

## Reborn 801

### Chapter 801 The Great Regret

Finishing saying this, Susan straight left. And everyone just watched her leaving back dumbfounded, which made it even more awkward. No one dared to take any action in this low atmosphere.

Manuel's face was as clouded as it could be. He compressed his lips and said, "The meeting is over now!" Then he stood up and walked off the meeting room, leaving a room full of people that didn't know what they could do. Maybe it was the shortest meeting in the bank of the Phillips Bank, and it was a pointless one.

Susan left the company. Although she was determined when she left, she still felt a little regret when she got in the car that took her out of there. After all, the Phillips Bank was her family's business. And now she left here on an impulse, his father would be knocked out again if he revived and knew this.

Susan gritted her teeth and still drove off. At some point, she started driving by herself again.

"I guess it means I'm growing up. And it's been imposed on me." Susan thought.

She drove straight to the hospital. No matter how late it was, Susan would come to the hospital every day. She didn't know whether her father would wake up, but she believed the miracle that the doctor had mentioned.

She pushed open the ward door. Edward was laying in bed, with the medical instruments sustaining his life. No matter how hard she hid her feelings, she couldn't keep her guise when facing her father in his hospital bed. And she knew her father wouldn't reply to her in any way. Susan lowered her eyes and felt sad. She used to think she had a home to return to no matter what happened, while now she suddenly felt like she had nothing left with her.

Then she eased her nerves and started to talk to her father, "I quarreled with Manuel today."

"He said I should feel sorry for not qualifying for this job."

"And he said this in front of all the senior managers, which made me feel very embarrassed."

"Then I said I wanted to quit in a fit of temper."

"I was really mad at that time. Anyway, I was your daughter, I was Edward Phillips' daughter. Although my family is going downhill now, I'm still in high places. So how could he scold me like this? He had no idea how hard I put into this job, I even have dark circles under my eyes now." The more she said, the more grievance and more agitated she felt. But she didn't notice that someone appeared outside the ward.

"Why do I work so hard? Right, I work hard because I want to stay at the bank. After all, the bank belongs to our family and I can't let it be taken away from me. I admit I have an ulterior motive. But more importantly, I want to share some of his burdens, because I saw he sometimes fall asleep at his desk tiredly. I felt sorry for him. But look what he did to me!" Susan said with anger, "He blamed me for my incompetence instead! I'm not a genius, and I'm not even smart as others. What could I do?"

The person standing at the door felt some sentiments stirring within him. But she didn't disturb Susan while she was talking to Edward.

"But, Dad." Susan said, "Even though he was mean to me and embarrassed me, I still feel regret now. Why did I have to do that? It won't hurt me to be scolded by him, so why can't I just put up with it? He was yelling at me because I'm really stupid. And it won't be difficult to admit it for me."

The person at the door seemed unable to suppress laughing. But she didn't laugh out loud, so Susan had no idea about there was a person at the door.

"Dad, if I go back to apologize to him right now, will he let bygones be bygones and allow me to stay at the bank?"

Susan was thinking about it seriously. But she felt flinched at the thought of Manuel's cold face. She was furious at his scolding, but now she felt great regret.

"When am I gonna stop being impulsive like this?" she thought. Susan was so upset and nervous now.

"Maybe you can have a try." A voice suddenly came from the door.

Susan was taken aback. She turned back and found that Justine was standing leaning against the door, looking at her as if she was amused.

"When did you get here?" Susan felt embarrassed.

"Then how much of what I just said to my dad did she hear?" Susan thought.

She could almost imagine how Justine would laugh at her.

"What if she tells this to Manuel..." At this thought, Susan just wanted to kill herself.

"For a while." Justine thought back and then said earnestly, "Probably from the moment you said you worked hard for your job."

"Fuck! Then she heard everything I just said!" Susan thought.

"Why didn't you say anything to me? Don't you think it's brassy to eavesdrop on me?" Susan was mad.

"I wasn't eavesdropping, I was listening. And you were having such a good time with your dad, so it would be rude of me to interrupt you."

Susan felt angry because she could never get past Justine in a quarrel. Then she got up and left her father's bed.

"Out of sight, out of mind!" She thought.

"Are you leaving?" Watching Susan's action, Justine asked.

"Yeah," Susan replied.

"You need me to say something to Manuel for you?"

"Say what?" Susan was instantly agitated.

“Say I want to give you a chance and let you go back to the Bank.”

“No, thanks! I don’t want to go back.”

“You’ll regret it.”

Susan wanted to say she wouldn’t regret it until she died, but she just couldn’t get these words out of her mouth. Watching Susan’s sullen face, Justine couldn’t help but laugh, “Manuel is quite obliging, and he doesn’t take those childish people seriously.”

“Are you saying I’m childish?” Susan was furious. She couldn’t believe Justine not only satirized her but also laughed at her.

“I just want to warn you. It’s up to you to do that.” Justine shrugged with indifference and generosity like she was an elegant lady, standing a sharp contrast to Susan who was short-tempered now.

Because he had such an outstanding mother, Susan even started to wonder if Manuel had been blind in falling in love with her.

Then Susan left the ward, gritting her teeth. She used to hate Justine no matter what had happened between her and Manuel, and what had happened between Justine and her father. Although now she still had little good to say of Justine, she was touched by Justine because Justine didn’t run out on her father after his accident and visited him a lot.

Then Susan got back to her car again while being sulky.

She decided to return to the Phillips Bank, but she backed down as soon as she recalled Manuel’s face.

Shit.

Susan gritted her teeth.

“It’s not the first time I’ve made a fool of myself in front of Manuel. That’s how he sees me, anyway. So things can’t get any worse.” She told herself.

So she sped up and drove to the company again.

“I just have to admit to him that I was wrong,” Susan thought, “So the worst he can do is kick me out.”

### **Chapter 802 Susan Offers an Apology**

After returning to Phillips Bank, Susan struggled for a long time in the bank garage. She got off the car and got in, and then got off again. After many times she finally made up her mind.

Then she walked into the building. The employees who kept busy in the bank treated her respectfully when they saw her. They didn’t seem to be judging her because of what happened at today’s top meeting. Everyone still respected her. So she couldn’t help but feel relieved now.

