

## Reborn 831

### Chapter 831 Susan's Call

Oscar showed no answer. He stood up and walked over to her. Though a bit hesitant, she still showed her acquiescence. He approached to face her back and put on the necklace for her.

With her hair being trimmed ear-length, the fair skin on her nape was exposed under his eyes. So were her adorable ears.

She could feel how close he was. Of course, she could feel the necklace, together with its cold touch, put on around her neck. But she made no reaction even if she could tell Oscar was approaching. The next second, she could feel his hot breath about to fall upon her neck. But suddenly, he stood up straight. Then he returned to his seat. It seemed that his attempt to kiss was nothing but an illusion.

"It suits you perfectly." Said Oscar casually.

"Thank you." Whatever, she considered it necessary to say thanks. After all, she could tell the necklace must be priceless even though she didn't even take the time to carefully look at it.

Oscar didn't show any unusual response to her weird formality. Instead, he smiled, "Come on, time for dinner."

Hannah picked up the knife and fork and started eating. Surrounded by a romantic atmosphere, the relationship between them was worsening. But the next second, Hannah turned to look outside the window. Tremendous fireworks started blossoming in the sky, painting the mountain with various colours. It suddenly reminded her of their wedding, where Oscar surprised her with fireworks for the very first time. Though it felt a bit exaggerated at that time, she got to admit that all ladies in the world would fall for such an impressive gift. And Hannah was no exception. However, now it looked more like the greatest mockery against their relationship.

She felt nothing touching inside her heart. Sitting still, she watched the firework blankly, which lit up the sky and then fell into the abyss. She couldn't help wondering if her relationship with Oscar was like the fireworks right now-no matter how impressive it looked at the beginning, it would finally fade away.

The fireworks didn't finish until quite a while later. Mount Northfield was of great height, the top of which enabled anybody to have an overall view of Kensbury. Thus, the fireworks lit up here could also be seen from every corner of the city.

Leaning upon the fence inside the garden, Theodore was watching the fireworks. Of course, he could tell it must be Oscar's doing. But he couldn't tell if it could change Hannah's mind for even a bit. While smoking, he continued to watch. During these days, he had been with Oscar. He didn't return home until yesterday. As soon as he arrived, he threw himself to sleep and didn't wake up until today's afternoon. His schedule for overseas travel with Oscar before had been fully occupied. At that time, he found it quite confusing. Why did Oscar schedule their time like that? Now he finally realized the reason-Oscar intended to return as soon as possible only to celebrate her birthday.

Theodore couldn't help sighing. Perhaps it still wouldn't work to change her mind, he reckoned. He snubbed the cigarette and went back to the room.

Inside the bedroom, Little Bunny had just finished breastfeeding the baby. Some smelt of breast milk still lingered in the air. It was so tempting to him. As soon as Little Bunny handed over the baby to the nanny, she saw Theodore returning.

He just arrived home last night. As soon as he finished dinner at that time, he fell into a sound sleep for a whole day. She supposed he was going to spend one more day sleeping as well. But then he got up in the afternoon and started hanging around in the house. Little Bunny had no idea when he would leave. She had never expected his return. She had even contacted her assistant at that time, planning for returning to her career. She wanted to start her career as a celebrity when the baby reached six-month-old. She believed her marriage with Theodore wouldn't be likely to last forever. Of course, neither did she want to spend the rest of her life with him. She wanted to live her own life. And so did Theodore, she reckoned.

"You are gonna take a shower?" asked Theodore.

She nodded to reply.

"Let me join in." Said Theodore easily.

She found it repulsive from the bottom of her heart. She felt like she was nobody but a toy for him to vent out his lust. She wished she could get away from him for the rest of her life so that he wouldn't have the chance to do anything to her. Nor would he think about her again, she reckoned. From Theodore's perspective, she should be quite satisfied with a wealthy life like that, he supposed. Thus, he didn't think she wanted to refuse.

As usual, he let his desire run wild in the bathroom a few minutes later.

The next morning, Hannah was woken up by a sudden phone ring. She took a look and picked it up, drowsy, "Susan?"

"Still sleeping?"

"Yeah..."

Last night, she didn't return home with Oscar until 11 PM. After showering, she went to bed at about noon. Though she sometimes got insomnia ever since pregnancy, it was the very first time for her to go to bed so late. Luckily, Oscar didn't lay with her last night. Thus, she got a sound sleep. But now Susan woke her up.

"Did he do anything to you last night?" asked Susan agitatedly.

Hannah couldn't help frowning.

"You know, it was your birthday yesterday. I had planned to spend the day with you. But I got a text from Oscar, who told me to stay away because he was gonna celebrate the birthday with you. Do you know how pissed I was upon seeing the text? What irritated me the most was that I listened to him! What a coward I was!" said Susan upset.

Hannah struggled to sit up herself. No wonder there was nobody else but Oscar only who pointed out the fact that it was her birthday yesterday. It turned out that all those around her, including her parents, had been told the same by Oscar.

