

Reborn 811

Chapter 811 Susan Back

It was beyond Susan's expectations that this business trip took her half a month, as she had expected to finish the trip in a week. And her project had been nearly wrecked by so many unexpected events happening midway. She hadn't realized that the customer company had a little wish for cooperation with Phillips Bank till she was in deep conversation with the boss of that company. That was why the officers of that company had always rejected Susan's requests for a meeting with them. The project would have failed if Susan hadn't gone to visit their office. Luckily, the officers there were favourably impressed by the sincerity of Susan's party. Susan waited outside the customer company for meeting the officers every day and finally got an opportunity to cooperate.

It was afternoon when Susan and Matt returned to Kensbury City after signing the contract with that company. Susan had wanted to have a rest at home. She didn't have good sleep during the business trip, worrying about the contract every night. But as soon as they came back to Kensbury City, they just got a phone call from Manuel and they were asked to go to the office.

Later, they arrived at Manuel's office, exhausted. There was nothing changed these days. Susan looked calm and composed. Suddenly, the door opened, and Clara Stern came into the office with three cups of coffee.

"President, your mocha, please. I made it for you." Smiled Clara.

Manuel nodded, "Thank you."

Clara had a sweet smile on her face. She passed the other two coffees to Susan and Matt and then went out.

Susan felt Manuel was in a bad mood. "The contract has been signed." She began and handed the contract to Manuel.

Manuel took a glance at the file.

"The content of this contract meets the requirement of our company. The customer company is gratified at the cooperation with us." Susan continued.

"If so, why it took so much time?" asked Manuel.

Susan hesitated a moment, and then explained, "In fact, they have no intention of cooperating with us, for they are in negotiation with other companies. It concerns them that we lack experience in cross-industry projects. That's why they had always rejected our requests for a meeting with them. The matter was not what I had prefigured it. This project would have fizzled if you hadn't called my attention to that."

Susan was filled with admiration at Manuel's insightful view when she realized the customer company had no intention of cooperating with Phillips Bank. She had thought they had been too busy to give an interview to her. Now she had learned that there was no place for sincerity and sentiment in business affairs.

Manuel still had a poker face, silent.

Susan continued, "We had stayed there every day to have a meet with them those days, and finally we met them. They agreed to meet us for showing respect to you." That's not her flattering remarks, but the facts. On the one hand, it was Susan who had struck a chord in them. On the other hand, they thought highly of Manuel's business talents. "They had challenged our ability to engage in cross-industry business in the beginning, but they started to hesitate when I mentioned you. Shortly afterwards, they told me they believed in your business talents and decided to cooperate with us after careful consideration. That's the whole story of the contract." Susan continued.

It was also from this matter that Susan found the gap between her and Manuel had been increasingly widened. She had always given the cold shoulder to Manuel in her childhood, yet now she felt she was out of his league.

Manuel still kept silent when Susan finished her report. Then Susan just sat there quietly and waited for his criticism. She thought, "Whatever you think, fine by me." She had an increasingly peaceful state of mind now.

"Susan, you are the general manager, and you bear the responsibility of the company. Didn't you think you're going away affect the company's operations?" Manuel asked.

Manuel didn't award praise for her. Instead, he blamed her lack of due consideration.

"I'll not do that again." She admitted her fault readily, without explanation. She worked remotely at the hotel these days, and sometimes she still worked at late night. Yet that couldn't be the reason for her, she thought. The only thing she needed to do was to admit her fault as Manuel said.

"You must get my permission for wherever you go," Manuel said in a cold voice.

"Yes," responded Susan immediately.

"You may get out now." Said Manuel.

Susan and Matt got out of the office then. They were quite sleepy.

"You can go home now." Susan began.

Matt didn't say no, since he was indeed exhausted from the business trip. He had wanted to defend Susan when Manuel criticized her, but he suppressed his thoughts. It was common that one would think of himself more in the workplace.

"OK, and you?" said Matt.

"Do you think I can leave now? Manuel is not satisfied with me at all." Susan said resignedly.

"Then I..."

"You just go home. You're my direct subordinate, not Manuel's." Susan interrupted him. It was uncommon to bypass the immediate leadership in the workplace. "You just have a good sleep, and we have a lot of things to deal with tomorrow." Susan continued.

"All right. Take care!" said Matt.

Susan nodded. She thought she was young and could withstand stress.

Chapter 812 Inferiority

Susan came back to her office. Her secretary, Tammy, felt surprised, as she had thought Susan would have been back tomorrow. So she had scheduled Susan's work for tomorrow a few minutes ago.

"Miss Phillips?"

"Brew some coffee, please." Said Susan, "Oh, black coffee, no sugar."

Tammy was dumbfounded, as Susan always drank coffee with a lot of sugar and milk. Then she went to make the coffee. After a little while, Tammy was back with a cup of coffee.

Susan had a strange look after taking a sip of coffee. Tammy could help to laugh, and said, "Can I make another coffee for you?"

"No, thanks. Black coffee helps stimulate me." Susan said, in a flat tone.

"You look very weary, and your eyes are bloodshot. I think you need a good rest." Tammy said, a bit worried.

"Really?" Susan looked somewhat doubtful.

"Yes, it's noticeable. I'll give you a mirror." Tammy took a vanity mirror to Susan.

Susan didn't have plans to go to work today, so she didn't wear makeup. Looking in the mirror, she realized she had a lusterless look, with bloodshot eyes. She couldn't figure out why Manuel was so heartless.

Susan gave Tammy back the mirror and said, "I'm just going to go freshen up. You call those above the manager level to come here for a meeting."

"I see," Tammy replied respectfully.

Susan splashed some cold water over her face, trying to keep her head cool. She discussed the proposals at the meeting for the whole afternoon and fixed the final plan finally. After that, she was so tired that she fell asleep at the desk. She was in deep sleep and didn't notice when Manuel came into the office.

Tammy hastily explained to Manuel, "Miss Phillips has been at the meeting since she was back. She was weary, and her eyes are bloodshot. She's been asleep for a little while."

"You can go out," Manuel said in a soft voice.

The secretary didn't continue to say and went out of the office. She wondered if Manuel cared for Susan. She was a little excited when she imagined their past love resumed in the office.

