

Reborn 691

Chapter 691 Apologize

After lunch, Melvin invited Cian to the tea house. They tasted tea and had some small talk, while Hannah stayed beside them and cut in from time to time. Things in the tea house were easy, and nothing seemed weird.

At that moment, Melvin's phone rang. He took a look at the number and told the others, "Excuse me. I got a call. Please knock yourselves out."

Hannah blinked her eyes slightly. She knew Melvin left them alone on purpose so that she could negotiate with Cian on the business which Melvin couldn't put forward himself. Indeed, Melvin was an old fox!

Melvin left, so Hannah and Cian were left alone in the tea house. Jimmy was also there. But the three of them stayed calm and said nothing because they all knew there was a camera in there.

Suddenly, Hannah stood up, and Cian looked at her.

"Mr Harry, would you mind taking a walk with me? I have sore back since I got pregnant. The doctor advised me to do some exercise, which will be good for the baby." Hannah said.

"My honour."

Hannah smiled. She walked in the front while Cian followed her back. They went into the beautiful garden of Balderston Manor.

There were cameras in the garden, too, but they were far away. They wouldn't be overheard if they kept their voices down. In the meantime, Melvin was holding a glass of wine in a tiny attic and watching them meaningfully.

"What are you doing here?" asked Cian in a very low voice.

"Oscar sent me."

Cian was shocked to hear that.

Hannah could guess that Oscar had kept a lot from Cian.

"How did you know Melvin?" asked Hannah.

"I need some social contacts. I've got a great sum of money and it'll be an eye-catcher if I just keep my head down and isolate myself from society. So, I show my face every now and then and was targeted by Melvin one time. He wanted to draw the rich families to his side but dared not carry it too far. The four families in Kensbury are too eye-catching and the Collins family is being watched, so he can't act rashly. That's why he aims at my money and properties. But Oscar doesn't want me to be close to him, so I keep him at arm's length."

"Uh-huh."

Hannah had an idea of the whole thing and asked again, "Do you know what Melvin wants?"

“What he wants?” Cian knew it wouldn’t be something good.

“He wants to buy your island for 20 million.”

“What? Nice try!” Cian smiled sarcastically.

“His offer is that he’ll guarantee my safety if I help close the deal. That is to say, if Oscar couldn’t protect me, I’ll be safe as long as Melvin is alive.”

Cian looked very bad.

“Don’t be upset. I understand your mission, and I don’t want to be the one to be blamed.”

“Sorry.” Cian apologized.

Hannah was surprised to hear that.

“I didn’t imagine Oscar would really give you out.”

“I said I understood.”

“But do you accept it in your heart?”

Hannah hesitated.

“I don’t want you to hate Oscar. He had no other choice.”

“Yep.” Hannah didn’t feel like talking about it. She understood Oscar but she really hated to. The hatred she bore would make her stronger.

“Don’t worry. We’ll figure it out. The point is, how are you gonna sell the island to Melvin and he won’t be suspicious of it.”

Cian nodded. Indeed, he was a man of reason.

Hannah thought she was fortunate because the stranger happened to be Cian. If it were someone else, she could never close the deal. They walked for a little longer and looked serious.

“Let’s go back, or Melvin will be suspicious.” Said Hannah.

“OK.”

They went back to the tea house together. Melvin saw them coming back and went back to the tea house to wait for them.

“I found you were gone when I came back. Where have you been?” asked Melvin casually.

“I showed Mr Harry around the garden and enjoyed the beautiful view.”

“Do you like it, Harry?” asked Melvin.

“Yes, very much! It’s known to all that Balderston Manor is located in front of the mountains and surrounded by streaks. It’s a nice place and your garden is very beautiful. It’s like a paradise!” flattered Harry.

"I think your Island Manor is better." Melvin cut to the chase.

"Melvin, we're bros. How can you take it away from me? You know I've spent lots of time and effort in the purchase of the Island Manor. Please don't make it hard for me." Said Cian unhappily.

Melvin blinked his eyes and looked at Hannah.

"Failed." Hannah nodded.

Melvin smiled and stayed calm. Probably, he had expected it.

"I was just joking, but she took it seriously." Melvin said casually, "Come over. The tea gets cold."

Cian went over and took a seat.

Hannah pretended to yawn and said, "Excuse me. I must go take a nap. Enjoy your tea."

Melvin nodded.

Hannah knew Melvin would come to talk to her alone. As expected, Melvin went into her yard ten minutes later.

Hannah wore a night dress and let her long curvy hair down. She lay on the couch softly and looked very idle. She looked just the same as usual. But Melvin was deeply attracted and went absent-minded at the sight of her. At that moment, Hannah was like a radiantly flirtatious beauty kitten in his eyes.

"Mr Balderston?" Hannah called his name.

Melvin came back to reality and was red-faced. He tried hard to calm his racing heart and uttered, "So, you just gave up like that?"

"Mr Harry thought I was kidding him." Hannah said sarcastically, "I feel like a fool."

"Are you mad?" asked Melvin. He was shocked when he said it. Was he caring about her feelings?

"How dare I?" said Hannah coldly, "Now that I failed to close the deal, I would accept everything happening in between, including the inequity."

Suddenly, Melvin was lost for words. Hannah thought he would at least taunt her, but they just looked at each other in silence.

"Get some rest." Said Melvin. Then he turned around to leave.

"Mr Balderston," Hannah stopped him.

Melvin looked back at her.

"Tell Mr Harry to stay for dinner. I'll figure out something."

Melvin frowned lightly. Hannah didn't give up though he thought he had hurt her pride.

"OK." Said Melvin indifferently, "I'll give you one more chance."

Chapter 692 The Badger Game

Hannah lay on the bed and kept thinking about how she could “convince” Cian to sell the island to Melvin with good reason. At the time, what mattered was how to stay alive. She believed Oscar and Cian wouldn’t care more about other things than her life. Telling from her conversation with Cian, Cian would agree to sell the island to Melvin for the time.

She was a little worried. As far as she knew Melvin, he wouldn’t invite Cian over again. Although she was the one who had done the talking, she was on Melvin’s side, so it was also his intention. He wouldn’t suck up to Cian and offer the deal again if they failed this time.

Hannah calmed herself and thought about how she could make it happen. She was sure that she could come up with something to deal with it. The clock was ticking. Hannah didn’t sleep at all.

“Mrs Wells, time for dinner. Mr Balderston is waiting.” A servant knocked at the door and said.

Hannah came back to reality. It was evening time. She thought she must be crazy if she didn’t cut herself some slack.

“OK. I’ll be right there.” Answered Hannah.

