

Reborn 761

Chapter 761 Domesticated

Surrounded by silence, Little Bunny soon finished breastfeeding. As the nanny returned, she handed the baby over to the nanny.

“Madam, the food is ready.” Said the nanny.

“Thank you, please help lull the baby to sleep.” Said Little Bunny politely.

“Okay.”

Then she walked away.

Theodore stared at his son, who appeared sleepy after sufficing himself with breast milk.

Then he followed Little Bunny to leave.

“It’s late into the night. Is he not gonna sleep?” Little Bunny thought to herself.

As soon as they walked into the dining room, Theodore walked over to the food and sat down, “Oh, you prepare food for me. How do you know I underfed myself during dinner?”

Little Bunny and the servant exchanged a look with each other. Both remained silent.

After taking a few bites, he commented, “It tastes too soft and sweet. Make it better next time.”

“Yes, sir.” The servant nodded awkwardly.

“Is there any more?” after gobbling it down, he asked.

“No...that’s all.” Answered the servant.

“You don’t even remember how much food I consume? Make it more next time.”

“Okay...” the servant looked rather embarrassed. He couldn’t help looking at Little Bunny, who hinted at him to stop talking.

“Come on, let’s go back to the room.” He said to Little Bunny.

Now staying with him in the same room meant nothing but a nightmare to Little Bunny. What was worse, she was still starving. However, she had no choice but to follow him back to the room. She then washed herself up in the bedroom once again.

“Are you being a neat freak?” lying on the bed, he couldn’t help complaining while watching.

She just somehow felt like cleaning herself more often than usual when he was here with her. Of course, it wasn’t out for sex purposes, she somehow felt like getting dirty because of him.

“Come over here. Time to sleep.” He urged.

He couldn’t help wondering if she hadn’t got enough tonight. When he saw nobody in the room after taking shower just now, he somehow got exasperated. But as he found out that she was breastfeeding the baby, his exasperation got dissipated.

“Okay.” Though reluctant, she still nodded and got on the bed.

As she lay down next to him, Theodore brought her into his arms. Her body soon got taut.

“Don’t get me wrong. I am tired. But I gotta say I was indeed acting wild just now.”

He hadn’t fully vented out his desire for a long time. Now he felt like his body had gone weak and slouchy. He found it surprising to notice that she seemed energetic still.

Upon hearing what he said, Little Bunny felt much relieved. She would end up dying if he was going to ask for more, she reckoned.

Soon, the air fell into silence. Only the sound of their breaths was echoing around.

“Does he have a name?” asked Theodore.

She almost fell asleep. As soon as he uttered, she got startled and hurried to open her eyes, “What?”

“I wonder if our son has a name?”

“Not yet. Your father hadn’t returned for a long time. He used to say that he would name the baby. But he hadn’t figured it out yet. So that’s it...”

“Come on, don’t leave it to the old man. I am his father! Let me name my son!”

“Okay.” She didn’t intend to make any remark in case of any quarrel with him.

“But I haven’t figured out yet...” said Theodore.

Never had he named anybody before. So he found it a bit tricky.

“Don’t be in a rush. He’s still a baby. You got plenty of time to figure out his name.” Said she.

“Yeah, after all, it’s about his name. It’s a big deal worth attention.” Theodore agreed.

After a few minutes of talk, Little Bunny fell asleep. But Theodore didn’t sleep until quite a while later as he had slept for hours in the afternoon.

When staying awake, he wrapped her in his arms, feeling her soft body and smelling the fragrance of her skin, which he found so cosy.

Theodore left the next morning.

He was worried about Oscar after staying in Kensbury overnight. Now Oscar might be badly in need of a companion during this hard time, he reckoned. When he was about to leave, he found himself reluctant as he thought about both Little Bunny and his son.

Damn!

Just yesterday, he had exhorted Manuel to stay sober when facing relationships. But now he felt like getting so intoxicated in his relationship with Little Bunny. It must be because he had abstained from sex for long before that, he supposed. In the past few months, he had been too busy to sexually suffice himself. This time, he swore he got to learn to enjoy from time to time.

At the thought of that, he dialled Manuel's number, "Manuel, I am going to the Capital."

"Okay, take care of Oscar."

"Of course, I will. And take care of yourself."

"I will."

"Hey, are you a friend of Hannah?"

"I am not sure if she wanna talk to me now," Manuel replied with an awkward smile. After all, he was Oscar's cousin, and Hannah knew that.

"Whatever. Just try to talk to her and figure out if you can dissuade her..."

"Okay." Manuel nodded but he knew that Hannah had been rational enough to understand her own need.

"Okay, just call me if needed."

"Bye."

As soon as Manuel hung up the call, he saw his mom show up. He didn't intend to notice Justine that he was in the hospital. However, she kept on questioning. Finally, he confessed that he got hospitalized.

Justine seemed a bit irritated when seeing him.

"Mom, I am fine."

"Fine? You mean you are fine after being bandaged all over like an ancient Egyptian mummy? Still wanna play tough, huh?" she huffed.

"It only takes a few days to recover."

"What happened between you and Susan? The police have just visited. They told me Henry was dead. So was another girl with him. Both died of falling from height."

"Mom, don't be worried. I did nothing about crime." Manuel explained.

"But...after what happened to your cousin, that poor kid being pushed to a position where he can't even choose his own, and you end up lying here in the hospital, how can I not be worried?" Justine let out a long sigh.

"Oscar is strong enough to solve it. So am I. I will recover a few days later. Just take it easy and enjoy your life as one of the royal members." Manuel comforted her.

"I am too old to meddle with your matters. As for Susan..." Justine suddenly paused.

Manuel seemed a bit hesitant.

"She has been crying for a day and night. I worried that she was gonna kill herself with tears."

Chapter 762 A Talk With Hannah

Manuel could also notice his mother's feelings. Undoubtedly, Susan must be at the edge of a breakdown, where she almost lost everything. She could do nothing about it but keep crying.

"If it weren't because of Hannah's request, I wouldn't have even glanced at her." Huffed Justine.

Manuel knew his mom had been more likely to bark than bite. Though Justine disliked Susan, she wouldn't just simply sit by.

"How about Edward?" asked Manuel to change the subject.

When speaking of Edward, Justine couldn't help sighing. She was sad about what happened to Edward. When seeing Susan crying all day and night, she somehow found herself a bit cold-blooded.

"The doctor said nothing but a miracle could save him," Justine replied frankly.

Manuel nodded.

"But what on earth was happening? Edward committed suicide while Susan got injured all over. And you ended up being wounded like this, and Henry Parker was dead..."

Finally, Manuel confessed the truth to her.

Upon knowing what happened, Justine mumbled, "If Edward's choice at that time was indeed the cause of Henry's tragic life, I gotta say that's the price he needs to pay."

Manuel nodded to agree. Fairly speaking, Edward was responsible for the tragedy happening to Henry's family. Perhaps it was all destined to be.

"Okay, you gotta take care of yourself. I need to go to check if Susan got enough crying." Justine took a deep breath.