Manuel came close to Susan, who was so tired and was snoring at the moment. Manuel had noticed Susan was very exhausted. He didn't expect to see Susan still working in the office. He thought she would have been at home instead of working here. If the manager of the sales department hadn't reported work to him, he couldn't have known that Susan was still in her office. He looked down at her, who was dribbling. He couldn't help laughing for the moment. And Manuel stretched out a hand to give her the touch of the lips, trying to wipe her slaver.

Susan woke up suddenly at the moment and was just shocked to find Manuel standing in front of her. She hastened to stand up, and explained, "I'm not sleeping."

She felt ashamed of that.

Manuel drew back his hand, feeling a bit disappointed for failing to wipe her slaver. Then he said, in a serious tone, "Wipe your slaver."

Susan didn't get that at the moment, and then she hastily touched her mouth. She was flushed with embarrassment.

"It's not appropriate to sleep in the office." Manuel continued.

"I'm sorry. I'll never do that again. I'm going to go freshen up." Susan said and went into the washing room of the office. There was a sofa bed in the office, she could sleep there if she wanted. She was so tired. Looking in the mirror, she felt that she had no image before Manuel now.

After a short while, Susan came out of the washing room and just found Clara there with a document for Manuel to sign his name. She couldn't help observing Clara. She had delicate make-up, which was light but showed a pure and refined quality. She wore a secretary's uniform. In Phillips Bank, the secretaries' uniforms are tailored to measure, as required for the company's image. It was crystal-clear that Clara's uniform had been cut shorter and tighter, and presented her body.

Susan wore casual clothes and sports shoes. She had never thought her appearance would be at a disadvantage compared with others, except for Hannah. She always thought Hannah was the beloved of God. As for figure or dress, she and Hannah were equally matched. But for now, she had a sense of inferiority before Clara.

Clara saw her and greeted her with a sweet smile, "Miss Phillips."

Susan just said hello to Clara, got to her desk, and resumed working, looking right through them.

Chapter 813 A Boy Or a Girl?

"You can go home now." Manuel looked at Susan and said directly.

"I've got something to do, and I'll get off work when I finish that." Susan said, without a glance at them. She didn't want to look at them, and she hoped they could get out now.

"President, we'd rather not disturb Miss Phillips." Suggested Clara, softly.

Manuel said nothing and got away with Clara. Susan looked at their figures when they left. She thought Clara might be very close to Manuel deliberately. She felt sad about that, then she got her eyes shifted to the computer.

Manuel walked into the lift, followed by Clara.

"If there are any files for me, just put them on my desk, and don't look for me with them." Manuel began.

Clara looked dumbfounded, then nodded hurriedly, “Yes, sir, I’ll keep it in my mind. The finance department wants this document urgently, and I’m afraid their work would be delayed, so I got it to you. I’m sorry to have disturbed you. I didn’t mean to do that.” She looked so sorry.

Manuel swallowed his words of criticism.

“I’ve been here for only half a month, and there are still some rules I’ve not known. I’m so sorry, sir.” Her eyes were filled with tears as she said.

“Don’t beat yourself. Well, don’t do this again.” Manuel said, in a softer voice.

“Yes, and I’ll keep it in my mind.” Said Clara.

Manuel didn’t say more. When the lift stopped, Manuel got out. Clara watched his figure, looking displeased. In truth, she did that intentionally. Since she had worked here for half a month, she had already known the relationship between Manuel and Susan. She had just found they still had feelings for each other. It was the fact that Clara had fallen in love with Manuel at the first sight, so she couldn’t accept the possibility that Manuel patched things up with Susan.

Clara had always set the bar too high. There had been many gentlemen trying to make a pass at Clara, but all of them had been rejected by her as she thought she was out of their league. Clara had thought Manuel was her Mr Right the first time she saw him. In her eyes, Manuel was a cultured, talented and refined man with splendid ability and wealth. He was such a perfect man that belonged exclusively to herself. She came to the Phillips Bank to make approaches to him. Clara had passed the examinations of the City Hall and had given up the chance of working there. Her father hadn’t allowed Clara to do so but finally had compromised with her because she loved Manuel. Manuel was a man who appealed the people of various age groups. In a word, Manuel was the best man in her eyes.

Clara had just found in these days that Manuel still had feelings for Susan. It seemed that he had always been caring for Susan, even if it looked like he was finding fault with her all the time. Like today, she thought Manuel asked Susan to come back to the office without the intention of criticizing her, but he was just seemingly unhappy to see her away from him for such a long time. Clara never wanted to see the reunion of Susan and Manuel after the separation. She swore to herself, that she would make Manuel hers, by all means.

It was in a high-grade private hospital, and Hannah felt her belly had been swelling. She wondered if the fetus developed very fast in this period. She was having pregnancy check-ups now, lying on a comfortable bed. Oscar gave her some freedom, but there were a lot of guys asked to protect and observe her when she wanted to go out.

“Is the baby a boy or a girl?” Hannah asked, suddenly.

The words failed the doctor. It was required in Northfield that the doctors mustn’t reveal the gender of a fetus. In private, sometimes the doctors might tell the gender to their old friends, of course. But at that moment, the doctor failed to know how to reply to Hannah’s question. He was stuck in a dilemma. After all, Hannah was a person of very important social status, whom the doctor dared not to offend. Yet the doctor was worrying if Hannah meant to make him break the law of Northfield.

“Forget it. Just let it be.” Said Hannah. She didn’t want to embarrass the doctor. Perhaps she didn’t care about it. She hadn’t thought of the gender of the fetus for a very long time. Susan asked that when she came to see Hannah last time, which made her torn with conflicting thoughts.

The doctor was streaming with sweat, feeling worried whether he had displeased Hannah or not. Hannah could feel that, and she wanted to tell the doctor that there was no need to be so nervous and that she didn’t have a such high status as he thought. Surely, she couldn’t reveal her divorce for Oscar hadn’t announced it publicly. After all, everything was under the control of Oscar, and Hannah bore no initiative.

After the pregnancy check-ups, Hannah was sitting in the car and looking at the test report on the way home. The report showed that the fetus was healthy, with all indicators being normal. Meanwhile, Oscar also received the test report on his phone. He was now engaging in a friendly international conference, but he still took his phone to read the report. He got distracted when he found his baby was very healthy and couldn’t hear what others were saying at this moment.