“Yes, Mrs Wells.”

Hannah got off the couch and dressed. She went to the dining room with Jimmy and found Melvin and Cian waiting and chatting happily as if they didn’t fall out because of the deal.

“Mrs Wells,” Cian looked at her and greeted her calmly.

“Sorry. I overslept.” Hannah apologized.

“Never mind. You’re pregnant.” Cian said thoughtfully.

Hannah smiled.

“Come sit here.” Melvin pointed at the seat next to him.

Hannah hesitated but still did as he said.

Cian glanced at Melvin and cursed him in heart for taking advantage of Hannah once again. But Hannah didn’t think much of it. Instead, she looked quite calm and cool.

“Good wine! It deserves its reputation!” said Cian loudly, which had drawn Melvin’s attention. Cian meant it. He hated it when Melvin fixed his eyes on Hannah, and he swore he wouldn’t let him get his way.

“If you like it, take two bottles when you leave.” Said Melvin.

“That’s very generous of you, Melvin.”

“It’s okay.”

They had a friendly and comfortable conversation. Cian went to the restroom midway. Damn it. Melvin had almost got him drunk. Cian kept asking for wine himself because he didn’t want Melvin to lay his eyes on Hannah. He couldn’t stand it.

"I've come up with something," Hannah told him as soon as Cian left the dining room.

Melvin was stunned and looked at her with doubt, "What is it?"

"Buy Harry's Island Manor with 20 million." Hannah went to the point.

"How?"

Actually, Melvin had given up but he surely didn't mind giving it a shot since Hannah said she could make it happen.

"I see Harry is a light drinker." Said Hannah.

"Indeed." Melvin nodded.

Of course, Hannah knew Cian could hold his liquor but he just pretended he couldn't. So, she was sure that Cian acted like a light drinker in social activities.

"Get him drunk and make him stay here overnight."

"Then?" Melvin raised his eyebrows.

"Then, you know badger game, don't you?"

"I told you he isn't into women." Melvin frowned and said coldly.

"That's why I called it a badger game, not a sex trap."

Melvin still looked indifferent.

"It doesn't matter if he likes women or not. He'll break the law if we assert that he has raped me. You're holding a high position and it's easy-peasy for you to find him guilty. Harry is smart, he knows he can't fight you. He'll absolutely choose his safety over the property."

"But my reputation will be ruined then."

"What difference will it make?" Hannah raised her eyebrow and said sarcastically.

"I'm wondering what a terrible person I am in your eyes."

"The so-called personal reputation is nothing when compared with the very big events." Said Hannah, "Mr Balderston, don't bother to care about that. It doesn't matter."

Melvin said nothing. Clearly, he wasn't very happy with the idea, and Hannah couldn't guarantee he would agree with her.

"This is the only way I can figure it out. Well, it's already meant to try buying an island with 20 million. So, why bother to mind being meaner?" she asked.

Melvin stared at her coldly, wondering how good she was at being sarcastic. She was having a dig at him for being a hypocrite. He blinked his eyes lightly.

Cian was back. Hannah saw him and pretended that she hadn't talked to Melvin and focused on eating her food.

“Oh! I feel so dizzy!” Cian acted to be very drunk and dizzy when he returned to the dining room, “No more drinking, or, I’ll be wasted.”

“You must be kidding, Harry. You can drink like a fish!” Melvin refilled for Cian, “You can stay here tonight if you are too drunk to go. I’ve got plenty of rooms! Or do you think they aren’t good enough for you?”

“Oh, please don’t pull my leg. It’s my great honour to stay in here, but I’m afraid it’ll bring you much trouble.” Cian said with a smile.

“Come on! We’re old friends!” Melvin lifted the wine glass, “It’s been long. Let’s get hammered!”

Cian looked bewildered and pretended to reject it a few times. In the end, he began drinking with Melvin once again. Hannah looked at them lightly and knew Melvin had agreed to her plan. And he was trying to get Cian drunk.

Cian was smart enough to get what she meant by glancing casually at her. No wonder Oscar kept saying Cian was a better heir. Undoubtedly, Cian was something. He was good at reading people’s faces.

A moment later, Cian rested over the dining table and yelled, “Refill me. I can have more...”

Hannah took a look at him and turned to Melvin, “He’s drunk.”

Melvin was silent. Maybe he was too ashamed to say anything. After all, he had compromised and agreed with Hannah, which was like a slap in his face.

Chapter 693 The Act

Melvin signalled the servants to come close to Cian.

Cian was carried up by them and moved his body annoyingly, “Don’t touch me. Let me go! I want more wine...”

Nobody cared what he said.

“Leave me alone, or I’m gonna throw up. Damn it. Let go of me!” shouted Cian.

He looked too weak to struggle. He acted up for a short while and was carried to one of the guestrooms.

Only Hannah and Melvin were left alone at the dining table. Hannah wiped her mouth and was about to leave, but Melvin grabbed her by the wrist abruptly. Hannah was stunned while Jimmy, who was standing behind her, got mad and was ready to start a fight.

“Jimmy, stay cool,” Hannah ordered.

Jimmy held back his anger. Melvin realized he had crossed the line, then he took back his hand and wiped it with the napkin, looking like he was disgusted with Hannah.

Anyway, Hannah didn’t care, and said calmly, “Any other advice, Mr Balderston?”

“Hannah, Harry isn’t into women, but he’s still a man. Any man will be sexually aroused no matter if he’s gay or not. Think of what you’re gonna do.”

“No worries. It’s my own business no matter what happens to me. I won’t blame you, and I can’t.” Hannah said, “Life is the only thing that matters.”

Melvin stared at her coldly.

“Excuse me.” Hannah bowed lightly and left.

Melvin just remained silent.

Hannah left with Jimmy and went straight to Cian’s room. She told Jimmy when they arrived at the door, “Wait here.”

Jimmy knew Hannah would be safe inside, but he looked torn only to act up to the play.

“I’ll scream if anything happens. And you’ll break into the room.”

Jimmy nodded respectfully. Hannah opened the door and went into the room, while Jimmy waited at the door and looked very serious.

Melvin was tasting wine alone in the dining room and staring into the outdoor swimming pool through the glass, deep in thought.

“Mr Balderston,” a henchman in a black suit said respectfully, “Mrs Wells is in Mr Harry’s room now.”

Melvin cast a glance at him. He seemed to have smiled coldly and was impressed by Hannah who could do whatever it took to reach her purpose.

“What about Jimmy?”

“He’s waiting at the door. He’ll break in immediately if anything happens.” Said the henchman.