Manuel nodded with a smile, knowing that Justine did care about Susan though she pretended not to. Then he watched her leaving in anxiety. Once again, the air fell into silence. He lay down to fix his eyes on the ceiling. From now on, everything would be much different.

A week later, Manuel got himself discharged from the hospital. And so did Susan. According to Justine, Susan muted herself because of crying for three consecutive days and nights. Finally, she seemed much relieved. So she started dining and sleeping regularly. After staying for five days, she left the hospital. It was said that she even returned to work in the office.

She seemed to be more determined. But Manuel had no intention to figure out the reason. As soon as he left the hospital, he headed to Hannah's. He didn't mean to dissuade her but he got some plans to notice her before taking action, which he deemed necessary.

As he reached the villa, he saw Hannah slouching into the recliner while sunbath. With sunlight shedding on her fair skin, she seemed to enjoy her leisure moment. Manuel couldn't help wondering what if Oscar saw such a picture. Perhaps it would hold back his motivation to leave for the Capital.

As he walked over, Hannah opened her eyes and smiled at him. Luckily, she still looked friendly to him. Before that, Manuel worried that Hannah would be hostile against him because of Oscar.

"Manuel, welcome here." Hannah greeted on her initiative.

“You look good today,” Manuel replied casually.

“What else can I do?” Hannah let out a bitter smile.

“My cousin...”

“Are you here because of him?” Hannah interrupted.

“Partly.”

“Alright, just talk about something with him excluded.” Obviously, she didn’t wanna talk about Oscar.

After a short pause, Manuel nodded, “Okay.”

“Before you get started, I have some questions about Susan.”

“Go ahead.”

“Is Henry dead?” Hannah didn’t know about that until she saw the news.

“Yeah, after he kidnapped Susan and tried to push Edward into suicide, he jumped off the building himself. That’s why Susan survived.” He answered briefly.

Upon hearing that, Hannah nodded. No wonder Edward had turned vegetative.

“How about Susan?” asked Hannah.

She hadn’t called Susan for a week in case it would arouse her worry.

“She’s probably fine.”

Hannah could tell from his brief response that neither of them had started to fix their relationship.

“She has probably returned to work. But I don’t know much about the detail. Since she starts to work again, I suppose she has mostly recovered.” Manuel continued to explain.

“So this is the end between you and Susan?”

“Or what else could it be?” he questioned rhetorically.

“Now that you have gone this far. Why don’t you spare yourself another chance?”

“So why don’t you spare Oscar another chance?” asked Manuel.

Hannah responded with silence. Seeing that, Manuel let out a long sigh. Now it seemed like a mission impossible for Oscar to retrieve Hannah’s love.

“Time to get straight to the point.” Hannah changed the subject. Undoubtedly, she still maintained the greatest composure.

Manuel then continued frankly, “I will help Oscar to take the economy of Northfield under full control.”

Upon hearing that, Hannah turned serious. Of course, she was brilliant enough to understand what he meant.

Manuel nodded to confirm her presumption, “Frankly speaking, all the corporations in Kensbury City, including the Wells Group, the Phillips Bank and the Cooper Group will be all under control.”

Hannah sneered, “It’s a hell of risks to mount to the top, huh?”

“I know you find it hard to understand his action. And I know you won’t listen to him. But he got no choice. If he were to refuse, there would be someone else from the Collins to take his position. Once the Collins fully controls the economy, he won’t be likely to maintain his reign.”

“Nothing’s changed even after I came back to life.” Hannah sneered to herself.

“No, something’s changed. At least we all survive.” Said Manuel.

That was right.

Everyone had survived including Hannah, her parents and Susan. Though Edward had turned vegetative, at least he was still alive.

“But Cian is dead.” Said Manuel with great upset.

Hannah cast him a glance. She got to admit that Manuel was good at negotiating. Though he seemed to be sighing with upset, he was actually reminding her that it was Cian who trade his life for others’ survival. Thus, she should consider herself grateful for Cian’s sacrifice and be ready to forgive what Oscar had done.

“Just a reminder to get you prepared. And I hope you won’t fight against him. Before that, the Collins had been preying on the economy of Kensbury. However, because of the Balderston, they failed to act as wild as they wished. But now at least Oscar and the Collins are allying with each other on the surface. With the power they got, they could easily topple the Top Three families in Kensbury.”

Chapter 763 How Long Will She Wait for Me?

What Manuel said made Hannah speechless. They thought she remained easy to beat, although she had worked that hard for so long.

“Hannah, the most important thing is life, but nothing else.”

“Yes. But you guys want more.”

Manuel felt embarrassed by her sarcastic remark.

“When will you take action?” Hannah asked extremely rationally.

“After Oscar is enthroned, we’ll take action.” Manuel replied, “In... half a month. There is half a month left, you can pacify your parents.” Manuel suggested.

“So should I thank you for coming to tell me in advance, so I will have enough time to prepare everything?” Hannah said while looking into his eyes.

“This is the only thing I can do, however, within my ability,” Manuel said.

“Will you also take away everything of the Wells family?” Hannah asked. It was the place where Oscar grew up, would he also treat it without mercy?

“Yes.” Manuel nodded, “It is not difficult to do that, since originally over half the property of the Wells family belonged to Oscar. And even if we acquire it, many important positions are still held by the Wells family. There won’t be too much impact or harm. After all, Mr and Mrs Wells have been treating Oscar as their own child.”

“So it will only bring harm to Susan and me.” Hannah hit the nail on the head and Manuel had to nod.

“Are you also going to acquire Phillips Bank?” Hannah asked.

Wouldn’t there be a tinge of forbearance?

“Yes, we will,” Manuel replied.

“In my previous life, Phillips Bank was taken by Henry, and now, it’s your turn,” Hannah said coldly.

“I didn’t expect it to end up like this.” Manuel apologized, “My original idea was just to control the bank so that Henry couldn’t get it. And I also wanted to force Susan to become independent to take over the bank. But it didn’t go as planned. Instead, it accelerated the change of the ownership of the bank.”

“Will it harm Susan?” Hannah asked.

“I’ll try my best and not let her kill herself at least,” Manuel promised.

“Maybe that’s the only thing I can demand,” Hannah murmured.

“Indeed, I can’t do many things which go against principles of official business. As for many things in private, I will do anything I can.” Manuel said again that she could ask for anything she wanted, as long as it didn’t violate his principles.

“Take good care of Susan, I don’t want her to die.”

“Okay.” Manuel nodded.

“And find a way to let me leave here.”

Manuel smiled helplessly, “I don’t have that much power. Oscar keeps you here just to... ” He couldn’t go on anymore when he saw her eyes.

Hannah knew better than anyone else did. She didn’t need anyone to explain anything. Such being the case, he had no more to say. Manuel smiled, “I won’t say more else. I can’t do it. Although it doesn’t violate my principles, it is beyond my power.”

“For the next half month, I want to go to my company to deal with some affairs, rather than be imprisoned here all the time.”