"I don't think so. Instead, I can see that you have learned to be sensible." Said Hannah.

Now Susan no longer appeared aggressive. Besides, she had learned to make compromises when facing power. There would always be moments when one needed to learn to give in. In daily life, there was always 'do and don't.

"Did he bang you..." Susan couldn't help asking.

Judging from Hannah's drowsy voice, she made her presumption. That beast must be overwhelmed with lust! Though it was safe to have sex in the sixth month of pregnancy, Susan still considered it exasperating when she thought about the divorce between Oscar and Hannah. The longer she thought about that, the angry she grew. That was why she made this call as soon as she woke up. Now Hannah's birthday had passed. So Oscar's request should be invalid by now, she reckoned.

"No, he didn't." Hannah was speechless. Besides, Hannah didn't even deem it a big deal even if he had sex with her last night. As his mistress, sufficing his sexual need was part of her duty.

"No? So why are you sounding so sleepy?" Susan still seemed sceptical.

From her point of view, she could imagine the moment when Oscar pinned Hannah down on the bed as soon as she saw the text from him.

### **Chapter 832 Clara's Plot**

"But I don't wanna get up yet! We returned home too late last night. I just feel like I gotta sleep for a little longer. And I don't have work to do. Of course, I can get up whenever I want to."

"Are you trying to show off?" Susan couldn't help frowning.

Ever since she got back to work, she had never enjoyed a sound sleep. Every single morning, she had to struggle herself up. Of course, she wished she could sleep for however long she wanted.

"Hey, just a kind reminder. It seems that it's time for you to go to work." Hannah smiled.

Not until then did Susan notice that she would be late if she kept on dawdling. She didn't want to expect a sulky face from Manuel. Besides, she got a project to negotiate with their commercial partner. So she needed to head to the office as early as possible to prepare some files.

"Alright, I gotta go. But I won't forget to spend another day celebrating with you to make up for my absence on your birthday."

"I got a birthday every single year. It doesn't matter. Girl, just focus on your job."

"No, every single birthday matters! Whatever, I will call you when it's time. Alright, I gotta hang up."

"Okay."

The next second, Susan hung up the call.

Hannah put down her phone. She found it hard to return to sleep after Susan woke her up. She lifted the quilt and went into the bathroom to wash herself up. After that, she walked out of the room to go downstairs. There was no one else but Max alone.

Max seemed a bit surprised as he didn't expect her to get up so early, "Ms Cooper, I thought you were gonna sleep for a little longer."

"Susan woke me up by calling. And I am a bit hungry. I feel like returning to sleep after breakfast."

"The breakfast will be ready soon." Said Max respectfully.

"Thank you."

"My pleasure." Then Max walked away.

She walked over to the table to wait. Soon, Max served her a breakfast of variety.

"Max, is he leaving?" asked Hannah while dining. But as soon as she finished, she saw Oscar show up in the lobby. Her smile soon faded away.

Commonly speaking, whenever he stayed, he would be the first person she saw every time she woke up. If she didn't see him, he would probably be leaving. So she reckoned he had left for the Capital. Of course, Oscar also noticed her smile fading away. But he still took a seat next to her composedly to dine with her.

"I will leave the day after tomorrow." Said Oscar.

Hannah nodded. Of course, he was free to go with or without noticing her. Then only silence lingered in the air. Sometimes she felt like they were strangers to each other.

Susan hurried to set out for work. Commonly speaking, she drove herself to the office and she could usually arrive on time. However, there was an accident happening ahead. Plus, it was peak hour in the morning. Soon, she got stuck in a traffic jam. Meanwhile, her phone rang.

She took a look and picked it up, "Tammy?"

"Ms Phillips, where are you? The chairman wants us to set out to WST for negotiation in ten minutes."

"I got stuck in a traffic jam. Goddamn, it! How comes he makes it ahead of the previous schedule?"

"It seems that the president of WST has something else to deal with. So they made a call to the chairman to suggest that the negotiation should begin half an hour earlier."

"Damn! They change the schedule as long as they want?"

"Come on, stop complaining. Where are you?" Tammy sounded anxious.

Susan took a look ahead and replied, "I can't make it in ten minutes."

"No way!" Manuel was going to be pissed if Susan was absent, Tammy reckoned.

"How about that? I will drive myself to WST. I think that will make it on time. But I got something to prepare in the office. So I need you to get it prepared for me."

Commonly speaking, the traffic jam would not last long.

"Okay." Tammy hurried to agree.

“Bring my laptop. There’s a file of slides about the project this time. And it’s been stored in a folder named WST, the D division. Check it if it’s there. I made some edits before leaving at 9:00 PM yesterday. Check to see if it matches the saved time.”

“Okay.”

“If there’s nothing wrong with the content, bring the laptop with you to negotiation. If there’s any question from Manuel, just tell him I am on my way. No further ado to explain. The worst consequence is just that he might reproach me. But I am used to it.”

Tammy was somehow amazed by her toughness. As she put down the phone, she turned on the laptop to check the file as Susan required. As soon as she confirmed it, someone knocked on the door and entered.