“Commander,” Lillian called him in a very soft voice.

Then Oscar put down his phone quietly and resumed discussing at the conference. Undoubtedly, losing concentration was not appropriate at such an international conference of vital importance.

Lillian cast a glance at Oscar’s phone and just found the test report of Hannah. There was no change in her countenance; but apparently, she felt not good, as Oscar would always think of Hannah at any time. She couldn’t understand why Hannah was so important to Oscar.

Chapter 814 A Trap for Sarah Collins

Hannah got back to the villa directly after the pregnancy check-ups. Max hastened forward to meet Hannah, and asked, “Ms Cooper, what did the doctor say? How is the baby?”

“Healthy. Grows a lot.” Hannah said with a smile.

“You don’t seem to gain weight.” Said Max.

“Max, it’s the baby.” Hannah said, “The doctor said the fetus had been growing healthily.”

Sometimes Hannah signed with wonder at the greatness of life, and she wondered if the baby could feel her thoughts. So, it was trying to grow vigorously in the womb.

Hannah went into the lounge and sat on the sofa. Now, right on cue, Hannah’s phone rang.

“Ms Hannah, I got it,” Rose said, in a very excited voice.

Hannah was pretty chill, and she just said, “Come to my home, and talk that face to face.”

“OK, I’ll come soon,” Rose said and hang up the phone.

After a while, Rose arrived at the villa and got into the lounge. She was shocked at the so many bodyguards in there. “Are they protecting you?” Rose couldn’t help asking.

Hannah had gotten used to the life of being under observation by so many people every day. She didn’t explain that to Rose, and just said, “Show me the video.”

Rose hastily took out her phone and pulled up the encrypted video. In the video, Sarah shouted with an exasperated face. And she tossed all the things on her desk on the ground, including the computer. She even threw the computer at an employee, deliberately. Then the employee cried because of the pain. Yet Sarah shouted at her, "What are you crying for? You asked for it."

The subordinate dared not to continue speaking.

"How dare you talk behind my back! Malicious? Incompetent? Nobody loves me?" Sarah yelled.

All the employees in the office were shivering with fear, silent. Hannah could visualize what had happened through the video. After all, it was she who asked Rose to do so.

Sarah deliberately vented her anger on everyone Hannah had once put in important positions, to justify her existence and take revenge on her. The staff had no choice but to endure her abuse, for they wanted to retain their positions in the company.

It was Hannah's trap that Rose intentionally irritated her at first, and then recorded it when Sarah lost her tempers and exposed the video at last.

Hannah continued to watch the video, peacefully. In the video, Sarah shouted, "If you don't want to work here, get out of the company! Right now! The company doesn't need you!" That remark of "Nobody loves her" hit a raw nerve. Some employees even wept because of her ruthless words.

"The Cooper Group will develop well without you! I'm degrading myself by working with you a group of idiots. If Manuel hadn't invited me to be the general manager, how could I have been here? I feel shame to work here and with you of low grade. How can you be the core members of the company? Hannah must have been blind to recruit you. To the hell with the lot of you!" Sarah continued to shout.

Hannah just watched the video at Sarah's malicious look, with a cold smile. As the saying goes, a loose tongue is a source of evil. Sarah perhaps forgot that she was in a time of developed communications. Sarah continued to vent her rage, yelling at one of the employees, "Get out of here and get your fucking pay. I don't want to see you here."

"I have signed a long-term agreement with the company. I didn't make any critical mistakes. You can't fire me." The employee said, mustering up the courage.

"Agreement? For money? I've got oceans of money, and half of the country belongs to the Collins family. Do you think I can't afford such a little sum of compensation? What a huge joke!" said Sarah, with an extremely arrogant attitude.

"The law protects our rights." The employee seemed to throw caution to the wind.

"The law?" Sarah laughed with scorn, "It's us who make the law! We can dismiss you effortlessly."

The employee was speechless.

Sarah felt better, and added, "It's not fair in the world, never from birth. I was born of the highest status. You ragtags!"

The employee couldn't bear Sarah anymore and bugged out. And the video finished at the moment.

Rose felt indignant, and said, "I've already watched it several times, but I still feel infuriated. How can she be so arrogant and rude!"

Hannah hadn't expected to see Sarah was so disgusting before she watched the video. She thought Sarah was well-educated anyway and she could keep a check on her temper. She had never pictured the scene in her mind that Sarah could be so vulgarly low as she was in the video.

"What should I do next?" asked Rose.

"I'll tell you later."

"All right. At your disposal." Rose didn't continue to ask. She thought Sarah would completely lose her face if the video should be exposed. Certainly, it would not be so easy. Sarah was so rude and arrogant for she was clear that no one dare to set himself against the Collins family in the country. It was an ill-considered act to expose the video directly, and that might alert Sarah.

Then Rose got away from the house.

Hannah gave a call to Manuel after a slight hesitation.

Meanwhile, Manuel was at a meeting. He got out when he received the phone call. Susan looked at him, wondering who could get Manuel out of work. "Anyway, it's not me." Thought Susan.

It was outside the meeting room. Manuel got the phone, "Hannah."

"Have you said I can ask you for help with going over Oscar's head?" asked Hannah.

"Sure," Manuel answered immediately. He was afraid that Hannah bore a grudge against him because of Oscar.

Chapter 815 Manuel and Hannah Team Up

"But you cannot ride Oscar's last nerve," Manuel added.

"Taking revenge on the Collins family, is that his bottom line?"

"No," Manuel answered bluntly.

Hannah was a bit doubtful at his words.

"You are his bottom line," said Manuel, "and, Lillian, too."

Hannah sneered.

"Exactly, it's the baby in her belly," Manuel added.

Actually, for Hannah, that was a matter of no consequence. In a word, she could crack down on anyone except for Lillian Collins. It was enough to get the answer.

"I'll crack down Sarah," Hannah said frankly.

Manuel frowned, as he hadn't imagined that Hannah would like to take action so early. He was also collecting Sarah's faults these days. It seemed that Hannah got the drop on him.

“Can you tell me the details?” asked Manuel.