“You mean you just want to go out?” Manuel asked.

Hannah nodded.

How ironic it was!

In her previous life, she had been imprisoned in a dark house by Charles, and subjected to all kinds of cruelty. In this life, she had the same experience but her body didn't suffer that much. It would be fine after she endured that. Time would heal a lot, including pain and emotions.

"I'll try," Manuel replied, "but the result is not guaranteed."

"Thank you."

Manuel shook his head. And it made him feel guilty and uneasy about her "thank you" at this time.

The calmer Hannah was, the worse Manuel felt. He didn't know how long Oscar would take to resolve those matters, one year, two years, ten years, or even twenty years. He couldn't even guarantee that Hannah and Oscar would resume their married life.

Manuel left without delay. He knew clearly that Hannah didn't need him for companionship or she might not even want to see them. He seemed to have self-knowledge very well.

He returned to his car and called while driving, "Oscar."

"Yeah," a low male voice came out.

"I went to meet Hannah just now."

"Have you been discharged from the hospital?" Oscar asked. He seemed trying to change the subject. Perhaps he was afraid to hear any news about Hannah because he knew that it wouldn't be good news.

Manuel paused and said, "Yeah, it's just a skin injury that will heal soon."

"Your health is important."

"So is yours," Manuel said, "Theodore told me that you've been working too hard."

"I'm adjusting it."

"That's good."

There wouldn't be too much sentimentality between the two of them. A few words of concern were enough.

"You said you went to meet Hannah." Oscar took the initiative to speak, with a feeling of being afraid but wanting to know, which he had experienced.

"I told her that we want to acquire the Cooper Group, Phillips Bank and Wells Group."

"What did she say?"

"She just hopes that you can let her personally handle the follow-up affairs of the Cooper Group before the acquisition."

Oscar kept silent for a few seconds. Hannah's reply was within his expectations. She wouldn't collapse but rationally solve everything that she could not change, to minimize the harm.

"Okay," Oscar agreed readily.

“Oscar...” Manuel began to say something and then hesitated.

Oscar remained silent, waiting for him to continue.

“In this situation, will you consider separating from Hannah and letting her go? What I mean is, don’t force her to stay with you. Hannah is a very rational person. Later on, when she knows your helplessness, I believe she will forgive you. But if you treat her like this now, it will only push her farther and farther away from you.” Manuel said these words for Hannah.

He felt that what Oscar was doing was hurting their relationship. If there were many injuries in a relationship, it would be hard to recover.

“If I let her go, she will leave me forever.” Oscar did not hide his emotions from Manuel, “One year, two years, ten years... How long do you think it will take me to let go and return to Hannah? Maybe she can wait for me for one year, but will she wait for ten years?”

Chapter 764 Hannah’s Back to Cooper Group

Manuel was unable to answer his question.

How long was one going to be able to keep waiting for the other? One year was surely fine. But how about 10 years? As he knew, Hannah must stay fine, even alone, if Oscar was willing to set her free, given her personality and ability.

The pain brought by Oscar might vanish in 1 or 2 years. But it could not survive for 10 years. When she let go of her love someday, she couldn’t come back to Oscar.

Manuel gave up his persuasion, but with a small hope that his cousin did not need Hannah to wait as long as 10 or 20 years. That was desperately long. Even if Hannah stayed by his side by that time, her love must have gone.

“Manuel, take care of the business in Kensbury,” Oscar said without any more explanation.

“OK,” Manuel answered quickly.

Afterwards, Manuel dialed Hannah’s number.

“This is Manuel. I just called my cousin and now you can go for the business of the Cooper Group.”

“Thanks,” Hannah said with unexpected calmness.

She did not sound excited about the news. Maybe any of her hope or expectation for her ex-husband had died away. So she could accept any of his decision.

“Hannah, the Cooper Group will be my last target. So you don’t need to rush.” Manuel promised.

“All right,” Hannah replied emotionless.

“Call me if you need. There is still much I can help, just except those essential ones that I cannot go against my cousin.”

“Understand.”

However, Manuel knew he could barely help Hannah do what she wanted but he would do anything he could to relieve her pain and suffering, even just a bit.

He could not reject the task when Theodore gave the message of it, but he still felt guilty about what he would do. He could not constrain his emotions when he had to face Hannah, Susan and Edward. So the only thing he could help was to reduce the harm to them as much as possible.

“Then I have to go,” Manuel said.

“OK,” Hannah replied. Her smile dimmed away soon after her phone was put down.

A problem started haunting her. That was how to inform her parents about her divorce and the fact that the Cooper Group faced an acquisition. But other than allowing herself down for that long, Hannah stood from the couch and found Max kept his eyes on her, in case of any extreme cases, such as suicide.

Hannah was somewhat amused by her discovery. If she was weak with a suicidal attempt, she should have ended her life when she was grounded in the house by Oscar after their divorce. She didn’t have to wait for long for she would suffer more.

She said, “Max, as per the call from Manuel just now, I am permitted to go out now. Can you please call your master and confirm it?”

“Yes, ma’am,” Max answered quickly with a touch of excitement. He had been worrying about the risk to her mental health for Hannah, such as depression, due to the custody life. That must be too terrible.

Max made a quick call to Oscar who later made some more instructions. After the call was over, Max went to Hannah with significant excitement, and said, “Ma’am, you can go out whenever you want. And Master Oscar has arranged security guards for your protection.”

Hannah sneered at that flattering excuse which failed to cover his master’s true intention. They were just for surveillance in case of her evacuation.

She replied, “Get it. I want to go out now. Can you please arrange for me?”

“Yes, ma’am,” Max answered and seemed much happier than her.

“Max,”

“Yes? Anything I can help with?” Max replied enthusiastically.

Sometimes Hannah did envy Oscar’s luck to have such a loyal steward.

“Please don’t call me like that from now on.”

The smile on Max’s face was frozen by embarrassment.

“Please don’t go too far. This is nothing personal. I won’t shoot the messenger for this is only between Oscar and me. But I am not his wife any more. So please call my name instead, or you can call me Miss Cooper.” Hannah said peacefully.

But this was quite challenging for Max.

“Don’t worry. Oscar won’t blame you.” Hannah said genially.

Max followed with an awkward nod, "Yes, Miss Cooper."

Hannah smiled lightly at his change. Then she added, "Now I go upstairs for change. Please arrange a car to send me to the office."

"Yes, ma... Miss Cooper."

Then Hannah turned and went upstairs. As soon as she turned her back to Max, she seized her smile. Putting on a joyful expression for a person in melancholy was a real challenge.

She changed into a formal dress. Her baby bump was right covered by a piece of baggy clothing. Moreover, she looked refreshed with simple makeup.

When she got in the car, she found two bodyguards, one in the seat of the co-driver, the other beside her. Both of them seemed quite respectful. From now, she might have to get used to such protection whenever going out by car.

Soon the car was pulled over in front of the Cooper Group building. At the sight of the logo of "Cooper Group" on the building, she was pricked. There would be another name for that building in the future.