“It seems that these employees are highly qualified.” She thought. With this thought, Susan walked with a little more dignity. Then she pressed the elevator button and stepped into the elevator. She didn’t know whether she should go to Manuel’s office or back to hers first.

After struggling for a while, she pressed the button for his floor. Then she watched nervously as the numbers slowly changed on the elevator screen.

“Ding-Dong.”

Susan almost felt that even the smallest sound could frighten her. Taking a deep breath, she marched jauntily to Manuel’s office in her high heels. But she lost her nerve immediately as she got to the office door. She still didn’t dare to knock on the door and enter.

“What if he tells me to get out there once I walk in?” She thought.

She could even imagine that scene. The moment she was done with her internal struggle and ready to run away, the office door suddenly opened. Manuel appeared at the door, holding a document. His sight stopped on Susan for a second when he saw her. As Susan wanted to say something, he walked straight past her and towards the secretary’s office nearby. He seemed to go there to arrange work. Being given a cold shoulder, however, Susan didn’t leave. Although Manuel ignored her, Susan felt he wasn’t that horrible after seeing him.

Finishing the work arrangement, Manuel went back to his office. He still ignored her completely. Susan brazened it out and went into Manuel’s office following him. Sitting in the office chair, Manuel watched the computer screen and typed on the keyboard. He was dealing with his work earnestly like Susan didn’t exist at all.

Susan stood in Manuel’s office for a long time, but Manuel seemed to pay no attention to her at all. So she had no other way but to begin, “Well, I was a little impulsive this morning.”

Manuel’s fingers on the keyboard paused. But he still ignored her.

Susan compressed her lips and said, “I shouldn’t be that impulsive. I said these stupid words because I was so embarrassed at that time. I won’t talk back if you scold me next time, I swear.”

Manuel was still cold to her, and he even didn’t look at her. But Susan couldn’t be reconciled to leaving. So she mustered up the courage and pulled out a gift box from her inside pocket.

Before she headed for the company, she wanted to come straight here. But after thinking about it, she decided to buy some gifts as an apology. That seemed to be what socializing was all about. So she went to the mall to buy a gift before coming to the bank. She picked her gift carefully for a long time. But she had no idea whether Manuel would like it.

She walked up to him and placed that delicate gift box in front of him.

Manuel’s gaze stopped at it for a second. At this moment, he finally looked up at Susan. Then he glanced at the gift box in front of him.

“I noticed that your pen was broken after dropping on the ground accidentally at the last meeting, so I bought you a new one. The girl who sold me this pen said it’s easy to use and perfect for signing. And it’ll make your handwriting look better.” Susan said with flatter.

His Adam’s apple moved slightly, Manuel said in a deep voice, “Want to bribe me?”

“No, no, no.” Susan hurriedly shook her head, “This is just a little gift. I just hope the unhappiness between us this morning can be wiped out.”

Manuel stared at her. Susan felt a little uncomfortable because of his gaze.

Then she said, “Well, I’ll let you get back to work. I’m leaving now.”

“Hold on.”

Susan bit her lip, thinking, “He must want to ask me to take the gift away. He must be going to ask me not to show up in front of him in the future.”

She turned around to face him with a look like she was a condemned woman who was about to be executed.

“It’s your future work plan.” Manuel casually picked up the blue folder laying aside.

Stunning, Susan paused. She stared at Manuel with eyes widened.

“Don’t want it?” Manuel raised his brows.

Susan took the folder quickly with an obsequious smile, “Yes, I want it. I can do whatever you want as long as you don’t kick me out.”

“Don’t let it happen again,” Manuel said in a cold voice.

“Yes, sir!” Susan promised.

“You can go out.”

“Yes.”

She was afraid Manuel would back out, so she took off and ran away.

Manuel watched her back. His grave and serious face relaxed little by little with a subtle smile on the corner of his mouth. Then he averted his gaze and looked at the black gift box at hand.

“She is working hard on learning how to social, the gift-giving thing, huh.” He thought.

But he didn’t expect that she noticed that his pen was broken. He thought a careless person like her would never notice such details. And he was too busy to find time for buying a new one.

Then Manuel picked up that gift box and opened it. There was a dark green pen in the box, which was very beautiful.

“Susan always had good taste.” He thought.

Pulling out the pen, he noticed that a card was at the bottom of the box, saying, “My best wishes for your bright future and your grace.”

Manuel smiled slightly.

“Grace. Can that word be used here?” He thought,

“Except Susan, no one would make mistakes in saying good wishes.”

But he held that card in his hand for a long time and put it down until the door was knocked and opened again.

Putting the card straight into the drawer, he reverted to his original look and said, "Come in."

The secretary opened the door and entered, "Mr Johnson, I have an application for your approval now. It's the application for a business loan from the W Group, and I briefed you on this earlier. Could you please approve this now? It's a little hurry."

"I just checked it but I didn't find that request." Manuel said, "I need you to look at it on my computer."

"Sure." The secretary walked up to Manuel's desk.

And Manuel stepped aside a little. The secretary bent close to the computer screen, then her sight paused somewhere. At that moment, Manuel found the words on the screen, too. Quietly, he took the mouse and deleted the words on the screen. The secretary dared not to have any response about it. Even though she had saw Susan's name plastered across the screen, she dared not show a gossipy smile.

"Mr Johnson has deep feelings for Ms Phillips. I knew it. Or he wouldn't order everyone in the meeting room not to spread what had happened at the meeting as soon as Ms Phillips left there." She thought.

If he didn't do that, Susan would be very embarrassed in front of the employees when she gets back.

#### **Chapter 804 The Woman Who Bursts into Anger**

Hearing Hannah's words, Susan almost laughed out loud.

"Sarah regards herself as a big deal! That's funny. Look, Hannah just thumbs her nose at her." She thought,

Sarah glanced at Susan with a cold look, watching her laughing gleefully. Gritting her teeth, She told herself that she didn't have to look for Susan's trouble. Anyway, once had she despised Susan.