“I don’t care what Sarah is doing in the Cooper Group. I’ve taken over the management to you, so it’s nothing of my business now. Sarah has interfered with the staff of the company now. The Cooper Group is not important to me, but the staff is. So, to let them work well in the company, I must get Sarah out of the company, in a sorry state.” Hannah said, in a serious tone.

“What can I do for you?” asked Manuel, suppressing the excitement inside. He thought that the matter might be cut and dried since Hannah had mentioned that.

Then Hannah told her plan to him.

Manuel agreed immediately, without thinking, “Great.”

“I hope you do not tell Oscar about it,” Hannah said.

Manuel was silent for the moment, he was embarrassed.

“I don’t want him to interfere with it.”

“He won’t.”

“No, he will if Lillian asks.”

Manuel was speechless. There was something in what she said. Lillian’s words carried much weight indeed. “Well, I promise you I won’t tell him about it.”

“Thank you, Manuel.”

“Don’t mention it.”

Hannah didn’t say more and hung up the phone.

Manuel came back to the meeting room, where everyone was waiting for him.

“You can discuss the project, and later Miss Phillips will report it to me. I have to go now.” Manuel said and left quickly. Clara hastily caught up with him.

Susan looked at them and wondered what was the matter that let Manuel head out so hurriedly. Then she turned and said to the others, “Now please report to me on the project list that President has demanded just now. I’ll report it to him later.”

Others felt a bit relaxed. The atmosphere was always tense if Susan was at the meeting held by Manuel. The meeting lasted for a long time, and they discussed a lot at the meeting. Susan got back to her office, quite exhausted.

“Black coffee, please,” Susan asked.

“Okay,” Tammy answered.

After a little while, she was back with a cup of coffee in her hand.

“Do you want to rest a bit? You don’t need to sort out these materials urgently. President asked you to report to him later, not now.”

“What if he asks for me now?”

“He shouldn’t be a creep!” Tammy blurted.

“Creep, hmm, a good word for him. He wishes I’ll work till I drop.” Susan drank the coffee, wearing a resigned look.

“I think Mr Johnson is concerned about you.” Tammy couldn’t help speaking up for Manuel.

“Where did you see that? Every time he holds a meeting, he always wears a long face if I’m at the meeting. I even think whether I’m unnecessary or not.” Susan said, angrily.

Tammy had heard of it. So, when Manuel held a meeting, they would ask Manuel if Susan also attend the meeting. They had to force themselves to attend the meeting like they were going to the front line.

“In my opinion, Mr Johnson aims to root for you by wearing a long face. You’re an easy compromise, and it’s not good for management. He just wants you to learn that, I think.”

“He can tell me if he wants me to learn that, instead of being so serious with me,” Susan said with a disapproving look.

“I remember Mr Johnson has told you.” Tammy blurted. She also knew Susan’s temper, then she added hastily, “Perhaps he wishes you will change little by little.”

“Why are you speaking up for him all the time?” Susan asked, a bit fretful.

“I just said what I saw.”

“That will do. Get out.” Susan said restlessly.

The secretary went out resignedly. Susan easily got fretful while talking about Manuel.

Susan was reclining on the chair, feeling mentally collapsed. She wondered if she would suffer from depression from being occupied with anxious work every day.

“Is he concerned about me? Does he mean torturing me?” Susan thought, “Let it be. Let it be. The days ahead are long, anyway.”

She tried to calm herself down to resume work. Susan had a lot of work to do, and she had to be carefully sorting out these files. She didn’t expect to be scolded for a mistake anymore. Later, she went to Manuel’s office when she just finished that.

Chapter 816 Clara’s Ruse

Susan knocked at the door, but no one answered. She frowned, saw the time, and found that it was still during office hours. Gritting her teeth, she pushed open the office door and entered the spacious room where there was nobody. Seeing this, she realized that Manuel left early. But Manuel didn’t leave early very often. However, his absence was good news for Susan since she could report to him the next day. During the day, she was busy preparing the report and didn’t have time to deal with other tasks that she had to finish today. With that, Susan turned and intended to leave the office.

But at the same time, she seemed to hear something in the cubicle of the office, which made her stop. She told herself that she should leave at once because it was not supposed to pry. However, she still went to the door of the cubicle unconsciously. Then she heard a woman say, "President, are you ready?" Her voice seemed a little urgent, which was familiar to Susan since she had heard that kind of voice when she looked at porn. Suddenly, she felt a little heartbroken, stood in the doorway, and couldn't move her feet.

"Oh... Do it gently... it aches..." The woman said with a broken voice. As learned from porn, Susan knew that it was a trick that women usually used to arouse men's possessiveness and make them more excited when having sex.

Holding her computer, Susan was trembling. She couldn't believe that Manuel, a reserved man, was so eager to have sex and did this right here in his office. Susan wanted to push open the door and see how excited Manuel and Clara were in the cubicle. Was it possible that she could completely forget Manuel and wouldn't be heartbroken anymore if she could see what they do in the cubicle? She might not feel distressful when she was hurt too much.

She held out her hand but drew it back at last. She was not brave enough to see naked Manuel making love with another woman. She could only imagine the scene, without doing anything. She preferred to ignore what she heard and left the office awkwardly. She walked so hurriedly and almost tripped over her own feet. When she closed the office door, the door of the cubicle was opened. Clara came out of the cubicle. As a secretary, she still wore a slim suit for work, with a cold smile on her face.

Manuel wasn't there. He had left the office after midday without telling her the reason. Clara wasn't feeling motivated to work after he left. Then she chose to tidy up Manuel's office since she was reluctant to do other work. When she heard the knock at the door, she knew that it must be Susan who was going to report to Manuel. Therefore, she decided to cheat on Susan by pretending to have sex with Manuel. By doing so, she hoped to hurt Susan and make her quit. It seemed that Clara succeeded. She believed that Susan would not love Manuel anymore. With this, she smirked, being determined to have a relationship with Manuel.

Manuel went to Hannah's place since he had to talk to her face to face. "The video was posted online and it will be available at least for two hours." He said.

"That's great." Hannah nodded. Everyone would see this video because two hours was enough for it to go viral online.

"Are we going to set up an interview for Sarah tomorrow?" Manuel confirmed the plan with Hannah.

"Yes. Sarah will be interviewed by the most authoritative magazine in Northfield."