Hannah repressed her emotions and entered the hall. Her sudden appearance surprised the staff who thought she must stay at home for careful nursing. And according to the news, Oscar was going to mount the seat of the Commander-in-chief. So as his wife, she must stay beside him at the moment. In a word, her unexpected visit was incredible.

Rose was dumbfounded at the sight of Hannah in her office. Rose thought Hannah must have kept away from the Cooper Group and stayed at home to be the First Lady ever after. So the sight of her honourable head made her tearful out of excitement.

"Ms Hannah," Rose hurried ahead and said, "I cannot imagine that you are right up here any more."

The sight of Rose gave a sudden blow to Hannah's heart.

How could she tell her about Jimmy's death?

With a slight nod, Hannah turned around and sat down in her task chair. Her desk was as clean as before even after her absence for long.

"Ms Hannah, would you like a drink? How about milk?" Rose asked.

Hannah shook her head and opened her mouth in a dull tone, "Rose?"

"Yes?" Rose responded enthusiastically.

Hannah took out an amulet from her bag. That was the one Rose gave Jimmy and she recognized it at the first sight. Then a significant trace of upset rose on her face from embarrassment.

"Why did he have the other send it back to me? If he did not want it, he could just throw it away!" Rose complained to herself.

"Where is he?" Rose asked annoyingly, "Is he following Mr Wells and won't come back?"

Hannah sealed her lips without an answer. Her eyes seemed a bit red, though she was trying hard to constrain her tears.

"Jimmy does not suit you." Hannah said as peacefully as she could, "Just forget him."

Then she passed the amulet back to Rose.

Chapter 765 Miguel's Fury

Rose took the amulet back with her eyes turning red. It was difficult to face that the gift for the beloved was returned. Rose looked so poor that Hannah dared not to look at her. This was the most gentle way for Rose as Hannah could figure out.

"Can you please pass a message to him?" Rose requested slightly choking, trying to pretend she was fine, and added, "Tell him that I still have many choices of man other than him."

"Okay." Hannah nodded.

Hannah could not control but ponder. If Jimmy was here, he must hope that he was not the only choice for Rose. She hadn't found a hint of Jimmy's interest in Rose, for his significant shunning of Rose every time, until she found Rose's amulet was always with him.

The recollection was too much for Hannah because she could not stop the heartrending scene of Jimmy's last moment from slipping into her mind. Then she added, "Rose, arrange a meeting with the chairman's secretary, And I have to meet my father as soon as possible."

"Get it." Though this was a hard time for Rose, her diligence would not allow her to vent out her sorrow in the office.

She turned and left.

The back of Rose called back the tears from Hannah's eyes. She tried to bring back her peace. If only this was what Jimmy wanted, the way she chose to hide the truth from Rose. It was not long before Rose came back and knock opened the door.

"Ms Hannah, as confirmed by the chairman's secretary, you can meet him now."

Hannah nodded. She raised herself from the chair and headed for Miguel's office.

And she found Rose following her, so she required, "I want to meet my father alone. So just go for your own business."

"Yes."

Then Hannah directed her way to her father. Bad news must be better to reveal to her father by her alone.

But when she reached the door of the chairman's office, she hesitated. She pondered how to make this sound more easily acceptable. The Cooper Group was ended by her both in her current existence and the previous. Finally, she decisively turned around and told the two bodyguards in black behind, "I won't jump from here. So just wait for me at the door."

She was impossible to flee.

The guys exchanged a look before they nodded.

Hannah was released for their cooperation. At least, she still had a little freedom. With a deep breath, Hannah raised her fist finally and knocked on the door. The door was soon opened and her father was sitting on the deluxe task chair, waiting for her.

Miguel finally saw his daughter and asked with concern, "Hannah, why do you come to the office today? Don't you need to stay with Oscar?"

In Miguel's point of view, his daughter should be with Oscar at the moment. A small pain crept into Hannah's heart like a snake. Her father must be hurt if he knew how suffering she had been because of Oscar.

"Are you OK, my girl?" Miguel asked for her significant melancholy.

His question brought back Hannah's reason. She pressed down her lips as well as her sorrow, and drew out a smile, saying, "Day, I have something to tell."

"You can make a call, other than come so far away. That must be tiresome." Miguel said genially, laying his sight on her lower abdomen, "How do you feel now? Is everything all right for your baby?"

"Don't worry. Everything is fine," Hannah answered, "The doctor confirmed it was good."

"That is great! Your mother keeps concerned at home about you. She worries if you can get accustomed the life in the Capital, and your physical conditions. But since you are married, you'd better stay with Oscar. That's why we don't persuade you to come back. Now you are here, safe and sound. We are relieved for you. Well, I have to call your mother now to have her prepare the food you like. Join us the dinner at home tonight."

Hannah's sudden appearance excited Miguel, but the happier he showed, the harder she felt.

"Right, where is Oscar? Does he come back with you? I need to tell you, mother, to prepare something, especially for him." Miguel added.

It was hard to unveil the truth for she did not want to break her father's heart. She could imagine how suffering Miguel might be after he learned what happened.

Watching her father fetching up the phone, she knew she had no time to waste. Hannah said in a sorrowful voice, "Dad, I am divorced."

Miguel was frozen with an unbelieving expression. He could not believe what he heard.

"We are separated, officially," Hannah repeated.

"Divorce?" Miguel asked again.

"Yes," Hannah replied, "just a week ago."

“Why?” Miguel asked with significant fury, “What happened on earth? Why didn’t you tell us before? Did he do something wrong to you? Or did he abandon you because he was going to be the Commander-in-chief?”

“Both. But I guess he did it mainly because he had to set an ally with the Collins to stabilize his throne. And the only way to win Collin’s trust is to marry Rowan Collins’s daughter.”

Hannah’s explanation fueled the anger of Miguel, who vented out his fury on his poor desk the next second. He never expected Oscar could be a man like that.

When they heard about the affairs between Oscar and Lilian Collins, neither Michelle nor he believed a word of that. They considered it a nonsense rumour because they firmly believed that Oscar was impossible to abandon their daughter. But now it turned out that they were wrong. The more he thought, the more furious he got.

Hannah read her father’s fury and his constraining for he worried about her.

She got close and comforted him, “Dad, it’s OK. I can understand. And I have accepted it. Love is not the only one that matters in life. I don’t care about it as much as you expect.”

Miguel watched her. He knew Hannah who was so nice and considerable since she had been a child. Even now she was suffering a hard time, she was the one to solace others.

“Then how about you and your baby?” Miguel asked. His fury was lit again at the thought of the fact that Hannah was pregnant.

“About the baby, abortion is quite risky since for it has been 5 months. So after discussion, we decided to deliver it.”

“Damn,” Miguel swore.

Indeed, this was not a good time for abortion.

“Well, this baby will be a Cooper.” Miguel said firmly, “And I would not allow any chance for Oscar to meet him.”

Hannah was in a dilemma. She had no idea how to explain to her father that she was held prisoner by Oscar. After hesitation, she decided to reveal the fact that the Cooper Group faced being acquired first.