Then she said bluntly, "You said we were on the same boat last time."

Hannah smiled. So the reason Sarah came here this time was to cooperate with her. She had expected Sarah would compromise with her. Especially, she was scolded by Oscar last time, so she should want to revenge. She supposed Hannah also wanted to get back on Oscar, so she should plan to be against him.

Hannah nodded, "Correct."

"How do you want me to help you?"

She admit that she had thought about it for a long time after getting back. She would never forget how Oscar treated her the last time in the hospital. Now that Oscar treated her like this, she would make him regret it.

Oscar wanted to keep Hannah by his side. Then she would help Hannah leave him. She just trying to make it tough for both of them. Anyway, it was Hannah who wanted to leave. If Oscar wanted to look for someone to blame, it wouldn't get her involved.

After planning everything, Sarah came to Kensbury City again to Hannah.

But Hannah rejected, "No, thanks."

Sarah suddenly changed her face and stared at Hannah hard.

"Is this woman trying to make fun of me?" Sarah thought.

"What do you mean?" Sarah gritted her teeth because of anger. She had thought a lot and struggled a lot in her mind, and finally, she made up her mind to cooperate with Hannah and help her to leave Oscar. But now she couldn't believe Hannah say no to her!

Of course, Hannah could sense that Sarah was going to lose her temper, and she said peacefully and indifferently, "I never wanted you to help me."

"You didn't want me to help you? So you played me last time? Or, you're trying to test me?" Sarah stamped with fury.

"Are Hannah and Oscar still on the same boat now? In doing so, I've disobeyed Oscar's order and will be caught by him. And if he tells this to Dad..." Sarah thought to herself. With these thoughts, she shook with fear. Her position in her family had been precarious recently, so if she did anything wrong again, her father would be very disappointed in her. She clenched her fists hard, and her face turned pale with anger. "How could I be tricked by her over and over again?"

Looking at Sarah, Hannah knew what she was thinking. So she said, "It's not as complicated as you think. I just feel that you can't help me at all."

"You!" Sarah's body trembled with rage.

"Hannah is just a mistress now and has been imprisoned here, I can't believe she looks down on me. She doesn't get to be sarcastic like that." She thought.

"I didn't want to trick you. When I talked to you about cooperating that day, I did want you to do something for me." Hannah said slowly and peacefully. Her calmness was at the opposite end of the spectrum from Sarah's anger.

"I wanted you to help me contact your sister, Lillian."

Sarah stared at Hannah viciously. At that moment, she felt as if she had been struck by lightning. So from the beginning to the end, the only one Hannah wanted to cooperate with was Lillian. She was not good as Lillian in Hannah's eye.

"I've already met and talked to her the last time when I was at the hospital. So I don't need you to act as a go-between for me. And you're no longer of any use now!"

"Hannah!"

Growing up, Sarah had been always thinking she was better than everyone else. She always treated Lillian like a stupid younger sister and never took her seriously. She was already jealous enough of Lillian because of Lillian's glory and fame these days. What Hannah said at this moment made her even tremble with rage. She deeply felt that she was not as good as Lillian in all ways now.

"So you can leave now if there's nothing else. It's getting later, I have to rest now."

Sarah stared at Hannah coldly. She had been so cocky when she just got here, but she didn't expect she would be reduced to such a level by Hannah now.

"Hannah, you know I work in your company now, right?" Sarah said viciously.

"That's not my company." Hannah smiled, "It's CL Group now."

CL, which symbolized the initials of Cian and Lillian. The name of that company was named after the names of the two most important people in Oscar's life, Hannah reckoned.

"I'll ruin your company and messed with every employee working here!" Sarah threatened.

"That's not my business. It's Oscar or Manuel's business."

"Humph!" Then Sarah left angrily.

She didn't believe Hannah didn't have any feelings for the former Cooper Group. Hannah made her employees grateful to her for all the benefits she got them before she felt the company.

"I'll make everyone important to her feel he's in hell!" Sarah thought.

Watching Sarah get kicked out of the villa by Hannah, Susan felt pleased and satisfied.

"Hannah is still the same Hannah, composed and calm, she is always able to make people mad with a few words." Susan thought.

Susan thought she would be decadent and depressed under the pressure from Oscar. Although she still felt wronged by what Oscar had done to Hannah, she was relieved to see Hannah like that now.

Then Susan asked, "Hannah, do you want to leave Oscar?"

She heard from Hannah and Sarah's conversation that Hannah seemed to be trying to leave Oscar.

"Yes. But I can't now." Hannah didn't hide it.

"That bastard." Susan cursed.

"It's sooner or later." Hannah said patiently and averted the subject, "Why do you come here tonight?"

"You don't want me to be here?"

"Aren't you busy?" Hannah couldn't help but laugh.

Once Susan called her in the middle of the night and said she was having a terrible time. She was about to kill herself from the stress of her job. Of course, Hannah knew that Susan just wanted to vent herself by saying so, so she felt a little delighted in her mind.

Finally, Susan started to grow up now. Although Susan was reluctant to do these things she was more responsible than before.

"The tragedy in the last life, probably, would never happen again." Hannah thought.

"Manuel said Oscar has left, and he asked me to stay with you," Susan said bluntly.



Hannah nodded slightly. She was visibly averse to any subjects about Oscar. Noticing this, Susan didn't mention the name more and just said, "Hannah, Do you know how bastard Manuel is now?"

Then she quickly told Hannah everything that happened today. Seeing Susan was in good spirits, Hannah was clear that she didn't really be irritated by Manuel and just wanted to vent herself. So she cut off Susan and said, "Have you ever thought about getting back together with him?"

Susan paused with widened eyes, "Don't be ridiculous. How can he get back together with me? He was kind to me now because he didn't kill me!"

Susan felt she couldn't even think about it.

### **Chapter 805 A Son Or a Daughter**

"Just try it." Hannah tried to persuade her.

Susan was in a different situation from Hannah. Although both of them divorced, Manuel didn't have to burden the responsibility of his family and country so he didn't need to give up anything. He and Susan still could get together again.

"I don't dare!" Susan flinched.