“Why the hell do I care?” Melvin said in anger.

“Sorry, Mr Balderston.” The henchman was scared and said.

“Leave me.” Melvin waved.

The henchman left instantly in a cold sweat.

Hannah went into the room and walked around cautiously. In fact, she was searching for cameras, and she did find one. Melvin was prudent, so she couldn’t take chances. She went up to the bed quietly. Cian was sleeping restlessly in bed and kept murmuring for wine.

What a good actor! She climbed onto the bed carefully, while Cian had felt her coming closer but didn’t give her a hint. Hannah began taking off her clothes. Suddenly, she was held by the waist and pressed down on the bed.

“Ah!” Hannah screamed lightly.

Cian pulled her into the blanket. Seemingly, he did it rudely but in fact, he was holding her waist to protect the baby bump under the blanket. He lay on top of her with his body hunching up. He went close to her face and said in a low voice when his lips were near hers, “Turn your face.”

Hannah turned her face away. Cian buried his head in Hannah’s hair and didn’t sexually harass her at all.

“I won’t touch you, Hannah.” He said.

He didn’t need to explain. Hannah wouldn’t have made such a bold decision if he weren’t Cian.

“Are you trying to blackmail me and force me to sell the island to Melvin in this way?” said Cian, “If yes, pull my shirt under the blanket.”

Hannah pulled his shirt slightly. It was like playing house. Actually, it was something serious but she wasn’t worried, because it was Cian.

“OK. I see.” Whispered Cian, “Just play up to me. I know what to do.”

Hannah pulled his shirt again, telling him yes. Message received. Cian got off Hannah suddenly and began taking off his clothes.

Hannah was shocked and thought it was ridiculous. She blinked her eyes lightly and watched Cian stripping himself off and showing his fair skin. Unlike Oscar, who was 100% muscular, Cian looked as lean and delicate as a pretty girl. Hannah couldn’t take her eyes off him.

Then Cian lay on top of her again. “You are taking advantage of me, Hannah.” Whispered Cian.

Hannah was speechless. What? For God’s sake, she wasn’t attracted to a pretty boy like him, and she didn’t ask him to strip off in front of her.

“I’m gonna take your pants off.” Said Cian, twisting his body.

Hannah was frozen.

“Don’t move. I promise I won’t touch you.”

“Well... Um...” Hannah hesitated and got a little nervous, wondering if it was too much.

Cian kicked the blanket away on purpose and began taking her pants off. Hannah could feel what he was doing and she couldn’t be more embarrassed. She didn’t know what to do but closed her eyes to avoid the awkwardness.

After he took off Hannah’s pants, Cian began pulling her tops. Hannah tensed up and clutched her tops. Were they going to be naked in front of each other? Cian pulled harder and seemed rude. While Hannah just seized it harder and harder. They pulled back and forth with strength.

Melvin was sitting in his room and watching everything on the screen. He wanted to see how far Hannah could go and wanted to teach her one thing or two for her ignorance and arrogance.

Cian and Hannah were still struggling in the room. Finally, Cian tore Hannah’s tops off and closed his eyes when she was topless.

Chapter 694 She Did It.

Cian was lying with his back to the camera in the room, which meant any of his facial expressions couldn’t be captured. That was why he could whisper to Hannah.

Hannah watched Cian face her with his eyes closed and heard him whispering, “Don’t worry. Someone will come to stop it.”

Hannah was stunned. Someone? Who was it?

"If he didn't, you just scream at the crucial moment."

What? The point was, she wanted to scream at the time. Hannah dared not move at all.

Cian buried his head in her neck and appeared to be horny. They looked like they were clinging to each other but the fact was he didn't touch her at all. Hannah clenched her fists and closed her eyes as if she was trying hard to tolerate it. In this way, they put on a good show.

Melvin fixed his eyes on the screen and watched Cian lay his hands on Hannah. The more he watched it, the worse he looked. He clenched his fists, trying to restrain himself. When he saw Cian was about to get into Hannah, he couldn't stand it any more. He flew into a rage and stormed out of the room. The henchman saw his furious face and dared not make a sound.

Melvin rushed to the door, but Jimmy stopped him there.

"Get the hell out of my way," Melvin ordered angrily.

But Jimmy didn't listen. Melvin gave a sign to the henchman, who got the hint and came at Jimmy instantly. Jimmy dodged it, then Melvin seized the chance to kick the door open.

Hannah screamed in the room. Cian covered her naked look in case she was seen. Meanwhile, he gave the blanket to Hannah secretly. Hannah took it and wrapped herself up. At the same time, Cian got off the bed, stark naked.

Hannah stared at his back and wondered how scary it would be when Oscar knew Cian had done something so embarrassing for her.

Cian appeared panicked when he saw Melvin's angry face, "No! No! No! I got drunk. I don't know I..." He was freaked out and couldn't talk sense. And he seemed to have sobered up.

"Well, it's late. Gotta run. Bye." He said and tried to get out of there.

Melvin stood in his way, "Harry, do you think it was right to do something like this in my house?"

"I was drunk. I had no idea how she got to my bed. She seduced me deliberately. You know I'm not into women. How could I..." explained Cian.

"No! He forced himself on me!" Hannah held the blanket and shouted, "I went past Mr Harry's room and wanted to check on him. But he just held me and tried to rape me. I wanted to cry for help but he covered my mouth. I... Oh my god. Mr Balderston, you promised that I would be safe here, but now..." Hannah burst into tears.

Melvin looked at her wretched face. What a brilliant actress! He nearly believed her crap when he saw the desperate look, and somehow, he got mad when he recalled she didn't struggle in bed.

"Bullshit! You threw yourself on me, bitch!" cursed Cian. Saying it, he tried to go beat Hannah.

Melvin grabbed his hand and stopped him from turning back to show his private part.

"Get dressed first." He said. It seemed he didn't want Hannah to see that thing.

Not until then did Cian realize that he was naked. He picked up the clothes on the floor quickly, got dressed and said, "She seduced me first. I was drunk and didn't know what happened..."

"He raped me!" retorted Hannah, "I must call the police! Call the police now!"

"Are you out of your mind?" thundered Cian.

"Melvin, please call the police!" Hannah ignored Cian and shouted at Melvin.

"OK." Melvin agreed and took out the phone.

Cian was freaked out and took the phone away.

"Enough is enough, Harry." Said Melvin seriously.

"No. You can't call the police!" Cian said word by word.

"Give me the damn phone!"

Cian blew his top and his face was twisted with anger, "Enough! Damn you, Melvin! Just tell me what you want! Shit! I shouldn't have fallen for it!"