“Dad, none of this is the point. I loved him but I cannot force him to love me back. And I am not as weak as you expect. I can accept the fact that we have broken up. But I do feel sorry that my failure in marriage might impact you and mum.”

“Impact? What a stupid word. You’re my daughter...”

“Oscar will take the Cooper Group by acquisition.” Hannah was disturbed word by word.

Chapter 766 Remedial Action

The news exploded in Miguel’s mind, blasting his reason into pieces.

Hannah watched her father. The news sounded so incredible to Miguel and his eyes were filled with uncontrollable wrath.

“By what?” Miguel howled out of rage.

“When Northfield was under control by the Collins and the Balderston, the four families in Kensbury have become their prey. So that’s why the Collins chose Charles to be their ally. They hope to snap our wealth from Charles who turned out to be a failure. But this could not change the authority. Without the entire control of the economy, their crown cannot be safeguarded. Now Oscar mounts the top of the power. So it is natural for him to target us.” Hannah explained.

“But...” Miguel suddenly paused. As an experienced businessman, Miguel could understand Hannah’s statement. But it was still hard for him to accept Oscar’s cruelty. After all, they had been a family. Miguel could not control but shake out of extreme anger.

It was hard for Hannah too.

“Dad, I felt what you feel now when I heard the news. Our family spent years building up our empire. I can’t sit aside watching it being snatched. I was indeed lost in fury and could not compromise. But later, I became realized the changeability of wealth and position. None of them could stay unchanged forever. So if only we are still safe and sound.”

“But we are safe and sound now, and our business keeps growing. How can that buster steal it so easily?” Miguel yelled.

That would mess anyone up without a doubt.

“Oscar did pay for that. He gave me an abundant sum of money.” Hannah added.

She suddenly realized the reason for the money on the divorce agreement from Oscar. They were paid for by the Cooper Group. And this had all been planned before. Whether the decision to acquire the Cooper Group was forced or willing to be made by Oscar did not matter now. Nothing could sway it. For adults, only the outcome mattered.

“He wants to use the money to buy everything?” Miguel sneered.

Oscar knew it would not make it, but he thought it was better than none.

“Dad, there is nothing we can change, but at least we can find a way to reduce harm as much as possible.”

“Is there any chance for us to fight?” Miguel still failed to accept it.

“No, we don’t have any chance,” Hannah confirmed. Her knowledge of Oscar told her that her ex-husband would not lose any shot when he raised his gun. Rebellion could only result in more seriously hurt.

Miguel’s poor desk suffered another angry hit.

“I think, after the acquisition, our managers might become redundant, as a result of the chairman’s change. Oscar won’t keep my team. And the most affected ones must be those elderly but less capable

managers who stay long in Cooper. But as their boss, we have to consider them. At least, we can make proper compensation before the acquisition.” Hannah said seriously.

During her last existence, she could do nothing but just saw the Cooper Group sink into the mud under Charles’s control. The whole team of managers were cut and wronged by Charles to escape compensation. They lost everything after they were fired from the company, including the possibility to find a new job.

Hannah would not allow the tragedy to happen again. And she was sure her father did not want to see that too.

“Is there any way to keep the group?” Miguel did not give up.

“Dad. If there is even a little hope, I won’t let go of it.” Hannah replied.

Miguel made a heavy sigh at Hannah’s confirmation. It seemed the news exhausted all his energy. He rested himself on the seat back with his face turning pale. But he finally accepted the fate of his empire.

“Dad, I’m badly sorry.” Hannah apologized. She deemed it was her fault. But if she had not chosen Oscar, perhaps nothing would change her fate either.

As long as he needed entire control of the economy, no matter what she did, the fate must be the same. This sounded an acceptable consolation, at least it could help her to accept the cruelty of Oscar.

“No. Don’t say so. It is not your fault.” Miguel tried to ease Hannah’s guilt.

Hannah just kept silent, for nothing in language could ease her guilt. Maybe her father had to suffer for this. It was least possible to accept such a great blow all of a sudden. And her father must be no exception so his suffering might be doomed.

“Dad, we still have a month before Oscar’s action. Besides the Cooper Group, Phillips Banks and the Wells Group cannot escape. In a word, Oscar has to seize the important economies.”

“Both Phillips Bank and Wells Group?” Miguel could not believe it.

Hannah nodded.

“Damn!” Miguel cursed, “Leave alone the Wells for it is Oscar’s own business. But Phillips Bank! It’s a mess already. Edward now is in a coma lying in the hospital. I’m afraid Susan could not hold it long.”

“Let me talk with Susan.”

Miguel could not reflect when was the last time that he felt so helpless. He heaved another heavy sigh, with a sense of doom.

“I will come to the office in the coming days to discuss with the HR department about the staff arrangement. At the same time, I will try my best to keep our staff as many as possible through negotiation with Oscar.” Hannah added.

Miguel agreed with nods. These seemed to be the last that they could do for the Cooper Group.

“Thanks for everything you do for the group, Hannah,” Miguel said with gentle pats on Hannah’s shoulder.

“My pleasure. I just hope I can make you feel better...”

“Of course, you have done a great job for me. Don’t push yourself. You don’t need to be guilty of this. I won’t blame you. Family is always at the top of my list.” Miguel is still concerned about her. This was a great blow to her too, he thought.

“True. Family should top the list. In future...” Hannah added with a halt, “We still have much time. And I can bring you and mum for trips around.”

“Now, a safe delivery of your baby tops our list.” Miguel added and squeezed a smile on his face, “After that, we can bring the little one with us too.”

“That sounds great,” Hannah replied. She would try all her effort to escape from Oscar.

“Dad, mum needs consolation. Take care of her.”

“Won’t you come with me?” Miguel asked. He thought Hannah must be back to them after the divorce.

Chapter 767 Susan’s Change

Hannah smiled and said, “I have to deal with some business with Oscar. Afterwards, I will be back.”

“But you don’t need to stay under the same roof with him. You have divorced!” Miguel’s hostility to Oscar was significant.

“He is not in Kensbury,” Hannah replied.

“If so, what brings you back there?” Miguel questioned.

“The house I’m living in now belongs to me according to the divorce agreement.” Hannah said, “So that is not Oscar’s any more.”

“Who cares! We have enough houses.” Miguel retorted.

“Dad. It’s unwise to say no to wealth.” Hannah was amused and added, “Especially to a businessman. I cannot see anything wrong to own one more house.”

“But you don’t need to live there. You can just sell it!”

“Fine. Dad. I get it. Let’s get it done here. I do have some business to handle. And don’t worry, I can take care of myself.” Hannah comforted.

Miguel did not give up his persuasion that easily. But he was disturbed by Hannah who said, “Give me some time. I will stay with you someday.”

At length, Miguel put a halt for he knew his daughter. There must be some reason for her insistence. He did not want to push her. In this matter, Hannah was the poorest victim but also the one who kept offering consolation to him. Now he just wished his family could stay together, safe and sound.