"Well, I have already called the office of the magazine. They told me that the chief editor will interview Sarah in person. The content behind the scenes will be uploaded then." Manuel said. At the same time, he was amazed at the vindictiveness of Hannah who tried every possible way to ruin Sarah's reputation.

"I will ask Sarah again to see whether she would like to accept the interview or not."

“She will accept it.” Hannah was quite sure about it. “She is keen to be admired by everyone and to show how successful she is. Therefore, she would be happy to accept the interview conducted by an authoritative magazine.”

Manuel nodded, realizing that Hannah knew much about Sarah’s inner thoughts.

“All right, I will invite some reporters to cover the event.” Manuel said, “You just need to watch the news then.”

“Thanks.”

“To be honest...I should say thanks to you.” Manuel said.

Hannah felt confused. Manuel pressed his lips, “You will know why in the future.”

Hannah didn’t ask the reason. She didn’t care whether Manuel told her or not. She was satisfied to live her life.

“Well, I am going to prepare for it.” Manuel got up and was about to leave. Hannah didn’t ask him to stay.

“By the way, my cousin will be back in a week.”

Hannah looked at him.

“I am just telling you his agenda. There is no hidden meaning. And I didn’t tell him the things that happened today.”

“Got it,” Hannah answered indifferently.

Manuel didn’t say anything and left the villa. When he was driving, his mother called him. “Mum.”

“Do you work overtime today?” Justine asked, knowing that her son was always busy.

“Nope,” Manuel said. It was quitting time, so he wasn’t going to the company today. What’s more, he had to deal with other things.

“Then why not have dinner with me? I haven’t seen you for a long time.” Justine said.

“Well...” Manuel considered for a while, “Okay.”

Considering that having dinner wouldn’t spend too much time, he said, “Where are you now? I am going to pick you up.”

“I’m in the hospital. Come now.”

“Is Edward feeling better?” Manuel asked.

“No. If he is better, I don’t need to go to the hospital every day.”

Manuel didn’t say anything.

“Well, be careful when driving. Pick me up now.”

“Okay.” Manuel hung up.

After hanging up, Justine dialled another number. "Susan?"

Susan said nothing and wondered why Justine suddenly called her. But she thought that Justine's call was not a good thing for her.

"Could you have dinner with me tonight?" Justine said suddenly.

"I'm at work now."

"Then stop working now."

"How can you be so aggressive?" Susan was angry. She couldn't understand what was wrong with Manuel and Justine. Why both of them made her so angry?

"I have taken care of your dad for such a long time. Isn't it necessary for you to invite me for dinner?" Justine said stoutly.

Susan was furious but she couldn't reject her since Justine asked her to have dinner forcefully. "What do you want to have for dinner?"

"Let's go to the X restaurant on the 68th floor."

Susan was dissatisfied with the restaurant Justine named because the food there was quite expensive.

"Fine."

"We will meet at 7 PM. Don't be late."

"I know," Susan answered impatiently. After she hung up, she didn't want to work. To be honest, she almost collapsed in the afternoon and didn't do anything. Then she went to the bathroom to reapply her makeup since she wanted to look decent when she met Justine. But then she was startled when she looked in the mirror. Her eyes were red and puffy.

Chapter 817 An Awkward Dinner

Susan put on delicate makeup and told herself that she must dress well and look terrific. With an effort, she managed to look good. But when she arrived at the restaurant, Justine still noticed her red and puffy eyes. "Did you cry?"

Susan wanted to roll her eyes. She wondered how Justine could have seen her red eyes under delicate makeup.

"I don't think crying is appropriate for an adult." Justine crinkled her nose contemptuously.

Susan was unhappy about this and was about to sit beside Justine. Before she sat down, Justine asked her to sit opposite her. "Take that seat."

"I know that you hate me. Why do you ask me to have dinner with you? Are you enjoying seeing the one you hate?" Susan said.

"Not just me and you."

“Who else...” As soon as Susan had asked, she saw Manuel go up to them from the direction of the restroom.

“Shit. Why do they ask me to have dinner with them? Do they want me to pay the bill? Holly shit. Manuel has got my dad’s property. How shameless he is to ask me to pay!” Susan thought.

She knew that her word didn’t count for anything, thus she said nothing and pretended to be polite to Manuel. When Manuel got closer, Susan stood up to show her respect for him. Justine frowned, amazed at Susan’s reaction. She wondered what Manuel had done and made Susan act in this way, but she stayed calm and collected. At the same time, Manuel felt surprised to see Susan here. But he also kept composed and went to the table.

“President.” Susan greeted him respectfully.

Manuel nodded slightly, which made him look haughty before Susan and sat next to her at the same time. Then Susan also sat down, after which she was on pins and needles. She was reluctant to have dinner with Justine, and she didn’t expect that Manuel would be here, which made her more dissatisfied. The presence of Manuel reminded Susan of what she had experienced in his office. Susan bit her lip and tried not to think about his having sex with Clara.

“Have you taken your order yet?” Susan asked, extremely embarrassed.

“Not yet.” Justine said. “I am waiting for you. It’s ten minutes from the company to here. How could you spend forty minutes to get here?”

“I was stuck in traffic,” Susan explained weakly in a low voice. She immediately changed the subject, “Then just order what you want. I will pay the bill.”

Justine and Manuel ordered their food separately. Looking at the expensive set of meals they ordered, Susan knew that this dinner would cost a lot. Although she had a devotion to material things, she wanted to order the least expensive set of meals at the moment. But she believed that a cheap set meal would make her look superior to Justine and Manuel. As a result, she ordered an expensive set meal although she was reluctant to spend so much. After ordering, there was another awkward moment. To be specific, it was an awkward moment for her because she didn’t know what to say. Therefore, she could only listen to Justine and Manuel talking.

“When will Oscar be back?” Justine asked.

“Maybe in a week.”

“How are Hannah and the child?”

“They are fine. Don’t worry. Hannah is a rational person and she is not likely to act too extremely.”

“I know, I just...” Justine sighed. “And how about you?”

“What do you mean?” Manuel tried to avoid answering this question with a smile.

“I am asking you about your relationships.” Justine pointed it out.

“Just let it run its course,” Manuel answered perfunctorily.