It was Clara, “Tammy, Ms Phillips hasn’t arrived yet? Mr Johnson said it’s time to go.”

“Ms Phillips heads to WST herself. She will meet us there. I will bring the files prepared for the negotiation for her.”

“Make sure you have got everything for it.” Said Clara.

“Of course.” Tammy nodded.

“Let me have it double-checked.” Clara walked over to Susan’s laptop.

Tammy didn’t find anything suspicious. Then she told Clara about what Susan just said.

“Here is the file of the final version.”

“Okay. Bring the laptop. Let’s go.” Clara nodded.

Tammy turned it off and was about to leave with it.

“Hey, give me the laptop. Chairman and I will share the same car. I think he may wanna have a look at the file. By the way, what’s the password?” said Clara.

Tammy then told her the password and handed over the laptop to her. As soon as Clara got the laptop, she couldn’t help smirking. She couldn’t wait to see what if Susan messed up the project this time. How would Manuel punish her?

After Clara left with the laptop, Tammy got into the car specifically for Susan. She waited for a while. When Manuel and Clara walked out of the gate to get into the limousine exclusive for the chairman, Tammy told the chauffeur to set off together.

Meanwhile, Susan was driving herself to WST.

It was an international project, which Manuel highly valued. Thus, no mistake was allowed. Luckily, the traffic jam soon got dissipated. She arrived before Manuel.

Susan took a deep breath to adjust herself. After switching herself to the best version, she was expecting Manuel at the gate.

**Chapter 833 The Missing File**

Susan waited for a while, and two luxury commercial vehicles arrived at the gate of WST. When the vehicles stopped, Susan walked over in no time.

Clara first got off the car. Looking at Susan, she hurriedly called her, "Miss Phillips."

Susan nodded.

Then, Manuel got off the vehicle, too. After getting off the vehicle, Clara came forward to help Manuel tie up his black tie and said sweetly, "It's a bit crooked."

Manuel took a glance at Clara and said, "Thank you."

Clara wore a bashful expression on her face. Susan was a bit speechless to see them flirting during working hours. But she was now a subordinate and dared not have any dissatisfaction with Manuel. All she could show was a flattering smile.

After they finished, Susan volunteered to speak, "Mr Johnson."

Manuel squinted at Susan. With a dark expression, he said, "Susan, as a leader, you need to be punctual."

Susan had prepared for that, so when Manuel was scolding her, she did not feel anything strange. She just nodded and replied, "I'll be punctual next time."

She didn't explain more. Manuel glanced at her again, and spoke, "Get in there."

He then strode ahead, followed by Clara, hurriedly. Susan stopped, and Tammy immediately came over to her, "Miss Phillips, luckily you are here, I was on edge all the way and afraid you haven't arrived. Thank God you are here, I'm so relieved now."

"Where's my laptop?" Susan cared nothing but this.

"In Clara's hand, the laptop she's holding now is yours," Tammy answered.

"Why did she have my laptop?" No wonder the laptop she had just seen looked a bit familiar.

"She said Mr Johnson need to see more about the scheme, so I gave it to her," Tammy explained.

Therefore, Susan didn't think too much of it. Based on her understanding of Manuel, she always thought that he was not at ease with her. Although when the scheme was finalized and confirmed by him yesterday, it was inevitable that he would check it again early this morning.

"Hurry up, Miss Phillips." Tammy urged.

Susan also felt that even Manuel was waiting for them, so she hastened to catch up.

They were warmly entertained by the partner company's hospitality and sat in the meeting room. Manuel was talking with the partner company's leader, Mr Brown.

Manuel had just turned 25 a few days ago while the leader of the partner company looked at least 50 years old. Although they were from different generations, they were not far apart in the conversation. Manuel was not old, but his calm and steady style let him be an extremely outstanding existence on such a business occasion.

The staff of the partner company helped them connect the computer projection. Everything was ready.

Susan opened her laptop and looked for her file. But when she opened the stored files, she was stunned completely. She looked for the PPT again and again, but still couldn't find it.

"Tammy," Susan quietly called the person standing next to her.

Tammy hurriedly stepped forward, "What's wrong, Miss Phillips?"

"Where is my file?" Susan asked.

"Isn't it in there? I just confirmed that it's in there." Tammy quickly looked at the laptop about the storage place.

"No, there's nothing." Susan was a little flustered, while she was trying to hide her feelings.

Tammy was also scared. Was she hallucinating? She had confirmed it again and again.

Tammy hurriedly took over the Bluetooth mouse in Susan's hand, looking for it in the laptop. But the PPT was gone. She couldn't find it by searching for the file's name.

Susan began to be nervous, and so did Tammy, who was about to cry.

"Why?! It's not possible!" Susan thought.

Manuel was still talking to Mr Brown, and they were enjoying their conversation, during which Manuel quietly looked at Susan's side. Seeing her panic, he knew that something must happen. But he showed neither surprise nor strange and was still talking to the leader calmly.