“No matter what, take care of yourself. And you can always go back home. We are always standing shoulder to shoulder with you.”

“I know that well,” Hannah answered with a sweet smile on her face. Anyway, she was not alone. Her parents were the strongest reason to encourage her for a better life. Stroking on her belly, she included the baby in the list.

Then there came a busy week. Hannah kept a strict on-time manner in the office, busy with the HR department to figure out a solution to settle down the staff. The HR department was shocked as they learned about their company faced an acquisition because they had expected better growth of the Cooper Group since Oscar escalated to the Commander-in-chief of the country. But they suddenly found their jobs were risky.

But it was not the timing for questions. They were diligent in assisting Hannah to work out a comprehensive solution for every employee of the group. It was uncommon for a group to be so considerate. Even from the human resources point of view, Hannah’s proposal was too generous, and they asked, several times if they needed to cut the budget. They worried that it might be stressful for the Cooper family.

It was another end of the day. Hannah sat before the desk, stretching her tired body. From the French window, the city was covered in the glow of sunset. She was lost and pondered when was the last time she saw a similarly beautiful sunset in Kensbury City. The world was still charming and it was stupid to indulge herself in melancholy just for someone or something.

Then she took up the phone beside and dialled Manuel’s number.

“Hi, Manuel, this is Hannah.”

“Hello, Hannah,” Manuel responded. He was still in the office of Phillips Bank.

The acquisition of Phillips Bank was not difficult. Thanks to the abundant shares he held of Phillips Bank, any of his slight moves could force the board of the bank to take out their shares, otherwise, the bank would go broke.

A Letter of Equity Transfer was already done, and the only thing he needed was Susan’s signature. But this was much harder than the acquisition. He was not ready to propose the acquisition plan before Susan.

“I have worked out a basic plan on the arrangement of the Cooper Group’s staff and I’m gonna send it to you. I need your help, Manuel. For most of the staff, the essential and capable ones, I hope you can keep them. And before the acquisition, I will give them a briefing to ensure their loyalty to the new boss. While for those less capable ones, I also have a list. They will have the compensation they deserve to leave the company decently, and won’t make any trouble for you.”

“All right, send it to me.” Manuel nodded and said, “if anything goes right, I shall approve all your requests.”

Manuel had approved Hannah’s proposal even before reading it.

“You can reply after you check it.”

“All right.”

“Then I send it by mail.”

“OK.”

“And Manuel,” Hannah suddenly called him.

“Yes?”

“So are you running after Phillips Bank?” Hannah asked.

This was a matter of time, other than ability. Looking at the document in front, he answered, “Yes, on the way.”

“Then I would like to ask for a favour from you.”

“Yes?”

Hannah presented her idea. Then the call was in silence. After a while, Manuel said, “Actually, I did have the same idea as yours.”

“And then?” Hannah asked.

“I’m afraid Susan might not approve.”

“You can try first. If she disagrees, let me persuade her.”

“OK.” This time Manuel agreed quickly.

“Thank you.”

“Hannah, your gratitude can always make me guilty,” Manuel said with chuckles.

Indeed he was filled with guilt for Hannah.

“You don’t need to be, for you are not the one who gets me hurt.”

Manuel was muted with a helpless smile. Sometimes, he wondered if this was a sort of luck that Hannah could always stay reasonable.

After the call, Manuel picked up the document. The acquisition of Phillips Bank was a must-have, so procrastination would not make any sense. He raised from the chair and walked straight to the chairman’s office.

Given Edward’s health condition, Susan turned to be the head of the bank and of course, Edward’s office became hers.

Manuel knocked on the door. Though it was the off-hours, he was sure Susan was still there. Since Susan started her career, she worked day and night. Her diligence was so incredible. But no matter how hard she worked, she could not change those had become fate.

“Come in,” Susan responded to the knocking without even raising her head from the document.

With little of knowledge in commerce, the document read like a puzzle for her, no matter how much effort she had paid. It seemed to be an endless way ahead before she could be a master of business and a qualified chairman of Phillips Bank and make her father relieved at length.

But the idea of giving up did not come to her. She just kept up fighting other than surrendering before frustration. This was the first time in her life that she was so determined to grow strong.

Then she lifted her head and found the visitor, Manuel. She knew he resuming work a week ago. But they did not have time to meet, just staying in their own offices and running their own business. Now he came suddenly and stood in front of her.

Indeed, the sight of him made her heart beat wildly for a moment.

Chapter 768 A Reluctant Transfer

Susan forced herself to calm down, watching the man getting closer and closer. She even failed to find a word to start a talk. The distance between them was growing further. Maybe that was her self-knowledge that pushed them apart.

“Take a look,” Manuel said, putting down a document before Susan.

Susan fetched it with a blow to her heart at the glimpse of the cover. She firmly believed that Manuel was not interested in the property of their family. The reason for her accusing Manuel and Justine of intentional robbery was to justify her hatred. But she was clear inside the reason was fake.

Therefore, the Letter of Equity Transfer was unacceptable. But she tried to conceal her pain and stayed peaceful.

“Can I say no?”

Manuel shook his head.

“Though I am incapable of running Phillips Bank at the moment, if I learn hard, maybe I can in future...” Susan explained a bit hurriedly.

But Manuel was indifferent, which, to Susan, was a sort of mockery. Maybe in Manuel’s point of view, she might be a useless waste, she thought. Without her father, she could not let the bank survive. She buried helplessly her head down and opened the document again, checking through it term by term.

According to the document, her shares would be purchased based on the market value. So it seemed to be a worthy deal. But she summoned up her courage to refuse, “I do not agree.”

After all, she was the decision-maker. Nobody could force her to sign, even Manuel. Given her father’s condition, if he knew that she sold the bank when he woke up, he must fall down again out of rage.

“If you sign for transfer now, you can take this all,” Manuel said pointing to an attractive number with his slim finger.

He managed to mute Susan.

“But if you insist not, I have many other ways to press out your equity, then your income might lose half of it, or even more,” Manuel added.

That was clear enough that if she was smart enough, she must take it now. Manuel's ability was undeniable. Although Susan had been not focusing on the company's business before, she knew how capable Manuel was from the comments of the other staff and her father.

He could easily take the bank if he wanted.

Susan kept silent. She did not want to give up so easily. Their family had spent so many years creating such a financial giant. If she sold it now, she could not face her father, she deemed.

"The previous 10 billion of deposit to Phillips Bank was from me; the project to cooperate with the venture capital firm was also done by my instruction to Theodore. Therefore, my withdrawal might lead to serious risk for the bank, especially when Edward now is sleeping in the hospital. The bank would face bankruptcy. I'm not scaring you. You can consult other executives or your best friend, Hannah. Your rebellion must make a bigger cost." Manuel added.

"So did you plan it very before?" Susan murmured in mockery, with her heart feeling like pricking.

Manuel restrained his explanation which, as he thought, would not make any sense. Susan might not believe any word from him. So why did he try?