Melvin was a little surprised to hear that.

"You told this woman to seduce me to get what you want, right? I thought we were good friends. Huh, but I was very wrong and had been set up by you. I should have listened when everyone else told me not to get close to you. Fuck! I've flattered myself!"

Melvin pursed his lips and glanced at Hannah.

"The Island Manor." Hannah cut to the chase.

Hearing that, Cian shook with anger and roared, "I knew it! You worked as a team to set me up!" He looked more desperate when he found out the truth.

"We could have saved the shits if you have agreed earlier." Said Hannah sarcastically.

Cian flew into a rage.

"Mr Balderston, where's the contract?" Hannah didn't want to waste time.

Melvin looked at her and couldn't believe she had done it. He winked at the henchman, who left and returned quickly with the contract.

Melvin took the contract over and handed it to Cian. Cian opened it. The more he read about it, the more furious he appeared.

"Pen." Melvin gave a pen to Cian. But Cian hesitated for a long while.

"Three years in jail for attempted rape, or selling the island. Pick one." Threatened Melvin.

"Melvin, you are a bastard! You'll be punished by God!" gnashed Cian.

"No bother." Melvin smiled, "I'm the master of my fate."

Cian gritted his teeth and signed his name on it.

“Fingerprint.” Melvin gave him an ink pad.

Cian fingerprinted on the contract ferociously and felt his eyes blazing with anger.

“It’s getting late. I’ll see Harry off.”

Cian glared at Melvin and strode out of the room. Melvin glimpsed at Hannah and left as well. Everyone else got out of the room.

Hannah sighed with relief. Actually, she was afraid that Melvin would find something wrong. But he couldn’t imagine she knew Cian no matter how smart he was. So, he couldn’t imagine they were only acting in a play. Moreover, Cian was too good at acting. To sum up, she believed Melvin had believed it. Hannah got dressed and was about to go back to her room.

Melvin came back to her when she was at the door, “Congratulations, Hannah. You did it.”

Chapter 695 Fetal Movement

“I think, I should offer congratulations to you,” Hannah said with an indifferent smile.

Melvin was the biggest beneficiary, as he bought the island worth 20 billion merely for 20 million.

“You really stop at nothing to live,” Melvin commented.

“Life matters.” Hannah said in a serious tone, “Also, I’m expecting a baby now, I must not relax my vigilance in the least.”

“And, if I hadn’t kicked the door open, would you just wait for your doom without doing anything?” Melvin asked.

Hannah lapsed into silence.

“Now I have a slight suspicion of your affection for Oscar.” Melvin forced a scornful laugh.

“I love him very much, and it’s the truth. But, when facing a matter of life and death, we have to make the best decision. And you’ll do it so. Everyone for himself and the devil takes the hindmost.” Hannah said.

Melvin didn’t say more. Then he turned and was about to leave.

“Mr Balderston, whatever Oscar does, I’ll not die if you live. Am I right?” Hannah suddenly began.

Melvin gave a smile and said, “Maybe I’m not a good man, but I’ll do what I say and never go back on my word.”

“Thank you, sir.”

“But do you hold that I won’t die?” Melvin turned his head and asked. He didn’t have a well-thought-out plan, and he had prepared for the worst.

Hannah didn’t answer his question directly and said, “Since you can’t say for sure, why did you agree with Oscar?”

Melvin thought Hannah was bright. She could speculate what was on his mind simply by his words.

“Because of his words. I haven’t gotten a chance to vanquish the Collins family, and actually, I don’t have the courage and resolution to do it. What Oscar is doing now makes me think I have the chance to defeat them. If I let it go by, I’ll not find a better way to succeed, in the years or even decades to come. I’ve been waiting for an extremely long time, and I don’t want to wait for any more.” Melvin said seriously.

Hannah looked at him. She saw his sorrow hidden in his strong appearance for the first time. No one was born a king. Only after going through all kinds of trials and tribulations, he might become the king.

“I hope you won’t die,” Hannah said.

She didn’t know who would be the winner, but she was very clear, in her position, she didn’t want Melvin to die. In a word, they shared a common fate.

Melvin smiled. But it seemed that there was something different hidden in his smile.

“Anyway, thank you.”

Melvin was a bit shocked at her words.

“I don’t know what Harry would have done if you didn’t come in. But you indeed protected me from being hurt.”

“I just wanted to gain my ends. Besides, I promised Oscar I would take care of you, and your baby. That’s nothing. Don’t mention it.”

Hannah smiled without a word. To talk with Melvin, it was better to stop when the meaning was conveyed.

It was half a month later.

Hannah was up. As usual, she retched when she brushed her teeth. After that, she had an upset stomach, then she stretched out next to the toilet table. At that moment, she was surprised that she felt a gentle fluttering from her belly. That was so slight but real. She seemed to have a slight suspicion. She was nearly taken up with antenatal training these days since she was too bored in Melvin’s house. Thus, she knew that slight touch from her belly was fetal movement indeed.

“Why could I perceive the fetal movement at 4 months gestation? Isn’t it typically perceived at 6 months’ gestation?” Hannah wondered. She put her hands on her belly and stroked it tenderly. She studied her reflection in the mirror, finding the swell of her belly. She usually wore loose clothes, and she wasn’t getting fat, so her swollen belly was barely visible unless her clothes were drawn open.

When Oscar was around her, he always complained that her belly didn’t show signs of pregnancy and the child grew slowly. Now the baby bump was easy to see while Oscar was gone.

Another half month passed. The battle she had expected to occur still didn’t come. Hannah thought she didn’t need to think about it, as she didn’t play a leading role.

Hannah gave her belly a gentle stroke, and then she felt a fluttering again, a bit more distinct. Surely, it was a fetal movement. Her eyes were suddenly moist with tears. She became a little mentally frailer since she was pregnant, although she was not a sensitive person originally. She smiled with tears in her eyes and congratulated herself on her growing-up baby, who brought her some hope in such a situation.

Hannah set her mind to rest and got out of the bathroom to have breakfast. She began to dine with Melvin half a month ago. She would dine with him whenever he was at home. In the Balderston manor, there hadn't been anyone else coming for him since she lived there. But Hannah didn't concern herself about Melvin, and she didn't care what Melvin did every day. She sat at the table, and Melvin was seated across from her. They were both eating their breakfast, quietly.

"All things being equal, the battle will begin soon very shortly." Melvin began.

Hannah stopped, with the knife and fork in her hands. She was a bit alarmed by Melvin's words. And she tried hard to keep her composure.

Melvin put down his phone and looked at Hannah. "The Collins family couldn't stand us any longer." Said he.