She was content now to be with Manuel like this and didn't dare to have any improper thoughts.

"I hear that the real shareholder of the three companies, the Wells Group, the Cooper Group, and the Phillips Bank, purchased by the CL Group is not Oscar. It's Manuel. To put it bluntly, the boss of these three companies is Manuel." Hannah said.

She had looked it up when she was bored that the legal person was Manuel indeed.

Of course, she was sure that the boss under the table was Oscar. But his name was impossible to appear in the business market because of his identity. Even so, what Manuel had gotten was beyond the reach of ordinary people.

"So?" Susan showed a confused look.

"He's rich but it's none of my business." She thought.

"You're unwilling to see your family's company was taken by him, right? Think about it, if you marry him and have his child, and then if your child inherits the family business, your family's company will go back to you in the end, won't it?" Hannah analyzed the reason for Susan.

Susan thought what Hannah said was quite reasonable.

"With this, you can put your dad's mind at ease if he awakes." Hannah continued to persuade.

Susan was swayed by Hannah's persuasion.

"Anyway, you won't lose anything." Hannah encouraged.

Hannah was clear that Manuel would give in if Hannah made the first move.

Manuel was just not good at expressing herself and didn't dare to approach her again because he had experienced a lot. But in fact, He still loved Susan.

"As long as Susan started to chase Manuel, it won't be long before I could attend their wedding." Susan thought,

"Maybe I can attend the dinner party for their baby's first month celebrating.

Susan was frowning and thought a lot.

Because she had the urge to remarry Manuel. But She flinched at the thought of her having to pursue him.

Susan struggled like this for a long time.

Then she took a deep breath and said, "Hannah, I'm hungry!"

"..." Hannah rolled her eyes.

"Susan is just the same old." She thought.

But Hannah also knew that she couldn't force Susan. Because Susan would go too far if she was forced too much.

"She'll figure it out by herself." Hannah thought.

Then she said to Max standing nearby, "Max, could you make Susan some dinner?"

"Yes, I'll do it right now." Max quickly dropped what he was doing and went to the kitchen.

Susan lay down on the sofa, exhausted, "Hannah, tell me why do we live like this as adults? When I was a kid, I always believed I would live on the moon after growing up!"

Hannah couldn't help but laugh.

"It was a long time ago, I was a kid." Hannah thought.

She even had forgotten what was her dream when she was a kid.

"Forget it." Susan adjusted her emotions and said, "I can't make a pregnant woman feel sad. What if I break your heart?!"

With this, Susan approached Hannah and touched her stomach.

Then she asked curiously, "You know it's a boy or a girl?"

Hannah paused with surprise.

Although she had taken several pregnancy tests, she had never asked the doctor this question.

She ignored this thing all along.

Now hearing Susan's question, she realized that she could find out the sex of her baby now.

"You don't know yet?" Susan looked at Hannah.

“I haven’t asked the doctor.”

“You want a son or a daughter?”

Hannah was silent.

She wanted a girl at first because Oscar wanted a girl.

But she wanted a girl then after that time.

Because a boy could be braver.

She wasn’t willing to see her child be as sentimental as her.

But now,

she said, “A girl.”

Susan compressed her lips and asked, “Are you still considering Oscar’s feelings?”

Because she heard of Oscar wanted a girl.

“No.” Hannah shook her head.

No matter whether Oscar wanted a girl or not, it didn’t matter to her.

Maybe now it didn’t matter to Oscar, either.

Anyway, her child wasn’t his only child anymore.

The reason she wanted the baby in her stomach was a girl now only was because a girl wouldn’t threaten anyone’s benefits and wouldn’t be involved in unnecessary wars.

She only wished her child could be happy and healthy.

Hannah didn’t explain.

And Susan also didn’t ask more.

She knew that Hannah was hurt by Oscar deeply and she didn’t want to salt her wound.

After a while,

Max made dinner and brought it to Susan.

As she ate, she complimented Max’s cooking.

Accompanying Susan, Hannah looked at her who was careless and happy.

Sometimes she was envious of Susan’s characteristics.

After finishing dinner and watching the TV for a while, Susan followed Hannah to go back to her room.

Susan took the shower first, and she saw Max was changing the sheet when she got out of the bathroom.

“Hannah, You know I don’t care about it, why did you change the sheet?” Susan asked.

“It’s just time to change it,” Hannah said.

She didn’t tell Susan the reason she changed the sheet was

Oscar slept on it last night.

She would change it even if Susan didn’t accompany her to sleep with her.

After the sheet was changed, Susan and Hannah lay on the bed together,

just like when they were kids.

Susan suddenly asked with a little sentiment, “Hannah, so what are you going to do in the future?”

“What am I going to do?”

Hannah thought,

“I want to live.

I want to live first.”

The next day,

Susan jumped off the bed at the sound of the alarm clock.

Now she had almost developed a habit that would force herself to get up as soon as the alarm rang. Otherwise, she couldn’t know how long she would be asleep if she slept any longer.

So she walked drowsy in a direction that she used to walk in at her home.

“Ouch!” Susan hit the wall, and her tears of pain almost came out.

Hannah woke up by noises and asked, “What happened?”

Susan just seemed to realize she was in Hannah’s villa.

So she endured the pain and said, “Nothing, it’s still early, you can sleep longer.”

“Em,” Hannah replied.

She often suffered from insomnia after her pregnancy.

But she also slept a lot sometimes.

So she quickly fell asleep at this moment.

But she felt a kind of pleasure and relief before falling asleep.

“Susan was able to get out of bed at such an early time back then.” She thought,

“She does grow up and learn a lot.”

After washing up, Susan felt she finally sobered up.

Then she put on some makeup and found clothes to wear in Hannah's locker room.

Their size was about the same, so they could change their clothes.

And they had worn each other's clothes since they were kids not needing to get the other's permission at all.

After picking out clothes she liked, Susan went out of the villa quietly.

Max saw her downstairs and hurriedly walked up to her, "Susan, your breakfast..."

"No, thanks. I have to go now. Just tell Hannah that I've gone to work when she wakes up." Susan looked like she was in a hurry.