Susan was drinking lemonade and thought that Justine didn't need to worry about Manuel's relationships and that maybe she might have a grandson in the coming months.

"At this age, I just want to keep my family whole. I can't accept anyone to leave." Justine said.

"I see," Manuel replied.

Justine and Manuel kept talking. Sometimes, Susan couldn't understand what they were talking about, which made her feel worse. Fortunately, the dinner was served. Susan had her dinner silently, without uttering a word. Looking at this, Justine asked, "Why are you so quiet?"

Susan wiped her lips and explained, "I am a little hungry." At the same time, she thought that silence was her only choice since she couldn't join in their conversation.

"You look thinner," Justine said, looking at her.

"Really?" Susan responded with a big smile. "Do you mean it? I have tried to lose weight but failed. Now I'm happy to see that."

Justine didn't say anything and thought that Susan was innocent. At this moment, Manuel turned his head to take a glance at Susan, finding that she indeed looked thinner. With a knife and fork, Susan's wrists looked skinny. She was so vulnerable in his eyes. Manuel pressed his lips together, eating very little.

"Why don't you go to the hospital to see your father?" Justine asked Susan.

"I went to other places on business and stayed there for half a month," Susan answered. For a long time, she felt like she had no family. She did what she wanted to do and didn't need to inform or get permission from her family. She was alone. Therefore, Justine's question was heartwarming for her. To be honest, she didn't expect that Justine would stay here to look after her dad. She used to think that Justine would leave immediately after her dad was in a vegetative state. Susan appreciated that Justine was still here to take care of her father.

"If you have time, you can come and see your father. Maybe he will come to himself." Justine looked sad while talking about this. She still couldn't accept the truth that Edward had suddenly fallen ill.

"OK," Susan answered. She continued, "Even if my dad won't be awake in the future, I will take care of you for him when you get old."

Hearing this, Justine looked at Susan. At this moment, Susan began to feel embarrassed because she realized that she shouldn't have said that. But she just said that unconsciously. She could only lower her head with a red face. Then she added in a lower voice, "If you don't mind."

Manuel noticed that there was a small smile on Justine's face. But Susan didn't notice it because she lowered her head. Then, Manuel also smiled.

"I haven't expected that you will look after me. I guess you will ask me to help you take care of your children." Justine answered.

"I won't have children," Susan said fervently. Her answer amazed Justine and Manuel and made both of them look at her. Feeling embarrassed, Susan further explained, "I mean I am not in a relationship. How

can I have children? Don't worry. I assure you that I won't ask you to look after my children in the future. You just need to care for Manuel's children."

She reckoned that Manuel and Clara would have their first child soon. When she thought of Manuel and Clara's child, she was very hurt.

Chapter 818 Justine's Kindness

"It's the same," Justine said. With tightened lips, Manuel didn't retort. Justine looked at her son, with a slight smile on her face. She asked Manuel and Susan to have dinner with her tonight to tell Manuel that she wouldn't interfere with their relationship. She hinted that she would allow them to have a relationship. But it seemed that Manuel and Susan had drifted apart. Especially, Susan, she was so indifferent to Manuel now. It made Justine confused, and she didn't know whether they can get back together or not. But according to her son's reaction, she believed that they could fall in love with each other again.

"No, no, no. It's different." Susan answered quickly. She thought that she wouldn't start a family with Manuel. How could their children be the same? Then she guessed that maybe Justine was telling her that she could take care of two children at the same time. Justine looked askance at Susan, thinking that if she was half as clever as Hannah, she could lead a better life. When Justine was about to make it clear, Manuel interrupted her, "Mum."

Justine looked at her son.

"Have more. You must be tired recently since you need to take care of Edward." Manuel said coolly. Justine pressed her lips. She didn't intend to interfere with their relationship. She thought that Susan was not right for Manuel in the past and thus she disagreed with their being together. However, Susan had changed a lot, which made Justine change her opinion.

"Thank you for taking care of my dad." Susan echoed quickly. "Let me propose a toast to you." Taking up the red wine glass, Susan raised a toast to Justine. Glancing at Susan, Justine accepted it. After drinking a whole glass of wine, Susan had mixed feelings. She didn't know when she began to be afraid of Manuel. Even a glimpse of him would scare her. However, she got up the courage and raised her glasses, "President, A toast to you."

Manuel was having steak gracefully. Susan continued, "I know I am not clever. I always cause you trouble, which makes you dissatisfied with my work. Thank you for your tolerance. I am grateful that I can work at Phillips Bank. Words can't express my gratitude. Anyway, let me propose a toast to you. I will work harder from now on."

Manuel gazed at her for a while, which frightened Susan a little. But Susan thought that she didn't make trouble and didn't say anything wrong just now, feeling extremely nervous. Manuel said lightly, "I don't drink."

Susan was quite embarrassed. She knew that Manuel got drunk easily, but taking a sip of wine would not make him drunk.

She felt like an idiot at the moment. With a bitter smile on her face, she said, "OK, I see. Then help yourself with more steak. I drink the wine myself."

As soon as she finished, she drank the wine in a gulp. Since she drank the wine first, she didn't notice that Manuel had put down his knife and fork and was about to take up a glass of lemonade. Seeing Susan finish the wine and put down the glass, Manuel stopped. Looking at their interactions, Justine was agitated.

After dinner, they came out of the restaurant together. "What are you going to do next?" Justine asked Susan.

"Go home," Susan answered. "I will drive home by myself. Don't worry."

Justine was about to nod. Manuel said, "You drank wine just now."

Susan paused, and then she said coldly, "Just a cup of wine. I am not drunk. I am sober enough to take the sobriety test."

"Are you sure?" Manuel asked. Susan was not sure about that.

"Then what if you are arrested because of drunk driving? Are you going to ask me to help you with your work?" Susan didn't know how to respond, didn't know why he behaved like a bad man, and why he always uttered sharp words. Manuel always scolded her, ignoring her self-esteem.

"I'll drive you home," Manuel said suddenly. The depressed girl was inspired by this. She thought, "Did I hear that right? He is going to drive me home? Is he kidding?"

"We are on the way." When he finished, he got into his limousine which was driven here by a parking attendant.

Glancing at the black limousine and Justine, Susan walked towards the car slowly and wanted to sit in the backseat.