Clara, who was standing behind Manuel, was smiling secretly. Seeing the anxious expressions of Susan and Tammy, she knew exactly what happened. She was waiting to see how Susan was going to report her work without her PPT. She could even imagine the consequence followed by this and what humiliating consequences would happen to Susan.

"Is it still not ready yet?" the partner leader asked his subordinate.

It indeed took a little long time.

His subordinate hurriedly said respectfully, "It's ready, Mr Brown. We are just waiting for Miss Phillips to put her file on."

"Okay." The leader heard that it was Susan's problem, so he didn't ask more about it. But such an urging was a sign that he couldn't wait. Luckily, the moment someone came into the meeting room to find Mr Brown for reporting her work, Mr Brown was about to refuse, but Manuel took the opportunity to say, "Mr Brown, I need to use the restroom."

Mr Brown nodded. He was a bit pleased with Manuel's EQ. At such a young age, he spoke and behaved comfortably.

After leaving, Manuel didn't go straight to the restroom, but to Susan, with a dark face, "What's wrong?"

Susan bit her lips, looked up at Manuel, and said, "The PPT we made last night was missing."

Manuel's face suddenly changed. Susan knew she would be scolded, and it was her fault. She felt that even if Manuel shot her with a gun now, she also deserved it.

"Miss Phillips called me to check the file again and again, and I checked it and then gave it to Clara, I don't know why..." Tammy's eyes turned red.

Tammy took responsibility for this failure. But she couldn't figure out why it suddenly disappeared.

Clara now followed Manuel. After hearing Tammy's words, she hurriedly said, "I can prove it. When I went to Miss Phillips' office, Tammy repeatedly confirmed to me that the file was still in her laptop."

She seemed to help Tammy, but in fact, to get herself out of this. She achieved her purpose.

"I'll take the previous draft scheme to report first," Susan said, constrainedly.

The scheme was changed over ten times. Every draft was stored separately in case a previous edition was needed. So, she still had the latest draft except for the final one. There were just some changes in the contents, which would indeed have some impact.

Manuel looked at Susan coldly and showed a darker face when hearing her words.

He lowered his voice, but that could not cover his great anger, "Susan, are you taking the business negotiation as a joke? Do you know how rigorous a business negotiation has to be?"

She knew, but she had no choice now. She could not manage to report it orally, and it would show no sincerity to them. At this point, it was the only plan she could think of.

#### **Chapter 834 The One Who Holds Accountable**

"Give me the mouse," Manuel said in a frigid voice. Susan gave it to Manuel and also made the room for him. Manuel's face was extremely cold. Susan stood next to him, awed by his power. She thought that she definitely would be fired today.

Manuel took the mouse, quickly looked around, and then clicked the keyboard, beginning to write some code that Susan couldn't understand.

Susan couldn't understand, and neither could Tammy and Clara. They just saw the computer suddenly flashing a lot of dense symbols they didn't understand, making them feel that the code was advanced.

It was very tense. No one dared to speak, nor to ask what he was doing.

About five minutes later. The code on the laptop stopped scrolling. Manuel took the mouse again and got the file folder they had just been looking for over and over. The missing file suddenly appeared in it.

Everyone was in shock, including Clara, as well as Susan and Tammy.

Clara couldn't believe her eyes. She was sure that she had deleted it and emptied the Recycle Bin. How came the file suddenly came back? What had Manuel done exactly? What was all that code they couldn't read? She dared not to show any strange mood, just not feeling good inside her heart.

Manuel passed the mouse to Susan and said, "Come and see if this is the one that you're looking for?"



Susan quickly clicked on it, then found some key points and nodded, "Yes, this is it. How did you find it..."

The words were not yet finished, but Manuel had already left with Clara, leaving Susan, silently.

Looking at his indifferent back, she still felt a bit hurt. But thinking twice, it was indeed her own mistake, and it was rather merciful for Manuel to help her. Maybe, she would be fired as soon as the day was over. Susan thought a lot, but at that moment she had to try her best to adjust her mood to report the work.

Manuel returned to his seat and the leader had already finished his work with his subordinate.

The leader began very politely, "My apology for the waiting, emergency business."

If there was no emergency, no one would dare to break in and report it.

Manuel nodded, "No worries."

"So, let's get started." Mr Brown said to his assistant.

And the assistant asked Susan again.

Susan then nodded.

The meeting began.

Susan started, "Hello, Mr Brown. I'm Susan Phillips, the general manager of Phillips Bank. It's a great honour for me to have the opportunity to introduce you to the cooperation scheme between us."

"My pleasure." Mr Brown smiled.

Susan also gave a polite smile back, with no more chitchat, and went straight to the cooperation theme.

This project was given by Susan to Manuel, over ten times. She pretty much mastered it. And every time, Manuel would point out some of her problems, such as inappropriate tones, pronunciation mistakes, expressions, etc. Susan thought if it went like this, she could even be an actress.

The report lasted for a whole hour and ended perfectly.