Max hurriedly agreed with her.

Watching Susan's back, he also felt she had changed a lot compared to before.

"Life changes people." Max thought.

Then he couldn't help but glance upstairs.

He had no idea whether the relationship between Oscar and Hannah could become better in the future life.

#### **Chapter 806 Would You Be My Boyfriend?**

Susan hurried to get breakfast and went to work.

She always set her alarm just right to get her to work on time. This time, it took her a little longer from Hannah's home, so she was almost late.

She didn't know since when she began to take being late as a sin.

She opened the elevator just as it was about to close and rushed into it.

As soon as she walked in, she stopped.

The man in the elevator was Manuel.

He always went to work early. She felt it was quite strange.

When she saw him, she pretended to be very calm and greeted him, "Good morning, Mr Johnson."

"Good morning." Manuel nodded and kept his distance from her. He treated her with respect just like anybody else in the company.

Then there was an awkward silence.

Susan looked at the elevator screen. She was nervous every time she met Manuel, not to mention she was alone with him in a narrow space at this time.

She even felt like her heart was about to jump out.

So she thought, in the future, she would rather take the next elevator than spend time alone with him in the elevator. She was afraid of having heart problems.

"Haven't you eaten yet?" Manuel suddenly opened his mouth and took a look at her hand holding the breakfast.

"No," Susan said. She was used to buying breakfast outside.

Then she asked, "What about you?" The minute she asked him, she started to regret it.

He was self-disciplined and he must have had his breakfast. Perhaps he had worked out this morning.

"Me neither," Manuel answered.

Susan was stunned and she looked at him with doubt.

"I woke up a bit late today and didn't have time for breakfast." Manuel seemed to be explaining.

"Right," Susan nodded, and then she said, "Do you want some?" And she regretted asking again.

She bought meat-stuffed buns on a roadside stand; how could he eat that? He always lived a delicate life and hardly ate anything from a roadside stand.

Unlike him, she always found street food much better than food in big restaurants.

She loved kebabs and beer on the street in the middle of the night.

"Great," Manuel said.

Her eyes were wide. Did she hear him right? He wanted to eat her breakfast.

"If it was not enough for me, just forget it." Manuel was very calm.

"No, it is ok," Susan hurriedly handed him her breakfast, "There you go, I was just afraid you did not like it."

"But what about you?"

"I'm not hungry." Susan smiled, "Besides, you are my boss, I need to make sure you had it first. Unspoken workplace rules, right?"

Manuel turned his head and smiled.

She knew nothing about unspoken workplace rules.

The elevator arrived just then.

Manuel left first with her breakfast.

Susan was relieved and took a big breath.

Then she felt her stomach empty. She was so hungry.

Susan stepped out of the elevator and walked into her office.

Since she started to work, skipping breakfast was like killing her.

But she had given away her breakfast. It was too late to regret it.

So she was trying to immerse herself in her work.

Someone knocked, "Ms Phillips."

"Come in."

The secretary came in, carrying a delicate cake and a cup of warm milk. "Your breakfast."

"You got it for me?" Susan was excited.

No wonder many men would fool around with their secretaries.

She wanted to hug her secretary as well.

"No, it's from the president's office. It should be... Mr Johnson." Said the secretary.

"..." Manuel?

No way. He got her breakfast?

Maybe it was because she gave him breakfast and he wanted to thank her.

Her heart beat fast. She suddenly remembered what Hannah told her yesterday about giving it a try. Should she?

Manuel was showing his nice to her.

The more she thought about it, the faster her heart beat. No big deal, right? She thought she was about to have a heart attack.

Susan suddenly stood up.

As soon as the secretary put the breakfast on her desk, she was startled.

"Ms Phillips?"

"Leave it here," Susan said and left the office.

The secretary looked at her back and thought she was still so reckless. She didn't know what would have happened if the president hadn't been there.

She probably had no idea how much work the president had done for her in private during her time as managing director. She was a lucky girl.

Susan rushed to his office.

She felt that if she did not pluck up the courage to speak out now, she would never be able to.

She didn't hesitate. She didn't even knock and she opened the door of his office.

She stopped before the words on her lips came out.

She saw a woman sitting on the sofa and Manuel sitting beside her.

This woman was eating the breakfast she just gave him.

The two men seemed to be chatting and laughing.

They looked at each other, all silent.

The woman put down the bun, wiped her fingers, and stood up from the sofa, smiling very sweetly, "Ms Phillips, I am Clara Stern, we have met before."

Susan frowned. She did not remember her.

"My father had dinner with you at a dinner party once. I came here later. Maybe you were a little drunk at that time and didn't remember me."

Then she knew. She was the daughter of Stephen Stern from the City Hall. She had indeed met her once.

"I remember you." Susan smiled. The date of Manuel, how could she forget her?

What was she doing here?

Clara seemed to see through her and said, "I graduated from college, and at first, I was going to work at the City Hall, but I don't like the fixed work, so I said to my father that I wanted to work in the enterprise. Then I was going to find a job by myself, but my father called Manuel and wanted me to work here. Today is the first day."

"Is that so?" Susan smiled.

On her first day, she was welcomed by the president.

"Nice to meet you here. Please do not hesitate to give me advice." Clara stretched out her hand and looked very polite.

Susan shook her hand.

She said, "Don't ask me for any advice. I'm afraid I'm a bad example. Ask the president, he was good at anything."

"I will study hard and work hard." Clara was very enthusiastic.

"I won't bother you, then." Susan turned and left.

"Susan." Manuel suddenly stopped her. "Is something wrong?"

What could she say?

To ask him if he would be her boyfriend?

In this case, was that even possible?

### **Chapter 807 An Emotional Problem**

Susan looked at him. She smiled and said, "The cake you gave me is not as good as the breakfast I bought."



His face changed a bit.

Clara looked at the bun she had just eaten, "Is this Miss Phillips bought?"

"Yes," Susan nodded and said frankly, "To bribe the boss."

Clara couldn't help smiling, "Really? It tastes so good. When I was in college, I used to take a bus with some friends to eat it before going to school."

Susan smiled and did not say anything.

