. The executives who had questioned all shut up. They stared at each other and then looked at Manuel.

Henry tried to hold back his fury. How could Manuel make it? He not only took out 10 billion cash but had a relationship with the Wold family, whom the Sawyer Group failed to flatter.

Henry didn’t think Hannah brought Manuel into contact with the Wold family. Though Hannah’s husband, Oscar, had a close relationship with Theodore, the Wold family could not be so perfunctory with business. Then how did this guy make it? Grinding his teeth, Henry had to admit that he had underestimated Manuel once again. Manuel’s strength scared him, making him think he was no rival of Manuel. The idea made him suffer, but he had to hold it back.

In the quiet meeting room, Edward stood up with an undisguised smile. It might be unconvincing when he had just appointed Manuel, but now he was complacent about his decision.

He said, “Anyone has any comment now?” He meant to satire some people. No one said a word.

“I’m always a good judge of character and talent.” Said Edward proudly, “I’m impressed with Manuel’s achievements after he came into the company. He managed to recover the lost revenue and improve the yield under enormous pressure, making significant contributions to the company. As the chairman of Phillips Bank, I declare that Manuel’s annual salary will be increased by 2 million based on the previous one.”

Increasing Manuel’s salary in front of the executives showed Edward’s support for Manuel. No one had any opinions for fear of humiliating themselves. Instead, enthusiastic applause broke out to express their congratulations to Manuel. Manuel expressed his thanks decently, returning to his seat steadily.

The meeting was over. Edward was thoroughly satisfied while someone was driven crazy!

After he arrived at his office, Henry knocked all stuff on his desk to the floor with a dash of his hand. His secretary was frightened into silence. Seeing the chaos in Henry’s office, Susan pursed her lips. She knew that Manuel’s getting her father’s approval might hit Henry’s self-esteem, so she came to console him. However, she didn’t expect Henry should lose his temper. It was the first time to see him furious. Was he still her affectionate boy who never competed with others?

### **Chapter 660 She Is on Glue!**

Henry looked up and saw Susan. He didn’t expect she should appear at his office and see his out-of-control behaviours. His Adam’s apple moved a bit. Whatever claims were too weak to explain his anger and violence after Manuel’s success.

They looked at each other for a while silently. Susan said, "Calm yourself down, Henry." She neither condemned nor consoled him, just said indifferently and turned around to leave.

Henry clenched his fists, face ferocious. He was rather agitated and distraught since Susan had less concern about him and was growing disillusioned. This had got to stop! Henry punched heavily on the desk. He had a strong desire to kill Manuel for the moment-it was Manuel's brilliant achievements that drove him to such a wretched condition!

Susan went back and sat in her office, having all the feels. She couldn't accept the stark contrast in Henry. The indifference she appeared just now was to disguise her anxiety about how to face Henry. It was impossible to deceive herself that Henry was not resentful of Manuel and that what he had done was all for her sake. She felt disturbed. How could she imagine that one day her Henry would become as strange as he was now?

Her eyes moved slightly. Her phone rang at this time, and Henry's name appeared on the screen. He offered to call her after the embarrassing silence just now. Susan preferred to cool it rather than face Henry, as she didn't know how to approach him. She answered the phone after all, "Henry."

"I'm sorry, Susan." He said regretfully.

Susan's throat moved slightly. She must have misjudged, or Henry was too well in disguising. How could he change so dreadfully in a short period? She chose to keep silent.

"I admit that I was jealous of Manuel." Self-deprecating, he said, "I have no courage to face you now. I could only say sorry to you on the phone."

He didn't have to feel sorry for her. It was just she happened to see it and couldn't accept it. But she was unable to utter the words. It appeared that she was tending to be silent in the face of Henry.

"As Manuel's rival, I thought I was always better than him, not only in work but affection. But I have to look at him with new eyes today. I used to believe he came this far because of your father's favouritism, but now I find myself such a mean man. Admitting his ability made me terrified. I'm terrified that he will replace me, not just in the company, but in your heart."

Susan just listened but didn't know how to face his repentance.

"So when I went back to my office, it broke out. Now recalling what I've done just now, I feel so regretful." Henry was self-deprecating while Susan remained unmoved.

"I don't know what else I could say to you." He said with a sneer, "I'm afraid nothing could change the impression I left on you. I'm sorry, Susan. I'm sorry to let you down."

Susan's throat moved slightly. She didn't say a word until the phone was hung up.

Her silence drove Henry mad. Previously, as long as he pretended to be a bit pathetic, Susan would be melted with sympathy. However, she didn't console him even once today. Her coldness was unbearable for him. He couldn't imagine what would happen to their relationship if things went on like this. Grinding his teeth, Henry tried to calm down. Susan was his last hope, not only in work but affection, and he shall never lose her!

Susan stayed a bit late in the office before returning home in the evening. Or rather, she played games for a while after work, meaning to kill some time. Playing games was not funny for her now as everything else. Stepping out of her office, she walked towards the elevator. When the door opened, Susan walked into and saw Manuel at once. So did Manuel, and they saw each other in the eyes. When Susan was about to say something, Manuel looked away from her, seeming to be unfamiliar with each other. She bit them back when the words almost came out of her mouth, focusing on the changing figures in the elevator. Susan stepped out quickly as soon as the door opened after the elevator arrived on the ground floor. Glancing at her back, Manuel looked away and walked steadily.

Susan crashed after she got into her car. She just wanted to cry constantly; she didn't know when that started. But she didn't cry as the way she cried was silly. She must have been on glue to reach that point! During this period, Susan felt like a living death.

The car arrived, and Susan got off after cleaning up the mood. Heading toward home, she looked through the pages of a takeaway APP. Susan didn't know what to eat and just kept swiping the pages to escape the disturbing things in her mind. When she opened the door, she paused. She saw Henry preparing her dinner with an apron at her home. Honestly, Susan didn't want to see him or get the surprise. She just wanted to be alone.

"Susan, you're back." Henry smiled at her affectionately as if nothing had happened between them this afternoon.

Susan's throat moved slightly. She couldn't turn him down when facing Henry, which became a ritual. Compromise was her habitual way of getting along with Henry. While for the moment, she thought that she would change the password of the entry door.