Manuel's silence was translated into confirmation by Susan. She once thought the money should mean nothing to Manuel, and that his love for her was pure without any relation to wealth.

Had he changed since he had been badly hurt by her?

Or was she wrong from the very beginning?

No matter whether it was about Henry or Manuel, she had been having poor judgement. And her fault brought in the coming tragedy that she deserved.

Suddenly, she asked, "Manuel, did you ever love me from your true heart?"

This unexpected question played the string in Manuel's heart.

"Maybe that was my illusion," Susan answered herself.

Manuel pressed his lips without a hint to let go of a word. When a man chose to keep silent to a question, it might be out of his reluctance, other than his shyness, Susan reckoned.

She soon accepted that all had been passed. And now she was clear finally that Manuel was indeed not into her. If not, she would not have left alone from the balcony; and he would have paid attention to her change.

With the answer, she could stop dwelling on him, and avoid the guilt for Henry if she did end up standing beside Manuel. Actually, she could not help but feel guilty for Henry's death for she was sure she was one of the important causes. So if she came together with Manuel, she felt as if she was betraying Henry. That was why she kept distant from Manuel ever since.

She had wondered if Manuel would come to her and if they would reconcile with each other. Now she saw how stupid she was. Manuel's love for her had gone.

Then she picked up a pen. There was a slight move in Manuel's eyes because Susan's sudden surrender was a bit out of his expectation. He wanted to say something but failed at last.

Finally, Susan's name was written on the document. She turned out to be a traitor to their family. It was her incapability that forged the tragedy. Manuel was right. Her rebellion would not make difference. The more she fought, the more she lost. If that was her fate to lose Phillips Bank, it would be wise to take more money. After all, she needed a lot of cash, to pay for her father's medical care and her life. She might not stand a life of a poor. That was her, an indulged woman with little endurance of hardship and little self-motivation.

She would be better to give up fighting and just return to her easy and leisure life. Later, she pressed down her fingerprint on her name. Then she handed it to Manuel and asked, "Is that OK?"

Staring at Susan's name on the paper, Manuel was a bit stunned by her easygoing. He stood there and watched the document for so long that Susan became doubted if she signed it at the wrong place.

"If there is anything wrong?"

"No." Manuel woke up by her question.

"Do I need to move out from here now?"

Manuel did not answer.

"May I move tomorrow? I want to..." She said but swallowed down the last part of her sentence.

She wanted to stay in the memory of the good old days. Maybe she could take some photos for her father. If someday Edward woke up, he must want to see the place where he had fought most of his life. Sometimes Susan did confess that she was not a good daughter. If she could envision what happened now, she must have worked hard.

But it was too late. Watching the man in silence, she changed her mind and said, "I will move out tonight."

Now the office, as well as the bank were not hers any more. Her occupation must seem unpleasant to the bank's new owner.

Chapter 769 Manuel's Decision

Susan picked up the phone, trying to contact her secretary so that she got someone to help her pack up the belongings. However, suddenly she thought it was unsuitable to ask for help from a member of Phillips Bank when she was no longer one of them. So she started to pack things up herself. Without identifying the owners of all this stuff, she planned to collect all the things before her eyes. That was how she started.

While watching what she was busy with, Manuel thought to himself that it might take more than a day and a night to pack those up.

"No need to bother." Said he.

Susan stopped in surprise. Would he tell her that she was not allowed to take this stuff away? Most of these things were valuable antiques, the private poverty of her father. Manuel was going too far, she thought.

“Although Phillips Bank is taken over, you can continue to work here.” His words did possess frankness.

Now she was confused.

“I will hire you.” He explained.

“You mean it?” Susan couldn’t even believe that. After all, she thought no company would hire a useless “businessperson” like her.

“Yes,” Manuel answered with a nod.

“What should I do?” asked she, “As an employee?”

She found it hard to accept the truth that she had to start at the bottom. After all, she was the daughter of Edward Phillips. Even though her position was not among the high rank, she could still be bossy and free of others’ condemnation. Her self-esteem wouldn’t allow these to happen even if she had nothing left.

“You will be the CEO,” Manuel said in a moment of candour.

“What?” Susan was shocked by such an unexpected answer.

She wondered if Manuel was making a joke with her. Moreover, she didn’t dare to take that position even with Manuel’s approval.

“Just think about it. You will enjoy a salary as high as mine.”

Susan’s mind remained blank. And she started trying to read his mind.

Was he playing a carrot-and-stick trick? Or else, was he pitying her?

After selling out all the stock, the bank had nothing to do with her. But it was inappropriate for him to treat her in such an extreme way since he was brought up by the Phillips family too. Perhaps, he still has some kindness to her.

After finishing the conversation, Manuel took the contract signed by Susan and left. Being left in the office alone, Susan hadn’t fully resumed from confusion.

She was not sure whether to believe him or not since she knew well that she was not qualified for that position while doubting that Manuel was kidding her.

Susan was on the point of being stuck in a dilemma when the phone suddenly rang. She tried to calm herself down while looking at the phone screen.

“Hi, Hannah.”

“Why haven’t you contacted me for so long?”

Susan did not speak. She had not gone to bother her in case she would tell her everything to worry Hannah, who was pregnant. Thus, Susan forced herself to keep things bottled up.

"What's the matter?" Hannah asked again.

"Nothing much." Susan tried to compose herself to make a comforting answer, "I just felt a bit overwhelmed lately, you know, heavy workload."

"Haven't you lost your job? Where on earth were those stress from?" Hannah answered with a grin.

"How did you know that?"

"Manuel's told me."

"So he told you that he takes over the Phillips Bank from me as well? "

"True."

"Fuck! Didn't he know that you are pregnant? How could he bother you with this stuff!"

"I have so many things to worry about. You are not the only one. It doesn't make a difference."

"Don't worry about me. I've thought it clear. Business management is not my cup of tea. Manuel will make a better leader than me. The bank may flourish under his supervision while it may face bankruptcy one year or two later if I were in charge. What's more, I can have a large amount of money. It's a choice worth taking!" Susan answered with ease.

"Really?"

"Then what should I think of it? I can't beat Manuel whatsoever."

"If it were Henry who acquired the Phillips Bank, will you remain the same attitude? "

Susan's heart throbbed with slight pain and replied slowly, "Hannah, he was dead."

"I knew. I read it from the news."

"He..." Susan found it hard to assemble words. Maybe most of those things were far beyond what words could describe.

"I knew them all," Hannah said.

"What? Must be Manuel again."

"I told them to him."

"What?" Susan was completely perplexed. Along with a slight tinge of anger, she asked, "You knew Henry had ulterior intentions too?"

"I learned it later."

"Later? When, to be specific?" Susan asked.

"Since the time you said I had changed."

“How did you know that?”

“You wouldn’t believe me.”

“So you would rather trust Manuel Johnson.” Susan got cross.

“I don’t trust him, but I hope he can help you,” Hannah explained.

“What the hell did he do?” Susan could barely restrain her temper and continued, “He took the poverty of my family!”

“He had no choice.”