Clara said again, "I came in a hurry this morning, so I didn't eat breakfast. Manuel gave me this, but I didn't know it was bought by you. I will buy some for you tomorrow morning."

"All right." Susan agreed and acted like she was easygoing. After all, she dared not offend his friends. Maybe this woman would be his wife. Not everyone could touch Manuel's things that easily. Those who had access to his stuff must be close to him.

"Then I'll go." Said Susan. Manuel did not speak and neither did Clara.

Susan left with a wounded heart. She wished so much that Manuel could have waited for her any longer for the breakfast. Her eyes were a little red, but she still had to go. She did not dare to ask him to get back to her. She always thought he was too good for her.

As soon as the door of the office closed, Clara asked, "Manuel, where is my desk? Shall I come over now?"

"Your father told me you majored in administration," Manuel said.

"Right." Clara added, "Graduate school."

"Get an internship in the secretary's office first. The secretary is familiar with many administrative issues of the company, so you can get familiar with the work faster. After your internship, I'll transfer you to the administrative department." Manuel said.

"Okay, thanks," Clara said happily.

"Your father has helped me a lot in the past. If he calls me personally and asks me to help, I will take it to heart. You don't have to thank me." Manuel said bluntly. Clara was unhappy when she heard his words. He meant that he was nice to her because of her father. But her father told her that Manuel was single and their relationship could go further. And her father thought Manuel was on the same page with him. So she had always thought Manuel was different to her.

Manuel pressed the inside line and did not seem to notice her sadness.

"Jade, come in for a moment."

"Yes."

After a while, the secretary came into the office.

"Clara Stern, a new intern in the secretariat office. Please take her with you."

“Yes, sir.”

Manuel said to Clara, “Follow Jade and learn from her. Just ask her if you come across anything you don’t know.”

“Okay,” Clara nodded, “I will.”

“Well, thank you for the breakfast this morning,” Clara said deliberately. She wanted the secretary to know she was different from the others.

“Your stomach was not good. Remember to eat breakfast next time.” Manuel said bluntly.

“I’ll keep that in mind.”

Jade could not help but take a second look at Clara. She wondered what was this woman’s relationship with their president. As a secretary, of course, she would not be foolish enough to inquire, but she had some idea in her mind that she should not offend this woman.

“This way, please, Ms Stern.”

Clara said thanks and left with Jade. Then Manuel darkened his face, for Susan said his cake didn’t taste good. That was a cake getting three Michelin stars. Then he took a look at the breakfast Clara had eaten, and his face turned a little darker.

Susan returned to her office. She was so sad that she wanted to cry. The cake in front of me suddenly didn’t smell good. Why did he give her breakfast to anyone else? Why? Jerk! She couldn’t help cursing Manuel.

The secretary knocked on the door and entered, “Miss Phillips.”

“Yes?” Susan was bending over the desk, heartbroken.

“Is there something wrong?” The secretary looked at her and asked with concern.

“I’m all right. Still alive.” Susan said with has no energy.

Her secretary thought Susan was unlike ordinary people. Working for her was pretty hard. She needed to be more careful and double-check a lot of things under the special order of the president, after all, Susan did not understand many things. But she had a good temper, she was very easygoing and treated her subordinates nicely.

“What’s wrong?” Susan asked her.

“The department meeting will begin in ten minutes, and the president just called and said he would be there.”

She saw that Susan was indifferent and said no more, “I’ll remind you later.”

“Okay.”

“If you are not feeling well, I could go to the pharmacy to get some medicine for you.”

“It’s no use.” Susan shook her head, “It is an emotional problem and can’t be solved.”

The eloquent secretary was always made speechless by her.

“Take the cake and milk away.”

“I thought you wanted to eat it.”

“Not anymore.”

“But without breakfast...”

“Take it away. I am angry as soon as I see it.” Susan urged.

The secretary hurriedly came forward and took it away. Before she left, she was still confirming, “Are you sure?”

“Just take it away, please.” Susan was impatient.

The secretary dared not ask any more questions. She took the cake and went out. Looking at such a delicate pastry, she felt it was a pity to throw it away. She thought for a while and she shared it with other friends. And everyone thought it was delicious.

Ten minutes later, Susan went to the conference room, wondering why Manuel was coming. She did not want to see him at the moment. But he was the boss, anyway.

After she sat down, she started without waiting for him. Manuel did come a few minutes late. The people who followed him were not only Jade but also Clara.

Jade did not ask Clara to come, but Clara insisted to be part of the meeting. Since Jade did not know Clara’s identity, she did not refuse.

### **Chapter 808 Being Scolded Again**

The elevator arrived at the conference room. At the door, two of Susan’s secretaries waited outside. Since the meeting had already begun, the secretary had nothing else to do, so they just stood there chatting.

“The cake this morning was the most delicious I’ve ever eaten in my life. It was sweet but not greasy. I can’t recall it without feeling so happy.”

“Of course. Did you know that cake was the president’s cake? I heard it was made by a three-star Michelin chef.”

“Why didn’t Ms Phillips eat it?” The secretary asked.

“I don’t know.” The other secretary said, “But thanks to that, we could taste such a good cake.”

“I mean don’t you think the relationship between them...”

“Shh. Do you want to get fired? Gossiping about the boss.”

“No, I just think the president and Miss Phillips were always a good match. Not to mention that he sent her delicious cakes, clearly Miss Phillips is not very good at her job but he still appointed her as a

manager. He helped her with all those work in private and told us not to tell her..." The secretary gasped for breath and concluded, "I think the president must still like Miss Phillips."

"So do I."

Sometimes they would forget the people they talked about were the top two in their company.

"But Miss Phillips seems to have little interest in the president. Didn't they get married before? I heard it was Ms Phillips who tried desperately to get divorced. The president is said to have been devastated. He was hurt but he still cares for her. He is a good man. I was moved."

"So what?" one of them couldn't help teasing, "Mr president won't like you. I mean although Miss Phillips sometimes was rash, she was really pretty and has such a good figure. I would like her as well if I were a guy."

"Are you saying that Mr president is attracted to her appearance?"

"All men search for beauty."