Mr Brown stood up applauding Susan, and said, "Phillips Bank is full of talents. I'm so impressed by such a young and promising president. I thought a young talented man like him was the one in a million but didn't expect that Miss Phillips was the same extraordinary as him. I admire it!"

Praised in front of all these people, Susan was a little shy. She always felt that when facing Manuel, she was just like a village girl. How could she bear such big praise?

In addition, she had almost blown this project just now.

"I agreed." Mr Brown suddenly said, "I was a little hesitant about such a big cooperation project. Although Phillips Bank has a very long history, the young president... For older generations like us, you are just like teenage who would always let us worry. However, after meeting you two and hearing Miss Phillips' report, I have to say, the new overthrows the old."

“You’re too modest, Mr Brown. We just have the guts, but our experience is far less than you and all other predecessors in this field. About a lot of business matters, we still need your help and guidance in the future.” Manuel then said some decent words, not only praising themselves but also showing enough respect.

Mr Brown nodded with satisfaction.

“Needless to say, I’m also a sensitive person. I’d like to cooperate with people I appreciate.” Mr Brown stretched out his hand, “Come on, wish a wonderful cooperation.”

“Thank you, wish a wonderful cooperation.”

The project was settled, and a lot smoother than expected. If it wasn’t that small problem, they should have gone back and celebrated it at this moment.

But on their way back, it was getting awkward.

They went out of the building of WST. Manuel paused and asked, “What’s wrong with the file today?”

As soon as his words came out, Tammy’s eyes turned red again, and she said hurriedly, “It’s me carrying Miss Phillips’ laptop, and I don’t know why the file would suddenly disappear, I... Clara, didn’t you see as well at that time?”

“No, I didn’t, but I was pretty sure that I checked with Tammy again and again, and she said it was in that file folder.” Clara said, with a regretful expression, “If I had known, I should have checked it myself. I thought a secretary should have a careful and responsible attitude. I’m not saying that Tammy was not responsible, I mean I shouldn’t have been so lazy. It’s my fault.”

She still pretended to be a victim.

After hearing Clara’s words, Tammy turned agitated, “How could you say that? Didn’t you see it at that time? You also said you needed to check it by yourself and I even opened it to show you, how could you say that you didn’t see it? I was just wondering why the file would suddenly disappear. The only person who touched the laptop after I turned it off is you! It must be you, right?”

Clara knew that Tammy would say so, and she had already thought of a way to deal with it. Her eyes turned red immediately and she talked back, “Tammy, how could you blame it on me? When I came to remind you, you had turned off the laptop, and then you gave the laptop to me and said that Miss Phillips hadn’t arrived. In case she would be late, you told me to go to WST to prepare first. I was doing all these for you, how could you now accuse me in return?”

Clara looked wronged.

### **Chapter 835 Resignation**

“How could you say that? Didn’t you stop by this morning when we were leaving? You asked me to click on it for you, and then I turned it off! I turned it off after I made sure it was on the laptop. Then you took it away, and the file was gone. No one else would do it but you!” Tammy was trembling with anger.

Because of Clara’s lies, she was pretty sure that it was Clara who deleted the file. Although she didn’t know why Clara would do such a thing, it must have something to do with her.

Clara's eyes were full of tears while hearing what Tammy said. She sobbed, and said in an injured tone, "Although I have not been here for a long time, I know the basic rules of staff. My father also has taught me since I was little, that work should be serious and honest. I don't know why Tammy insisted on blaming me so hard. If someone has to take the blame for this, I'm willing to. After all, it is also my fault that I didn't check the file by myself."

"You..." As a secretary, she was eloquent, but at this moment, she was too angry to say a single word. She had been in this company for 6 years, and it was the first time to encounter such trouble, the first time to get wronged like this, and the first time to be agitated like this. She even wanted to fight with Clara.

"And also, I don't know Miss Phillips's laptop password. How could I turn on the computer and do anything." As she stated, her tears were like raindrops, falling one by one.

Tammy was completely agitated, she shouted at Clara in a loud voice, "You asked me for the password! You said Mr Johnson might want to check the file, and I told you in person!"

"With so many excuses, why are you so cool with me taking the blame?" Clara cried out, "The senior leadership's password, how could you give it to someone else so easily? Tammy, you've been a secretary for so many years, why don't you even have basic professional integrity? Even I, a green hand, also know that the password for the president is not just a simple password. Anything confidential is not allowed to be said unless the president gives permission."

Tammy was at a loss for words.

It was true that she was negligent so she didn't have the alert to Clara. She always believed the people around their president could not do this kind of bad thing. Anyway, the confidential information of senior leadership could not be passed out, and that was her fault indeed. At last, she recognized such a result.

However, she was cross with Clara for her calculating.

Tammy's eyes were moist and red. She clenched her teeth, "It's my fault. My apology, Mr Johnson, Miss Phillips."

Clara felt a bit funny in her heart. She had already thought of all the results before doing this thing. Anyone could not blame anything on her, she would never do anything uncertain.