Hannah looked into his eyes and said, "I believe you will win."

"God knows," Melvin said in a breezy tone.

Hannah didn't say more, as she was clear that Melvin had been well prepared.

"Take a few more bites," Melvin laughed knowingly, "maybe, it's our last meal."

Hannah's face changed slightly, and she put down her knife and fork, "I don't want to eat any more."

"Are you full?" asked Melvin.

"Yes." Hannah stood up.

Melvin looked at her figure and said, "Your belly is bigger."

Hannah paused and wondered how he could see that as her clothes were loose.

Melvin was also a bit surprised to perceive her slight changes.

Chapter 696 The Feud

In the Capital, Oscar, Manuel, and Theodore were together in Oscar's apartment, and the atmosphere was rather tense.

"Collins will take action soon. Melvin knows that, and he is carefully arranging to guarantee his safety of himself. I'm not well engaged in his arrangements, and I'm in the total dark about his security measures." Oscar said in a serious tone.

Manuel and Theodore remained silent and solemn.

"Now let's prepare for it separately." Oscar got straight to the point, "I'll kill Melvin. If I kill him, the Collins family will blame me. But before that, they will first wipe out the Balderston family and take over

them. At that time when they concentrate their energy on the Balderston family, we'll get a golden opportunity to defeat them. Theodore, you get everything ready to make sure you'll take the Collins."

"Sure thing." Theodore gave a straight-out answer.

"As for you, Manuel," Oscar looked at him, "You're going to save Hannah."

Manuel wore a very serious expression.

Theodore looked at Oscar. He didn't know why Oscar asked Manuel to come here. Now he suddenly realized that Oscar wanted him to save Hannah in advance. Now, Theodore had the utmost admiration for Oscar.

"I dare not arrange others to do it, as I only trust you now, and you are unnoticed by them," Oscar said.

Oscar always respected Manuel's choice that he didn't want to be engaged in their dispute. He did not want Manuel to be involved in their matter, as he was unwilling to drag his aunt Justine into such a mess. If so, Justine's family could still live, even though he suffered a defeat. He hadn't asked Manuel to do anything since Manuel decided to help him. Now it was the day that Manuel came in handy.

The Balderston family would be caught off guard by Manuel. They were on their guard against everyone around Oscar, except for Manuel, who was not under observation, and things were easier for him.

"No problem." Manuel gave a ready promise.

"Melvin was fully occupied these days, so it's your great opportunity to save Hannah from the Balderston manor. I won't give you other hands so as not to alert them, but I'll try to meet your other demands." Oscar said.

"All right." Manuel nodded.

"I'm counting on you bringing Hannah back safely," Oscar said seriously, and he meant he wanted to be fully absorbed in the battle between the two families.

"Don't worry. I'll do my utmost to save Hannah, even if I give my life." Manuel spoke in earnest.

Oscar was deeply touched beyond words, and he gave Manuel a pat on the shoulder. At this moment, the silence was better than speech.

"Manuel, you leave here secretly later. There are many informers around me. Take care." Oscar told.

"Mhm."

Manuel left the apartment immediately, escorted by Theodore.

A few minutes later, Theodore came back.

"Manuel has gone away safely," said Theodore.

"Fine." Oscar nodded.

"Oscar," Theodore gave him a cigarette and asked, "Will you still take action if Manuel fails to save Hannah?"

They were smoking in the room. No one could know if Manuel would succeed. What would Oscar do if Manuel failed? His lover and baby, or the feud, which one would he choose? There was no doubt that it was very hard for him to make a decision.

Oscar looked at him without a word. On that night, they smoked a lot and sat for a long time, and Oscar didn't give an answer at last.

The next day, Oscar went to the Collins Manor as invited. Oscar was clear that the Collins family would take action soon. He came into Rowan's study and faced them, pretending to know nothing.

Rowan began, "After careful consideration, I think your suggestion is great."

Oscar still kept his countenance and said nothing.

"We've talked it over and reached an agreement on it. So, we're going to take action tonight as per your suggestion." Rowan continued.

"Tonight?"

"Yes. There's going to be a national dinner tonight. Melvin, me, and all the representatives will attend it. It's good for us to dissociate ourselves from the action. I'll have someone to assassinate me, and you'll take the bullet for me. And then you will go to kill Melvin. Everything is arranged as your plan, only the place and time changed." Rowan said.

"OK." Oscar agreed.

"If successful, I will give you your due."

"I'll do the best."

"I'm counting on you tonight."

"All right."

"Oh, don't go back home." Rowan said, "Let's go to dinner together later. And I'll ask Lillian to accompany you to buy a suit for the dinner."

"Thank you, Mr Collins," Oscar said respectfully.

Rowan just wanted Lillian to watch him and prevent him from furnishing others with the information.

When Rowan was about to get out of the study, Sarah began, "Father, do you want Lillian to accompany Oscar?"

"It's just playacting. Don't worry. I'll kill Oscar when our goal is reached, and Lillian will be fine." Rowan said.

"I know, but I'm afraid that Lillian's reputation would be damaged." Sarah assumed an air of concern. She didn't hope there was a little relationship between her sister and Oscar. She wanted a relationship with Oscar.

Rowan smiled and said, "Nothing serious. Nobody dares to comment on my daughters. Don't worry about what will happen to Lillian and Oscar. You know, you are still the apple of my eye, even if you were once married to Charles and then got divorced. And I'll help you get anybody you want."

"I want..." Sarah was on the point of saying it when she checked herself, she knew that Oscar would die sooner or later.

Chapter 697 The Feud (2) Go Shopping

Oscar was guided to a grand yard after he got out of Rowan's study. He stood in the yard, waiting for Lillian.

Lillian was dressing up in her room at the moment. After a while, she came out into the yard.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting."

"I just got here," Oscar said, smiling.

Lillian, of course, knew what time Oscar arrived. She was also clear that he might not be sincere with her. But she still felt the kindness of his words.

"Let's go," said Lillian.

Oscar was near to her, slightly behind her, showing respect for the lady.

Lillian didn't like Oscar's respecting her, but she never told Oscar about it. She knew, there would be no more connections between them. Oscar was not aware of her father and brother's plan, but she was clear that Oscar was just the puppet of her family. If she formed an attachment to Oscar, she would lose a lot.

They were in the car, accompanied by the bodyguards.

"How much longer?" After a while, Lillian suddenly asked.

"Miss, about 10 minutes." The driver answered.

"Step on it!" Lillian covered her mouth and said, "I feel a bit carsick."

"Yes, Miss."