The two of them talked excitedly until they saw Manuel suddenly appear in front of them. Both faces were suddenly white with fear, and the smiles on their lips froze. They were lost for words in shock.

Manuel walked past them with a chill. The two secretaries looked at each other. That was it. Just pack up and go!

Susan was checking the work in the conference room. The door opened, and Manuel walked in with two secretaries. Susan took a look and found that Clara also followed him.

She was quite unpleasant.

Was it just that hard to part?

Then she turned her eyes and continued, "Mr Stephenson, the project we talked about last week seems to be having no progress."

"It was because the boss of them was away on business and I had made appointments many times. Progress will be made this week." Matt Stephenson quickly replied.

"All right." Susan nodded, "We had talked about this project from the beginning of the year, but there has been no great progress. You need to work harder."

"Yes, I will."

Susan was going to talk about the next project when Manuel directly interrupted her, "If my memory serves me right, when I was the general manager, I had asked you to deal with it. After such a long time, why is there no progress in this project?"

His words were distinctly harsher.

Susan felt it was quite strange.

Matt looked at Manuel and explained nervously, "Because the person in charge of this project has been on a business trip. It was very difficult for us to make an appointment. We've talked about it once or

twice, but it's just been superficial, so we've been holding off, and we're trying to figure out how to get it done."

"Is that the real reason?" Manuel asked him coldly.

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

Susan looked at Manuel. He had never been this tough before. She was afraid to speak.

"We can't meet with Rex Buckley, who is in charge of this project," Matt said nervously. "And others have no right to make the decision. We're out of options."

"Are you sure he has been away all this time? Last Friday I saw that he posted on moments about attending his daughter's graduation ceremony in Kensbury City." Manuel said bluntly.

His words made Matt's face red, "He did not come back until Friday. And he has to attend his daughter's graduation ceremony on Friday so they didn't agree to our appointment."

"They didn't agree or you didn't try to make it at all?"

Matt was speechless.

"Mr Stephenson, please answer my question." Manuel was pushing him.

"I didn't talk to them. Because I didn't want to bother him. He just came back and his daughter's graduation ceremony was so important." Matt was defending himself.

"So you think our project isn't important?" Manuel raised his eyebrows. His words made people think of him as an unreasonable person.

Susan could not just sit there and watch.

"I'm sure Mr Stephenson has his thoughts. Sometimes being too aggressive is frowned upon and not conducive to collaboration."

"No. It just makes them think this project is not that important to us." Manuel issued a conclusion.

"I don't think so..."

"That's why you haven't seen Rex Buckley for months." Manuel hit the nail on the head.

Susan bit her lips. She was shocked by his tough attitude.

"Because they don't feel your urgency, there would be countless reasons why you can't meet. I want to see clear progress on this project within this week!"

"Rex Buckley has left Kensbury City this week. I asked them about his schedule, and he won't be back until at least next Wednesday." Matt said.

"So what you just promised to Miss Phillips about having progress this week is just being perfunctory and even deceptive?" Manuel scolded him.

Matt was quite embarrassed.

He was just being perfunctory. He looked down on Susan and did not take her words seriously. He was always doing the bare minimum to get by and kept putting it off. And it was really easy to fob her off.

"I..." Matt was speechless for a moment.

"Miss Phillips," Manuel looked at her with a sullen face, "I hope you can be strict in our work. Not just to yourself, but to your subordinates, which is being responsible for the company."

### **Chapter 809 On Business**

Susan was upset. She always trusted everyone. She always felt that what they said was true, that they had their problems. She was always trying not to give others hard time when she could.

Manuel's words made her question herself. She felt she was stupid.

She nodded, "Okay, I'll, I promise."

"I don't need your promise," Manuel said without caring about her feelings.

Susan bit her lip.

Although she felt sad, she did not lose her temper. She dared not get angry. She was afraid that he would kick her out since she had learned her lesson from the last time. Besides, this time she thought it was her fault.

"Get the project settled within this week. I don't need any excuses." Manuel walked away.

Susan looked at his back and held her tears back. She took a deep breath and looked at Matt calmly. Matt was also embarrassed. After all, his lie was exposed in public.

He said awkwardly, "Sorry Miss Phillips, I..."

"We'll talk about it later. We'll discuss this project in private. Do not waste the time of others. Continue reporting on last week's work and your plans for next week. Now, where were we at?"

He did not expect Susan would calm down so quickly. Instead of losing her temper, she was sensible. The rest of the presentation was decidedly more serious than before. No one dared to be perfunctory anymore. They were afraid of being scolded by Manuel in public. At first, they felt that he was criticizing Susan. It took them a while to find that he was helping Susan to establish her authority.

After the meeting, Susan asked Matt to follow her to the office. He was embarrassed. Susan was angry with him, but she thought she should not blame others. She was the one who was stupid and easily deceived. But she did not expect Manuel to criticize her for that in public.

She sighed, "Let's see how we can get it done this week."

Matt looked at Susan in surprise for not blaming him.

Although Susan was easy to believe others, there were still sometimes when she lost her temper. He had seen her quarrel with her father and Manuel in the meeting, so he was ready to be scolded.

"We need to finish this project within this week, otherwise, he might lash out next time. Now let's talk about the project. What is the problem?"

“Rex Buckley reviewed the plan before and we have reached an agreement on the contents of the contract. But then he was always been on business trips, we had no time to discuss it further, so it has been put off.”

“So the only question now is, we couldn’t meet him?”

“Yes, once we do, I’m sure we’ll be able to sign the contract quickly.”

“Good.” Susan nodded, “Since he’s not here, we’ll go find him.”

Matt looked at her with surprise.

“You mean, we’re going on a business trip?”

“Manuel said that they felt that we do not pay enough attention to this project. We’ll fly out to find him to show it is important to us.”

“Okay, I see.” Matt knew this was a big problem, so he agreed.

“Get ready. We’ll leave early tomorrow morning.”

“Got it.”

Susan nodded.

Before he left, he said, “Miss Phillips, thank you.”

Susan was surprised.