"I'll take the responsibility and resign." Tammy summoned up all her courage, "Thanks to Mr Johnson and Miss Phillips' kindness, I appreciate it."

After saying these words, Tammy couldn't bear it anymore and walked straight away. She didn't take the vehicle, instead, she strode away.

Susan looked at the back of Tammy, and said, "It's none of her business. If it were not for my being late today, this would have never happened. I'll take the responsibility."

Manuel looked at her.

"I'll pack up and leave." Susan gave Manuel a deep bow, then turned and walked away as well. She caught up with Tammy.

Manuel looked at their back, indifferently.

Clara still sobbed next to Manuel, she looked at him and said poorly, "Did I upset Miss Phillips?"

Manuel turned back and looked at Clara.

And Clara looked at Manuel with an innocent face.

"No, you upset me!" Manuel left these cold words and sat in the vehicle parked on the side.

Clara was frozen, standing still. She couldn't believe what she had just heard. Manuel didn't say anything to comfort her but said that she upset him. She was so helpless. Was it just because Susan was mad at him, so he was just mad at her for saying so?

Manuel still liked Susan, indeed. When Clara thought of this, she even felt worse. She clenched her teeth and got in the car, which was about to leave.

At least, nothing could sway her heart on him.

Susan caught up with Tammy. When Tammy turned around, she had already been crying in tears. Having been a secretary for so many years, she hadn't been so wronged and helpless to this point. She couldn't control her own emotions at all at this moment.

"Tammy." Susan pulled her.

Tammy covered her face. She was too embarrassed to show her loss of control in front of Susan.

"Was it so sad? You just lost your job. I also lost my job. But I'm still fine, aren't I?" Susan wanted to amuse her. Even though she also wanted to cry out loud too. And she suddenly felt that she had grown up a lot. Now, she not only could bear all the bad feelings but also could comfort others.

"It's not just the job. I just hate to be calculated to this point." Tammy chocked. The more she said, the more furious she turned.

Susan also felt great regret. She tried to work hard one more time, but the work was screwed up by herself again. She figured she would never go to work again.

"Do you trust me, Miss Phillips?" Tammy asked.

"Eh?"

"I did make sure the file was in the laptop. I gave the laptop to Clara because she said Mr Johnson wanted to check it again, so I gave it to her and told her the password as well. Oh my God! How I regret that! How could I trust that bitch? I thought the people around Mr Johnson would never do such a thing!" Tammy felt extremely repentant.

"I trust you, Tammy. I'm pretty clear about how careful you are." Susan said.

So, just when Tammy was confronting Clara, she knew that it must have something to do with Clara.

As for Clara's motive, perhaps, she just wanted her to leave, Susan thought.

All in all, Clara and Manuel were still in a relationship. As his girlfriend, she must be unwilling to see Manuel still tangling with his ex-wife, who was even earning money from Manuel. That was all Susan could see. She was quite clear about all these, but she was just a little guilty of getting Tammy involved.

### **Chapter 836 Tammy's Compensation**

Tammy couldn't figure out what Clara wanted. She was so furious with her nose and eyes turning red. Susan didn't want to explain but said, "Go drink, it's on me."

At least to Susan, Manuel and Clara don't make their relationship public. She did not know why, but she didn't have a reason to publicize their relationship as an outsider. Now she felt that nothing else mattered now and she just let it all out.

Looking at her, Tammy couldn't believe that Susan was in the mood for that.

"Pressures need to be released, otherwise, I will do something extreme and regretful! Come on, let me take you to the best restaurant in Kensbury City."

Then they took a taxi.

Before the dishes were served, they began to drink. They had calmed down quite a bit by now, and they were drinking more and more and both getting a bit drunk.

Tammy suddenly asked, "Miss Phillips, don't you think that Clara likes Mr Johnson?"

Susan did not answer directly and she said indifferently, "Manuel is hot and capable. Every woman likes him."

Tammy said straight to the point, "But you, doesn't it?"

Susan just continued drinking, "I'm blind."

Tammy suddenly said with a serious look, "Miss Phillips, why don't you go sleep with Mr Johnson".

Susan was so astonished that she spit out the wine, which was right spit on Tammy's face.

Tammy said almost in tears, "Miss Phillips, you can blame me for costing you your job, but why did you spit on me?"

"I don't mean to." Susan hurriedly grabbed tissues to help her clean, "But what you said just now astonished me."

"I took it seriously. Mr Johnson must like you, in my view."

"Why do you think so?"

"I saw with my eyes, and I felt with my heart."

"Don't you see how bad he was to me?"

"Don't you realize that he was just tryna help you? To train and help you work better. Don't you think he's only "bad" to you?"

"So should I be grateful to him?"

“I’m not joking. I think he treats you well, and his eyes are still on you!” Tammy said seriously, “You’d better say sorry to Mr Johnson or sell your charms. I am sure that he will not fire you.”

Susan felt lost for words but said, “How can you think of such a silly move? Just because you don’t want to be fired! That’s too bad.”