Then the car accelerated. Lillian felt worse as the car jolted.

"Stop the car." Asked Oscar.

The driver looked at Lillian in the mirror.

Lillian said, "Stop!"

Then the driver pulled the car over the road immediately.

"Lillian, just wait a moment." Oscar opened the door and said. He went away before Lillian spoke.

After a little while, Oscar came back with a few oranges in his hand. He got into the car, peeled an orange and gave the peel to Lillian. "Smell it, and you'll feel better."

Lillian took the peel and smelt it with a little doubt. Thanks to the refreshing scent, she felt a bit better indeed.

"All right, please go." Oscar asked the driver, "Drive well, and don't be too fast."

"Yes, sir."

The car started again and ran steadily.

"It's better to drive slowly when you feel carsick," Oscar explained to Lillian.

Lillian nodded, feeling a bit touched by Oscar.

"I never feel carsick before, maybe it's because I ate some oily food for breakfast today."

Oscar smiled, "Prepare some orange peels when you take a car next time."

Lillian responded. She looked out of the window with nameless sadness. She wondered if Oscar would still treat her so if he knew her family were using him.

The car arrived at the international mall. Lillian and Oscar went into the haute couture area together.

"My father asked me to pick up an evening dress for you. Just choose one, please, and I'll pay." Lillian said.

"Thank you. Are you going to attend the dinner tonight?" Oscar asked.

"No, my father didn't let me mix in his business, and it's my brother and sister that assist him." Saying, Lillian shook her head.

"Well."

"Do you think I'm useless?" Lillian asked suddenly.

"No, Mr Collins is just protecting you. That doesn't mean that you are incapable."

"Yes, my father dotes on me very much," Lillian said proudly.

Oscar gave her a perfunctory smile. Then he pointed at an average suit and said, "Is it okay?"

"It's too simple."

"But it suits me, I mean, my identity" Oscar explained.

"Do as you like," Lillian said, a bit displeased.

Oscar didn't care about her mind and asked the salesperson to take the suit for him. His face changed abruptly the moment he went into the fitting room. He thought of the old times when Hannah and he picked up evening dresses together, and remembered the question Theodore had asked.

He didn't answer Theodore at that time because he didn't know his choice. He thought, he could only make the decision when it came indeed.

Oscar changed the suit, regained his expression, and got out of the fitting room.

Lillian was reading a fashion magazine in the VIP room. She took a glance at Oscar when he just came out. She was charmed by Oscar at the moment.

Why did that plain suit look so nice on him? She had no idea whether she had underestimated the suit or his appearance.

“Do I look okay in this?” Oscar asked.

Lillian blushed, as she was enchanted with Oscar just now.

“Not bad,” said she.

“Can I choose this one?”

“It’s up to you,” Lillian said with an indifferent attitude.

Oscar turned around to settle up.

“I’ll pay for it.” Lillian got up.

“No, thanks,” Oscar said, “It’s not expensive.”

“All right. You’ve never been in want of money. You have a rich family, and you have a rich wife.” Lillian felt a bit upset when she mentioned his wife.

Oscar said nothing and settled up.

“Let’s go,” said he.

“I want to buy a bag,” Lillian said.

Oscar nodded.

Oscar followed close on the heels of Lillian.

Lillian took a fancy to a limited-edition bag and asked him, “What do you think of this bag?”

“It’s nice.”

“How about this one?”

“Nice.”

“This one?”

“Very good.”

“Oscar, don’t brush me off.” Lillian felt displeased.

Oscar looked at her, not knowing what to say.

“Do you also have a perfunctory attitude when you go shopping with your wife?” Lillian asked. She unaccountably wanted to compare with Hannah.

Oscar suddenly realized that he seldom did shopping with Hannah. They tended to spend more time apart than together. They went shopping just because of the dinners. He had spent little time accompanying Hannah.

"Oscar! Are you hearing me?" Lillian cried, annoyed.

"I have never gone shopping with her," Oscar said.

Lillian was dumbfounded.

Oscar explained, "I don't know bags. But I think that you look very nice whichever bag you hold."

Lillian felt happy at his words. She always reckoned Oscar was not a glib man, but every time his words sounded nice. She thought, "What a pity! Why didn't we know each other sooner?"

Oscar almost spent the whole day accompanying Lillian. Lillian left the mall at 5:30 pm, with some reluctance.

Oscar got into Rowan's car as soon as they came back to the Collins Manor. Now, he was on the way to the battlefield.

Chapter 698 The Feud (3) The State Banquet

At the Balderston manor, Hannah found Melvin didn't get back home last night. She thought the battle was expected any day now. She felt a bit nervous. Nobody knew what would happen next. She stroked her belly softly. She could perceive the fetal movement from time to time since it occurred for the first time yesterday. She found that fetal movement occurred more frequently if she was nervous. She wondered whether the baby was active or sensitive. She didn't want her baby to go through hardships so early before birth.

At lunchtime, Hannah was dining by herself when Melvin came suddenly. She continued to dine, without a word. Melvin sat across the table, took up the knife and fork, and ate slowly. He ate a little as if he had no appetite.

"Have no questions?" Melvin began.

"I don't want to ask." Said Hannah.

"Have no confidence in me?" Melvin laughed.

"No, I just don't want to get worried."

"Are you worrying about me?"

Hannah didn't answer.

"Worry about that you might die with me," Melvin added.

Hannah said nothing.

"Oscar is now going shopping with Lillian."

Hannah kept on eating after a second's pause, saying nothing.

“Oscar bought oranges for her, accompanied her, and carried bags for her,” continued Melvin.

Hannah still kept on eating, without a word.

“Has he done something like this for you?” Melvin asked.

“What do you mean?” Hannah swallowed the food, wiped her lips, and asked.

“I mean, he doesn’t deserve you,” Melvin said earnestly.

Hannah laughed, “Beggars cannot be choosers. Flirtation sometimes cannot be avoided, as he has to gain the trust of the Collins family. And so do I.”

Melvin looked a bit displeased.

“Under such a situation, I can’t make any demands on him.” Hannah looked at Melvin, and said, “I’ll not blame him, even if he does something sorry to me.”

“It’s hard to drive a wedge between you and Oscar.” Melvin laughed deprecatingly.

“You’ve made it,” said Hannah.

Melvin frowned.

“I have an indifferent attitude to him, for I have no expectations for our future. And our love has been frittered away.” Hannah said restfully.

Melvin kept watching her, trying to find out her real ideas in her indifferent expression. Yet he didn’t have much time to think about her. He put down his knife and fork, probably with only one or two bites of the whole meal. Then he said, “Take care, and don’t get dead.”