What made him grateful was that Susan did not embarrass him, but took it as her responsibility. She might not be all perfect today but she was such a committed leader, given time, she would be great.

After Matt left, sadness came to her mind. Manuel shouted at her sharply in front of so many people, including Clara. She seemed to see her secretly laugh at her.

Susan had just decided to find Rex Buckley to talk about the project for two reasons. First, they needed to move the project forward. She didn’t want to be scolded by him again. More importantly, this stalled project affected the company’s work. Second, she did not want to see Manuel these days. She needed some time and space to accept the fact that he was with others.

Susan left early the next morning without noticing Manuel. Manuel did not know that she was away on business until he went to her office. He said nothing but according to his secretary, he was not in a good mood the whole week.

Hannah received a phone call from Rose a week later.

It must have been so hard for her to call Hannah. She was almost crying, “Sarah was the worst leader, for real. After she came here, the company was in chaos. She looked down on everyone. We were all worthless in her eyes. Everything we say or we do was wrong.”

Hannah felt sorry after hearing her words.

She knew Rose well. She was the hunker-down type. She would never say it unless it was a big problem. Sarah had only been there a week and made Rose break down.

“She knew nothing about the plan we gave her, but she kept picking at it. Every plan needs to be changed at least ten times and the reason is ridiculous. Sometimes she felt the choice of words was not accurate enough they were the same meaning and it was no big deal, but we must modify the words as she wanted. If she didn’t like some sentences during the report, she would ask us to change them immediately. Then she would make the excuse that she was too busy to check again, and it would be held on for days. And later, she would call us in the middle of the night and ask for the information right away.” Rose was about to cry as she spoke.

“This week had been a hell of a week! I have never met a leader like her. She was insane!”

### **Chapter 810 Sarah Had It Coming**

“We worked all night again last night. Everybody was very tired now, but we cannot go home. But Sarah went back to sleep after she asked us to stay up. It’s been like that the whole week. She was the only one who had a good time. She even dares to post moments, saying ‘Tonight is another sleepless night’, which made others think she worked hard. I want to throw a cup of coffee in her face. She makes me sick!”

Hannah pursed her lips. If it went on like this, the company would go bankrupt sooner or later.

She said, “Rose, I’ll call you later.”

“Ms Hannah, I’m not asking you to help us. I just can’t find anyone to talk to. Everyone is under great pressure and I am afraid that complaining to them will cause chaos in the company. You don’t have to take it seriously. And you can rest assured that we will be dedicated to our job. We will never forget what you have done for us when you left.”

“I know.” Hannah said, “I will call you later.”

“Okay.”

Then Hannah called Manuel.

“Hannah.”

“Have you left Cooper Group?”

“Not really. But Sarah is there and I am trying not to interfere with her work for her family.”

“So you mean that you will allow everything she does?”

“That’s not what I mean, but sometimes I have to give her some authority in order not to cause inevitable conflicts with the Collins family.”

“Fine, I see.”

“Hannah,” Manuel noticed she was in a bad mood, “If you have any questions, you should call Oscar. He can explain...”



“No, thanks,” Hannah refused, “I think it is better to ask you.”

Manuel was silent.

“Since you can’t fix it, I’ll figure it out myself.”

And then she just hung up.

Manuel looked at his phone helplessly. He knew what Sarah had done in Cooper Group, and so did Oscar. And the reason they left Sarah alone was not because of the Collins family. They were trying to find a chance to kick them out of the business field.

Manuel called someone and asked, “How’s it going with Sarah?”

“We have been secretly collecting evidence on her. I’ll send it to you now.”

“Good.”

Manuel was about to put down the phone when he suddenly paused. Then he saw Susan’s name on his phone. He wanted to call her but he didn’t. She took leave without delay and after all these days she still hadn’t come back. She did not make him a phone call, not even a message.

Manuel put the phone aside and began to work.

Hannah called Rose back.

Rose answered, “Ms Hannah.”

“Just call me Hannah.”

Rose found it hard to say that.

Hannah changed the subject, “Those things you said about Sarah were all about work. Even if we exposed her now, she could easily clarify it as her intention to work harder in front of the media and it wouldn’t bring her trouble. On the contrary, it might burnish her image.”

Rose was confused.

Hannah asked, “Has she ever said anything insulting?”

Rose thought for a moment and answered, “Yes!”

“Like what?”

“It’s very discouraging to say that even though we worked so long, our ideas are still old, that we’re rigid, that we don’t have constructive ideas.”

“No, it’s not enough.”

“What do you mean?” Rose asked.

“Aren’t you all sick of her? We’ll try to get rid of her.”

“Get rid of her? How? I heard she was appointed and she was from the Collins family. And I heard that Mr Wells and Lillian Collins are...” Rose stopped here. She was afraid of hurting Hannah.

Hannah already knew that. The news about them was all over the media. And so did the gossip.

“That is why we need help from outside,” Hannah said calmly. She did not care a long time ago.

Rose was still confused. She felt that Sarah was coming from a strong family. She could do anything she want and no one can stop her. She just wanted to vent her depression by complaining about it to Hannah. She was not intended to ask for Hannah’s help.

Rose did not know why Hannah would suddenly leave Cooper Group. But after all the news, everyone could see that Oscar and Lilian were together. She had no idea that he was a bad man before.

“Do as I say...” Hannah told Rose what she should do.

And Rose was shocked by the fact Hannah was still the same as before. She was still tough.

“Keep in touch. Tell me everything. If she knew that, it would be harder for us.”

“I see.” Rose nodded.

Hannah said something more before she hung up the phone.

After that, she turned her head to watch TV. In addition to entertainment news, she also read current news. She saw him on the news a lot and he was always with Lilian.

“How long has she been pregnant? What if something happened to her?” she wondered.

Hannah turned off the TV. She was still a little sad. Even the baby in her tummy was moving as if it could feel her frustration again. Then she stroked her belly and went for a walk in the backyard.

Max had been living with Hannah. He felt sorry for her. She was always here alone.

When he saw her watching the TV, although she did not show her sadness, he could feel it deep down in her heart. She was suffering in silence.

He didn’t know when it was going to end, or when things would go back to normal.