“It’s not a silly move but a clever one. You can know whether Mr Johnson likes you or not. If yes, he will not refuse to be in close touch with you. If not, now that you have quit, you will never be in contact with each other. You lose nothing.” Tammy said with ease.

But Susan would not dare to do such a bold thing. She couldn’t help but run every time she saw Manuel, just like a mouse met a cat.

“Think about Clara, think about what she has done!” Tammy didn’t seem to give up her persuasion.

Susan slightly frowned.

“You have known what bad things she has done to us, can’t you fight back? When you persuade Mr Johnson successfully and become his wife, Clara can’t be so arrogant. If you slap her face, she even feels afraid to slap back!” Tammy said excitedly.

Listened to this, Susan laughed out loud. She did want to slap Clara in the face, but she did not dare do anything to Manuel because of Clara. Even if she were no charm at all, she wouldn’t be another woman to wreck their relationship.

“Just drink! You don’t even have drunk too much but you’re talking drunk!” Susan said to change the topic.

“I’m not getting drunk! I’m just giving you advice-!”

Tammy was gagged with food without finishing the sentence. She just didn’t understand why Susan flinched. Everyone knew that Manuel liked her. If Clara felt interested in Manuel, she was merely self-sentimental.

Susan and Tammy didn’t finish drinking until late afternoon. Some time ago, they worked overtime during the project’s procession. Both of them got sleepy when drinking. It was dawn when Susan woke up. She got up from the table with a sore back and just let Tammy keep sleeping. After paying the bill, she left the restaurant after asking the waiter to wait until Tammy woke up and tell her to go back.

She took a taxi, thinking that it was time to get off work, and she was just going to pack her things away from the office, not wanting to face the other employees and be embarrassed. Thinking about these, she arrived at the Phillips Building. However, she felt reluctant to leave when she walked into the office. She just sat in her seat and looked at everything in the office. Most of them were left by her father. Edward almost devoted his life to Phillips Group. She sighed, thinking that she could not finish cleaning up by herself, so she took a few things that she could take away and thought about letting the moving men move them away tomorrow.

Then she stood up to leave. When she was in the elevator, she pressed down a number with some hesitation. The doors of the lift opened, and Susan walked to Manuel’s office.

If he had not left yet, she would tell him again in person; and if he had left, that was it. Although she was clear about her decision, she didn't knock on the door until a long while had passed.

"Come in."

It was surprising that Manuel was still here since it was almost 9 PM. Susan cowered on hearing his voice, but she still pulled the door open.

Manuel sat in the chair with no work at hand and seemed to be enjoying the view while sitting there. The sightseeing in Kesbury City at night was beautiful. There was a large picture window in Manuel's office, so it was nice to enjoy the view with a cup of coffee.

Susan walked to Manuel slowly. He glanced at the shopping bag she was carrying, which was filled with something. Catching the look in his eyes, Susan began, "This is all I can take right now. I'll get someone to move the rest tomorrow."

Manuel didn't say a word, and he kept a cold and sullen face.

"I will not work tomorrow, and it's not necessary to pay this month's salary to me. But there is one thing I want you to help with."

Manuel just kept looking at her with cold eyes, without saying anything.

Susan said with courage, "I hope you can give Tammy some extra unemployment compensation."

### **Chapter 837 "You Look Better."**

Manuel didn't change his expression.

Anyway, Susan hit the nail on the head with her explanation, "Tammy has worked in the company for a long time, she is an old employee. She felt a little sad because she had suddenly lost her job. I was going to give her some subsidies myself, but I thought she wouldn't take them, and I felt a little embarrassed. I might as well give it to her through the company, so she wouldn't refuse. I've got it all figured out. I'll pay for it personally. You just have to ask the human resources department to help me out."

"Do you have a lot of money?" Manuel finally spoke.

"Quite a few." Susan did not hide. After the sale of Phillips, she did get a lot of money. Anyway, she had enough money to spend her whole life.

"So you can quit your job if you want, and there's nothing to worry about," Manuel said in a low voice. There seemed to be some irony in the words.

Susan didn't care about what he said, and she was very generous to admit, "Yes, life will be the same as it is now if I don't work, and it will be easy and free. I have already decided that tomorrow I will book a plane ticket to travel abroad for half a year. And come back when Hannah gives birth."

Manuel's face went green with anger. He felt regretful for giving so much money to Susan. He preferred to play some tricks and let Susan "leave with nothing" at that time.

"It seems to say too much." Susan talked back to the point since Manuel did not answer her, "Please help with the compensation for Tammy. It's getting late, so I won't bother you. I'm going back."

“Stay!” Manuel called her in a strict voice.

Susan bit her lip and wondered why Manuel was still harsh to her since she was about to resign. But she was still frightened by him at that moment.

She turned around and looked at him, thinking that Manuel would refuse her request. After all, there was no reason for him to help her. And she almost broke his business today. Thinking of that, she was still surprised at how Manuel, being so smart, could restore the deleted files.

“Who permitted your resignation?”