“Huh? Now he becomes a victim.” Susan was so vexed.

“Oscar told him to do so.”

“Oscar?”

Somehow, Susan felt that she was kept in the dark.

“Manuel probably hasn’t told you yet. Except for the Phillips Bank, the Cooper Group, as well as the Wells Group, are all controlled by Oscar.”

“Why?”

“For power. He wants to control the economy.”

“So he did those things to us.”

“I am as confused as you, and we both shared the same fate.”

“Why would Manuel help Oscar? What is their relationship?”

“They are cousins.”

“What?”

“I’m afraid I told you too much today.”

“Don’t keep me in suspense. Just tell me the truth.”

“So Justine is Oscar’s aunt, one from privilege and wealth?” Susan was shocked.

“That’s right.”

“Shit. That’s why I always feel that her temperament is different from the average person.”

Hannah always admired her optimism. Under gloomy circumstances, her attention could be that easily drawn away by some gossip.

“I have been saying that Justine covets the money of my dad. How should I face her afterwards?” Susan said awkwardly.

“No need to worry. She and Edward have got divorced, so as you and Manuel. You don’t need to face her anymore.”

“... I feel I’ve missed a lot.” Said Susan in an upset tone.

Chapter 770 A Divorce Without Cause

Hannah didn’t help but smile. She was envious of Susan’s good attitude. Finally, the tragedy of her past life hadn’t been repeated before her.

“You just said Oscar was also about to take away the Cooper Group?” Susan seemed needed time to work this out. She at least raised her voice fivefold.

Then Hannah rubbed her ears and said, “You have slow reflexes.”

“I just can’t believe it. He’s your family, isn’t he? What do you mean?”

“We got divorced.”

“What?” Susan’s voice grew even louder this time. She jumped straight out of her office chair. Fortunately, Hannah had expected Susan’s reaction and had already moved her phone away from her ear.

“You said you’re divorced? Shit, are you serious? When, and why?” Susan was agitated.

“When you were in trouble. I was about to come to be with you, but I was not well so I didn’t.”

“You were afraid I would feel sadder after knowing that, weren’t you?” Susan said.

“Maybe.” Hannah thought. And she was afraid that she couldn’t be peaceful and console Susan like now before she was able to calm herself down.

“Hannah, why do you always keep these things to yourself?” Susan immediately reddened her eyes.

It was been a tough time for everyone for no reason. And Susan thought she had been unlucky enough, but she didn’t expect Hannah to suffer more than her. She felt bad for Hannah since she thought someone had put a damper on her when she got to the pinnacle of life.

Susan could not help but curse Oscar for his ruthlessness. Moreover, Hannah was pregnant. Thinking of it, Susan got so cross and agitated.

“I’m not taking this as hard as you think. I just need time to accept it, and I’ll be alright then.” Hannah said. She could imagine how Susan devastated must be now.

“I was kind of upset about you didn’t tell me the things about Henry. But you told Manuel, so I felt a little angry about it.” Susan said honestly.

She didn’t mention this thing just now because she felt there was a barrier between her and Hannah. But she wasn’t willing to face it so she choose to run away. Susan was a forthright person that would say something out loud once she had gotten over it.

“Now you’re having such a tough time, I can’t even be mad at you anymore.”

Hannah couldn't help but smile. She could not imagine what this simple and kind girl would be when she yielded to reality someday.

"I still want to explain even though you're not angry anymore. I hid the thing about Henry from you before because I was afraid you couldn't accept it. I was afraid you would cut off the relationship with your father when you knew what he had done back then and even listen to everything he said. I knew you thought he was the one you loved the most at that time."

Her thoughts were discovered. She might have done it if everything happened like what Hannah just said. Until now, she still felt guilty for Henry even though he had done so much to hurt her.

"So I want to help to change the relationship between you and Henry through Manuel. I thought you two would settle down once you had the baby. But I didn't expect your sudden miscarriage and Manuel would have no more illusions about you. I was about to tell you the truth, but Manuel said he wanted to make your dream come true. He wanted to help you keep an eye on the Phillips Bank, so Henry couldn't accomplish his plot. Since he couldn't own the bank, he could only be nice to you. And over time his hatred might pass away."

"Did Manuel say that?" Susan didn't quite believe that Manuel would sacrifice that much for her.

"You can never doubt how nice he's to you."

"But he has pushed me away many times!" Susan complained.

"That's because he always thought you still loved Henry."

"But he is dead now." Susan couldn't fully control her emotions.

"It doesn't mean you don't have feelings for him."

"So you're saying Manuel thinks I still have something for Henry?"

"I'm not sure. But I feel you can fight for yourself if you still like Manuel."

"You think I still have a chance?" Susan asked.

"Yes," Hannah said with certainty. She always thought that Manuel still had feelings for Susan.

If he didn't love her anymore, he wouldn't have agreed with the request that Susan still could work at the Phillips Bank after he purchased it. Manuel was unwilling to express his love. Or he just didn't want to make the first move at all because he had been hurt so many times that he wouldn't allow himself to expect anything more.

But if Susan worked hard to repair their relationship, they might get back together over time, Hannah reckoned. She still wanted them to become reconciled. In this world, Manuel was the only man she could trust for Susan to marry.

Susan kept silent for a long while. It seemed that she dared not expect too much of herself.

Hannah didn't say anything more because she knew that only those who were in love knew what it would become. The reason she could try to persuade Susan and Manuel was that she didn't experience what had happened between them. She had no idea how painful it must have been for them, so she was

able to say those frank words. But to be honest, it would be very repellent to her if someone try to persuade her to marry Oscar again.

“Susan, I phoned you today because I wanted you to agree with Manuel’s idea and stay at the bank,” Manuel called Hannah just now and said Susan hesitated about her leaving or staying. So Hannah was here to persuade Susan. She could only feel at ease by making Susan stay with Manuel.

“I don’t know anything. I’m afraid he’ll cold-shoulder me in the future.” Susan had self-knowledge.

“You don’t think he knows how ignorant you are, do you?”

“Are you my best friend?” Susan was a little irritated.

“You don’t have to worry about anything. Since he wants you to stay, you certainly can fulfil his expectation. And you two will work at the same place, which is convenient for you to heal the relationship with him.” Hannah teased her.

“I have no hope,” Susan said without confidence.

“Just give yourself a chance.”

Susan admitted that Hannah’s suggestion was beckoning but she didn’t think she deserved it.

“I suppose you’ve agreed.” Said, Hannah.

As for Susan, Hannah felt she had to help her make the decision.

Susan want to refuse but couldn’t say any refusing words. So she just kelp silent and acquiesced with Hannah.

“Then I hang up.”

“Hanna,”

“Uh-huh?”

“Are you alright?”

“I’m good.”

“Did you divorce? Why? Politically, or Personally?”

“No one knows.” Hannah smiled indifferently, “Both of these excuses will be valid if you want a divorce, and neither will be a threat if you don’t.”

There was no need to figure out a reason for their divorce, Hannah thought.