Hannah felt a bit uneasy.

“I mean, don’t play tricks. If you try to get away, I’ll kill you then.” Melvin added. He warned Hannah not to try to flee the house when he was out. She couldn’t escape, actually.

Hannah didn’t respond.

Melvin went away directly without waiting for Hannah’s answer, seemingly hurried.

Hannah didn’t know why he came back suddenly and got out hurriedly just after a few words. She wanted no bites more. She didn’t know what would happen next. She just hoped to live at last.

It was 6 p. m., at the state banquet of Northfield. The luxurious dining hall was heavily guarded, with the massed ranks of guards, showing dignity and mystery. The dining hall was bustling with noise, with many dignitaries sitting at the big tables. Before the dinner, everyone talked and laughed easily, showing a lively and peaceful atmosphere.

The Balderston family and the Collins family were always the latest to come, as a matter of routine. All other guests came early and waited, while the two families arrived a bit late.

Outside the dining hall, Rowan, together with Oscar and Mathew, were in the car. Rowan didn’t let Sarah come with him because of the danger.

The guards opened the doors in humble reverence. Rowan asked Oscar before he got out of the car, "Do you wear a bulletproof vest?"

"No." Answered Oscar.

Rowan nodded, tapped Oscar on the shoulder, and got out first. Oscar followed him.

Everybody needed to go through a strict security check before entering the dining hall, except for Rowan. So, Oscar didn't know whether Rowan wore a bulletproof vest or not.

Then Oscar got into the hall, following Rowan. At that moment, Melvin also arrived, with his mother. Melvin's father died because of illness long ago. He had no brothers or sisters, only his mother. Mrs Balderston retired from the forefront, and it was Melvin who handled the family affairs. His mother only made a public appearance at banquets, just as this evening.

Rowan saw Mrs Balderston and greeted her, "Mrs Balderston, long time no see."

"Mr Collins, good evening." She still had a queenly carriage at the age of over 60.

After the usual polite small talk, they entered the hall together. The people there stopped their talking immediately and stood up spontaneously to welcome them. That was habitual to them. They got to the distinguished table and sat down, stared at by all the others.

And others then sat down, not talking any more. They watched the two families carefully and dared not to do anything else.

"Please make yourselves at home for this rare get-together, and relax," Rowan spoke, loudly.

Then Mrs Balderston also began, "Thank you for all your hard work for Northfield. Just relax! This meal is for everybody here."

Others then echoed them after their speech. Some people in higher official positions spoke up a few words, and the atmosphere became lively soon.

Oscar stood behind Rowan, actually, he was unqualified for a seat. And behind Melvin and Mrs Balderston were their private bodyguards.

"Oh, Mrs Balderston, I'd like to introduce a young man to you." Rowan suddenly mentioned Oscar when he was talking with her.

Chapter 699 The Feud (4) The Rescue of Hannah

"A young man?" Mrs Balderston appeared interested.

"Oscar Wells," Rowan called.

Oscar moved nearer and bowed, respectfully.

"This is Mrs Balderston," introduced Rowan.

"I've long heard about your great name, Your Grace. I'm Oscar Wells, it's my great honour to meet you here."

Mrs Balderston watched him and said, "What an imposing man!"

"Oscar is especially capable, and he must be a pillar of Northfield in the future." Rowan laughed.

"Thank you for bringing up a talent." Mrs Balderston said.

"Don't mention it. It's my duty to select and employ talented people."

"I have great admiration for you. And you have recruited many talents for these years." Said Mrs Balderston.

"Oh, Melvin," she turned to her son and said with reproach, "You should learn from Mr Collins. you've been doing your own business, and never discovered any talents for the country."

Saying so, she indicated that the Balderston family had no ambitions to expand their strength.

Rowan understood what she meant and said, "I don't agree with your words. Melvin, as very young now, should put more energy into his undertaking. But for me, I'm in the autumn of life, so I should seek some talented people to assist with Melvin and Mathew."

"Mr Collins, I admire you from the bottom of my heart." Mrs Balderston said and raised her glass in a toast to Rowan.

"Thank you, I toast you." Rowan took up his glass.

They began to drink, seemingly friendly. But everybody in the hall knew that there was always a struggle between the two families.

On the other side, Manuel had already stolen into the Balderston manor while the banquet was underway. He took a long time to feel out the situation of the manor and spent an hour hacking the security monitoring system. But Melvin was rather careful, he had cut off the network in advance. So, what Manuel saw on the monitor was the historical videos, not the live ones. But Manuel still found the guard conditions. By calculating, he knew the blind areas and the best time to take action to rescue Hannah.

It's 6:00 PM, and after two hours of staking out, Manuel confirmed that Melvin arrived at the dining hall, and began to steal into his manor. The guards patrolled everywhere in there. But if one got the right point, they could still avoid being found.

Manuel got into a blind area and remembered the time he had calculated in advance. He counted by heart, 1, 2, 3, and then he climbed the high wall. There were fences on the top of the wall, but Manuel wore an insulating coat and gloves. Next, he jumped down from the wall, and huddled in the corner, quickly. At that moment, a guard walked past him. He could have been found even if just a second's delay.

Manuel was a bit nervous. He tried to maintain calm and imperturbable. Then he left the corner, quickly ran across to another corner, and hid. He needed to crush a guard stealthily, and put on the guard's suit, to find Hannah more easily. After all, there were more guards in the centre of the manor. He concentrated his attention and waited for the guards.

This was the only place that only two guards patrolled, and Manuel had no more than three minutes to get all things done. He had only one chance, and he must succeed. He was hearing the sound of footsteps, as he counted by heart, "Three, two, one."

In a heartbeat, he covered the mouth of one guard, with the handkerchief moistened with ether. And then the guard fainted immediately. Manuel gripped the hand of another guard before he shot. The guard felt extreme pain and loosed his gun, and was about to cry when Manuel covered his mouth with the handkerchief.

It took Manuel only ten seconds to get all this done. He pulled the guards into the grass and changed the suits of one of the guards.

Exactly three minutes later, another two guards came, and looked at Manuel, with vigilant faces. "Why are you alone here? And where is your partner?" one guard said.

"He's in the toilet."

"How dare he go to the toilet?" the guard said angrily.

"Sir, he ate the medium rare steak last night." Another guard said.

"I've always emphasized NO UNDERDONE FOOD when we're engaged in a task." The guard shouted.

Manuel and another guard didn't speak.

"I'll get even with him later." The guard said coldly, and turned to Manuel, "Do your job!"