"Sit in the passenger seat." Justine suddenly said.

Susan paused.

"I'm not going to sit in the passenger seat since it is usually for the bodyguard." Justine raised her eyebrows.

"..." Susan had nothing to say. She regretted showing her gratitude to Justine because she made her angry again. However, Susan sat in the passenger seat at last. She didn't look at Manuel in case he would get annoyed and asked her to sit in the backseat. Susan felt embarrassed all the time when she was with Manuel. Thank god, Manuel didn't say anything and he drove his mum home first.

Knowing that Justine lived alone, Susan couldn't help asking her, "Would you like to live in the Phillips Manor with me?" Susan lived at Phillips Manor, a spacious villa, where only she and her servants live. She had considered asking Justine to live with her many times, but it was difficult for her to say that.

"No." Justine rejected. Susan had expected that she would reject it.

"Let's talk about it next month. I don't want to move this month." Justine added.

Susan turned to look at her, "Do you mean you will move back to Phillips Manor to live with me next month?" Susan was a little excited.

Sometimes, Justine was upset with Susan because she thought Susan was not a successful woman. But occasionally, she admired that Susan was still innocent and didn't become philistine. Therefore, she couldn't reject Susan's invitation this time. "Yes." She said.

"Early next month, I will ask the servants to carry your things and clean up a room for you in advance." Susan showed a positive attitude.

"Okay." Justine nodded. Susan was very excited because she thought that her father would be very happy to see his wife at home when he awoke. Her father loved Justine so much. However, when would Edward come to himself? She managed to hide her feelings and looked calm.

When Justine arrived at her house, Manuel began to drive Susan home. Susan thought, "If Manuel didn't move, then we are not going in the same direction." However, she didn't ask anything because she was not eager to know the answer. Staying with Manuel alone in the car made her nervous. Her heart rate inexplicably increased. Therefore, she closed her eyes to pretend to be asleep. In this way, she could make herself look calm. Manuel was about to say something. But when he saw her close her eyes, he decided to stay silent.

It was quiet in the car. Manuel drove to the Phillips Manor.

Chapter 819 Escalation

The limousine stopped in front of the Phillips Manor. Susan was sleeping soundly. Looking at her, Manuel was about to wake her up but paused. He noticed her wrists which were put on her belly at the moment. He felt that they were delicate enough to get broken by pinching. He swallowed a bit, feeling bad for her since she had worked very hard during lately. He heard a lot about her working long hours. He wondered whether he put too much pressure on her. But if he didn't do so to train her, she would not be competent enough to work independently in the future. And then she could never be able to hold and run the business of Phillips Bank.

Manuel couldn't help reaching out and his long fingers touched Susan's wrist. At this moment, Susan suddenly opened her eyes as if she was scared by something. She swatted away his hand unconsciously.

Susan was only half awake. She had pretended to sleep to avoid being embarrassed when they were alone together. But she didn't expect that she fell asleep. Maybe she was too exhausted during the day. As a result, she fell asleep immediately as soon as she closed her eyes. But in this case, she would wake up while being startled. Susan appeared a little insane recently, and she was unable to think clearly at the moment. Then she gave her explanation hurriedly, "I don't mean that you're disgusting." She wanted to explain that she slapped his hand not because she despised him. But then, her mind went blank and she didn't know why she would say that.

Manuel bent his fingers to make a fist, with a grim expression. Susan wished she could disappear at once. How could she tell him her inner thoughts? Then she said, "I fell asleep just now. I have no idea what I said. It must be sleep-talking." Susan tried hard to gloss over it. Manuel looked forward, became livid, and didn't be persuaded by Susan's explanation.

Susan was too embarrassed to stay calm, and she tried to say calmly, "I don't know why I want to lie down as soon as I see you during this time." She intended to say that she pretended to fall asleep to avoid embarrassment. But soon, she realized that her words were ambiguous. Then Manuel turned his

head and stared at her. Susan was scared and pale, continuing her explanation. "Oh, no. Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that I want to lie down with you..."

Hearing this, Manuel stared at her more intently. At this moment, Susan realized that she could not explain herself clearly. No matter what she said, she would make it worse. Then she unbuckled her seat belt, hurriedly got out of the car, and ran away as fast as she could. She couldn't give a clear explanation but she could run away.

Manuel looked at her back as she ran away. Although he managed to suppress his smile, he couldn't help beaming in the end. He wondered why Susan couldn't act wisely. Then he pushed the gas pedal and drove away.

As soon as Susan got home, she covered herself with a quilt. She felt quite humiliated. She thought that she was always in a terrible state when she met Manuel and Justine. But she used not to be so. Tossing and turning on her bed, she couldn't forget her embarrassing experience. Although she collapsed, she felt kind of passionate about the idea of sleeping with Manuel and sat up in bed suddenly. This idea made her heart race. She decided to take a cold shower which made her shudder and she jumped to keep warm. When she went back to her bed, it seemed that the cold shower didn't work. She was still thinking about having sex with Manuel. Damn! "I just made love with him once. How could it be so attractive to me?" Susan thought. Then she climbed out of bed to turn on her computer, and she intended to forget this idea by watching porn.

The next morning, Hannah received messages and many photos of Sarah's interview from Manuel. In those photos, Sarah dressed well, looking cultured and elegant. Her dress demonstrated her status as a member of the senior management in the company. Information on her interview was posted online, earning some good reviews for her. Being excited at the moment, Sarah was satisfied with the interview arranged by Manuel.

Being interviewed by the most well-known magazine in Northfield helped Sarah become more famous. Only those who were top performers in their fields could get a chance to have an interview with this magazine. Thus, Sarah responded positively with high-sounding words in the interview.

After the interview, Sarah tweeted that she hoped to spread more positive energy to others, implicating that she wanted others to learn from her because she worked hard albeit being born into a wealthy family. As she expected, she became more popular with that tweet and was praised by many others. Scrolling through Twitter on her phone, she felt satisfied because she loved being in the spotlight.

For a long time, Lillian's success overshadowed her. But she began to change the situation. When she was still basking in her success, her secretary opened her office door. Since she was in a good mood, she didn't get angry and said gently to Rose, "Rose, what's up?"