"Yes, sir."

One of the guards murmured, "The guy is unfamiliar to me, I think. Is he new here?"

"Shut up! Concentrate your attention!" bawled another guard.

The guard kept silent.

Manuel maintained calm and went across to the other side of the manor. He met a lot of guards all the way. They wondered why this guard was patrolling alone, but they didn't talk about it, as they had to keep silent when they were patrolling. Therefore, Manuel was safe all the way.

Manuel took a deep breath as he got into the courtyard where Hannah was.

He watched the historical videos of the courtyard. There was no monitor in Hannah's room. So, Manuel could only see Hannah from the videos of the courtyard. He found she seemed to be the same as before. She was still calm and steady. But nobody knew what was behind Hannah's appearance.

Manuel thought the only thing he could do now was to rescue Hannah from the Balderston manor no matter what.

Chapter 700 The Feud (5) Hannah Left

"Who's there!" shouted the guard at the door.

Manuel was stunned for one second and acted to be scared out.

“Sorry.” He said and tried to leave.

“Hold on!” the guard stopped him.

Manuel tensed up but still halted as ordered.

“Where’s the other guy?” he questioned and looked Manuel up and down.

The army guards and the patrol party were two different units. The former was in a higher position, so they showed little respect to the patrol guys.

“My partner had a stomachache when we walked the beat.” Explained Manuel in a low voice.

“What’s his name?” the guard pulled a long face. Of course, he wouldn’t go easy on someone who neglected his duties. However, in no way did Manuel know his name.

“I’m new here. I don’t remember his name...” Manuel spoke with hesitation.

“How dare you cover for him!”

Manuel said nothing more.

“Anyway, I can find out who he is. Go on the patrol!”

“Yes, sir.” Manuel walked away immediately and sighed with relief.

He went past the courtyard where Hannah lived and found some guards watching the door. It was impossible for him to get in through the door. Thus, he had to climb over the wall once again. He calculated the time and found a perfect spot. He jumped in one bound and climbed over the wall effortlessly.

At 7 PM, it was getting darker outside, which made it easier for him to hide.

Manuel hid behind a big tree and didn’t go through the yard and get in the house until he confirmed no other patrol guys or guards were there. The light in the room was dim and it was quiet around. It seemed that Hannah was not in there. Otherwise, she was supposed to be eating dinner in the yard at this hour.

Manuel hid himself in the room for a while but still didn’t see Hannah or Jimmy. Gritting his teeth, he avoided all the cameras and sneaked into Hannah’s bedroom, which was unlocked and the light inside was out. Manuel looked around and was sure that Hannah wasn’t there.

But where was she?

She should have been back by this hour, and she wouldn’t stay out long without Melvin.

At this moment, he heard footsteps. Manuel got in a wardrobe instantly. The door was opened as soon as he closed the wardrobe. Meanwhile, the light was on. Manuel saw through the door and saw a middle-aged woman coming in and doing the cleaning.

“Why this lady left so soon...” She cleaned and said to herself.

Manuel frowned. He opened the wardrobe's door abruptly as he confirmed no one else was in the room.

The woman was taken aback. She tried to scream but Manuel covered her mouth. She could do nothing else but stare at Manuel with fear.

"Don't worry. I won't hurt you. You just need to answer a few questions." Manuel lowered his voice.

But the woman was still very scared.

Manuel was pressed for time and threatened, "Nod if you got it!"

She pulled herself together and nodded immediately.

"Did Hannah Wells live here?" asked Manuel.

The woman nodded.

"Did she leave today?"

She nodded.

"Did she leave in the morning?"

The woman shook her head.

"Did she leave in the afternoon?"

She nodded.

"At three o'clock?"

The woman thought of it and nodded.

"Did Jimmy, the guy beside her, leave with her?"

The woman nodded.

"Did Melvin see her off?"

She shook her head.

"Do you know where she was going?" asked Manuel.

She shook her head again. Indeed, she was only a servant and knew very little of it.

"Now I'm gonna let you go. Be quiet or you'll be sorry!" threatened Manuel.

The woman nodded in no time. Manuel let go of her but at the same time, he gave her some knockout drops, so she passed out the next second.

Manuel left quickly after he confirmed Hannah wasn't there. It was much easier to get out of the house so it didn't take him long to escape. He got into the rented car and called Theodore.

"Done?" Theodore asked on the phone. He got more worried to get Manuel's call.

“No.”

“No? What happened?” Is she dead?” asked Theodore emotionally.

Manuel thought Theodore was so fussy that he would be freaked out by his words.

“No. It’s just, Melvin has sent Hannah away ahead of time.”

“WTF!” shouted Theodore, “Melvin is so cunning! How did he know we were gonna save Hannah? Damn it!”

Manuel hadn’t met Melvin before, so he had no comment on him.

“What will we do? Tell Oscar?”

Oscar would be distracted if they told him what had happened. It was about life and death tonight, and they couldn’t afford to make a single mistake.

“Theodore, to be honest, I don’t have the balls to hold out on Oscar, and I won’t.” Said Manuel.

He called Theodore so that he could prepare for the worst.

“I see.” Said Theodore. Suddenly, something crossed his mind and he continued, “Hannah will be safe with Melvin.”

“What do you mean?” asked Manuel.

“Cian visited Balderston Manor earlier. He met Hannah and they put on a good show together,” said Theodore.

“Oh?” Manuel was late and knew little about it.

“I overheard it when Cian called Oscar that day. He told Oscar that Melvin has taken his Island Manor away with the help of Hannah. But it’s alright. When Melvin is dead and the Balderston family is doomed, he will tear the contract off and take it back. The point is, Hannah has made a deal with Melvin.”

“What is the deal?” Manuel sounded a little excited because he always believed Hannah was smarter and braver than they thought.

“Melvin will never kill Hannah as long as he’s alive, no matter what Oscar has done.”

For the time, Manuel wasn’t in the mood of caring how little Hannah trusted Oscar and said, “But Oscar is going to kill Melvin tonight.”

“Hear me out.” Theodore went on to speak, “According to Cian, Melvin has fallen for Hannah.”

Hearing it, Manuel was speechless.

“Fuck me! I thought he was gay! I’ve never seen him hitting on girls!” cursed Theodore.

“So, Oscar knows Melvin has a crush on Hannah?” asked Manuel.

“Damn it! What do you think? Even I’ve heard it. You can’t imagine how angry he was.” Theodore went off-topic easily.

Manuel was desperate. Did it matter? Here was the question for the moment. Would Oscar still stick with the plan to kill Melvin after he knew Melvin cared about Hannah?