"Oh, god. Miss Collins, someone intends to jump out of the top floor of our company." Rose said anxiously.

Sarah sprang out of her chair and her face changed. "Who?" she asked.

"The manager of the Planning Department, Kanae Hoke."

Sarah was quite out of countenance. She scolded Kanae harshly yesterday because she spoke ill of her and compared her with Hannah. She forced Kanae to quit her job yesterday, and she was quite confused that Kanae was still in the company today.

“What should we do now? Many colleagues have been there to figure out what was happening. I’m afraid that there would be more attention on this matter.” Rose expressed her worry.

Sarah was agitated, thinking that she must prevent Kanae from ruining her hard-won reputation. Gritting her teeth, she said, “Let’s see how it goes.”

“OK.” Rose followed Sarah hurriedly. At the same time, she laughed at Sarah and praised Hannah inwardly. Sarah would lose all standing and reputation right after her great success.

When they went to the top floor, there were many people, including the security guards. Kanae, with volatile emotions, was standing on the outer side of the wall on the top floor and didn’t allow anyone to come closer to her. Sarah found that many witnesses were taking photos. Then she scolded them, “Stop! No taking photos. Put your phone down.”

She didn’t care about how to rescue Kanae but how to conceal this matter.

Chapter 820 Exposure

Being scolded by Sarah, all put down their phones. Then, Sarah ordered again coldly, “Delete what you have taken just now. If you post any photos or videos online, you will pay for this.” Hearing this, other people here looked at each other and began to delete photos and videos under pressure. But Sarah didn’t believe them and said, “Give me your phones. I need to ensure that all of you have deleted all the stuff.” This requirement annoyed some people, and thus no one handed over his or her phone.

“So, can’t you hear what I said?” Sarah said imperiously, “If you want to keep your jobs, hand over your phones quickly.”

“Although you are a leader, you have no right to ask us to turn over our phones to you. You are intruding on our privacy.” One of them spoke out loud.

“I do intrude on your privacy. So what?” Sarah said aggressively, “I make the rules in this company. You have to turn over your phones when I ask you to do so.”

“Sarah, you are way out of line.” Another employee echoed, “It’s up to me whether to turn over my phone or not. Besides, I have the right to upload the video about this matter.”

“How dare you! Don’t you want to keep your job?”

“I will quit.” The employee said angrily, “I am a man who has human rights. Working for you impairs my dignity. I don’t want to stay here anymore.”

“Shut up!” Sarah’s face was distorted by rage because of the employee’s criticism.

“At this moment, Kanae intends to jump to death because of you. But you don’t care about her life. You just care about yourself, asking us to delete the videos to defend your honour. Do you remember what you said in the interview? That’s so disgusting. I am going to release the video to reveal your real character.”

These words agitated Sarah. As a member of the Collins family, she could not bear any criticism of her. Then she rushed up and slapped the employee, "One word, and I will not let off."

Covering her face with one hand, the employee got furious and wanted to hit back. The security guards were afraid that things would become serious, so they separated the two of them. Sarah was so embarrassed, and she screamed, "Remember what you did to me. I will fire you and make you suffer in Northfield. Just wait and see." Sarah's words scared the employee to some extent. Seeing this, others didn't dare to say anything. Then Sarah pushed the security guard away and shouted, "Those who disobey my orders will get into trouble." All was silent at that moment.

Sarah turned and said to Kanae fiercely, "If you want to end your life, just jump. I can give you the money. I have plenty of money. Your life means nothing to me. Giving you money is not a problem for me. Besides, I can tell you that nothing about your death will be posted. Don't expect to threaten me in this way. I was born into a better family than you, being superior to you at the beginning. You can't get the money and power that I have. Maybe imagining how wealthy I am is already difficult for you." Sarah walked away when she finished.

Kanae didn't intend to kill herself because she was there to threaten Sarah. Although she jumped out of the building, she couldn't change anything since Sarah would manage to conceal the news.

When Sarah was back in the office, she called her father. Rose was amazed at the change in the way Sarah act and speak.

Sarah cried, "Dad, I need your help."

"What's wrong?"

"I'm very hurt in Kensbury City." Saying this, Sarah shed tears.

Rose was shocked. She wondered how Sarah, an overbearing woman, could cry so desolately.

"Who hurts you?" Rowan asked again, getting a little angry. He wouldn't let anyone hurt his daughter no matter what happened.

"I work hard in Cooper Group to keep an eye on what Oscar does. Otherwise, Oscar and his fellows will control the finance of the company, which will weaken the position of our family. I keep working hard all the time and always work overtime. I have lost weight because of work." Sarah complained, "But you know what? My effort isn't appreciated by the employees here. They are mad at me, don't obey my orders, speak ill of me and compare me with Hannah. I don't care about these things because I think they will change their views when they see my efforts. But today, someone threatened me to leave Cooper Group by standing on the top floor to jump out."

When she finished, Sarah couldn't help crying. She looked heartbroken and aggrieved. Rose felt sick as she witnessed what was happening.

"Don't cry," Rowan said in a deep voice, "I will settle down everything for you. Is the employee still on the top floor?"

"She is there."

"I see. Calm down now. I will deal with this matter."

“Thanks. Dad.”

“If you are hurt, just tell me. I won’t allow anyone to hurt my daughter.”

“I will. You are the greatest dad in the world.”

Sarah said something nice before she hung up. As soon as she put down her phone, she stopped crying immediately and smiled coldly. She thought that Kanae, an inferior employee, wasn’t a match for her. She couldn’t bear this, instead, she would get them into trouble.

“Get out and pay attention to what is happening. Report to me immediately when you know something new.” Sarah asked Rose to work.

“Yes.” Rose got out of the office immediately and called Hannah secretly. Then, Hannah asked Manuel to post all videos about Sarah, including those filmed by Rose on the top floor just now. Soon, the released videos shocked all the people in Northfield.

Sarah was drinking coffee leisurely in her office. When her father called her, she pretended to be quite sad at once and said, “Dad, did you settle down the matter?”

“Sarah!” Rowan shouted furiously. He was so angry that his voice was loud enough to vibrate the phone. It was obvious that Rowan was in a towering rage, which scared Sarah. But she didn’t figure out what had happened. Then Rowan snarled, “I haven’t been so disgraced for these years.”