After hearing this, Susan got shocked and realized that she did not need anyone’s permission but to take the blame and resign herself. If Manuel didn’t refute it, it meant he agreed with it. But when she thought clearly, she didn’t give Manuel a chance to speak.

She looked at him with shock.

Manuel said in an angry voice, “All you can think about is hiding when facing problems. Don’t you think about how to solve it or how to avoid it? You’re not a freshman at work. Can’t you even get better? Can’t you take more responsibility?”

So it turned out that Susan expected more scoldings from Manuel.

“If I were you, when I have to face the same problem, the first thing I do is not to resign, not to resign with my colleague. As a leader, what you should do is address the problem-how to let your subordinates stay in the company with you rather than act on impulse and get away from responsibility!”

Susan blushed after hearing those words. Though she still felt unhappy, every sentence sounded reasonable, and she couldn’t refute it.

“Now you can think about how to give more benefit to your subordinate, but can’t you think about how to try to let her stay? I’m disappointed in you, Susan.”

Susan bit her lips again and couldn’t say a word to argue.

Yes, that was right. The first idea that came to her mind was to get through thick and thin with Tammy. Now that Tammy was wronged to resign, she would be with her. She never thought about helping Tammy stay.

“After all, no matter what causes this thing, the main responsibility is still yours. If I were you, I would never go into an important negotiation without making all the preparations in advance! It is impossible to leave something important in the hands of others!”

Susan listened with silence. She did not plan everything well in advance after all, no matter whether Clara put an obstacle in her way or not.

“Never again.” What Manuel said was concise and comprehensive.

Susan just stared at him.

“You don’t understand?” Manuel was a bit nervous while staring.



“So you mean, I don’t need to quit my job? Tammy also?”

“I didn’t say that I would fire you from the beginning,” Manuel said loudly. Instead, he was threatened by Susan’s resignation.

But she was frightened of his sudden loud voice.

“So I can continue to work tomorrow?” she calmed herself down and asked again.

“Or?”

“Thanks for your forgiveness! Mr Chairman! Thanks for not firing me and Tammy!”

She was very willing to work here with diligence.

“You and Tammy didn’t work today. It was an absence.” Manuel added.

Although Susan complained to herself in her heart, she didn’t dare to refute it.

“Of course. So I’m gonna go now. And I will be at work on time tomorrow!... No, I’ll be at work half an hour in advance!”

She did learn a lesson this time.

“Wait.” Manuel stopped her again.

Susan turned around, for fear that Manuel would go back on his words.

“Take your laptop!”

When Manuel pointed at her laptop on his desk, Susan realized that it was hers, since she and Tammy walked out in a hurry today. She hurried to fetch it, but Manuel suddenly laid his hand on the computer. She puzzled.

“This laptop belongs to the company and it’s used for work,” Manuel said in a strict voice.

Susan nodded in a hurry, “I know that!”

“What kind of documents are in the file named ‘Mermaids’?”

Susan flushed right away and then got pale a few moments later.

How did he know that? What had he done on her laptop?

She used it to refresh herself once in a while when she worked overtime in the middle of the night. How should she explain it to Manuel? He must have thought that she was an indecent woman. Those were pornography. She was afraid that Manuel would deem her a filthy one in the future.

“Why named it ‘mermaids’?” Manuel asked.

Susan swallowed and explained, “Because they can’t float out of the surface.”

That meant the things in that folder could not be seen by anyone.

She was just so surprised that Manuel could have found it since it was hidden deep enough.

Manuel seemed to refrain from his smile, thinking that Susan's brain was unpredictable.

"Looks good?" Manuel asked.

"What?" Susan didn't understand what he was saying.

"The 'mermaids'," Manuel said with a pulled-long face.

Susan hardly reacted, and words escaped her lips the next moment, "You look better."

"..."

### **Chapter 838 The Baby's Room**

Manuel had a weird look on his face upon hearing Susan's words. Susan thought he didn't believe it and added seriously, "It's true. You're hotter."

Manuel gnashed and looked away.

"I've seen a lot of guys, but very few of them are hotter than you." Susan was not lying.

"How many guys have you seen?" Manuel asked with a long face and stared at Susan.

Susan seemed to be thinking hard or calculating. Manuel saw that and flew into a rage. He would have given her a good beating if he wasn't so calm.

"A lot. It's hard to give you the number." Said Susan honestly. She'd been watching dirty movies since eighteen. It'd been years, and she couldn't remember how many naked guys she had seen.

"Fine." Manuel looked at her face and got angrier, "Get out."

"OK." Susan nodded. She obeyed Manuel almost in every way. When she came forward to fetch her laptop, she heard Manuel telling her, "Stop watching porn."

Susan pursed her lips, secretly complaining. Why couldn't she have her little fun time and why couldn't she watch porn when she was horny?

"I've deleted them all." Said, Manuel.

What the hell?

Susan was pissed but dared not sass him.

"Don't be late for work tomorrow, otherwise, you'll get a salary deduction according to the rules and regulations of Phillips Bank."

"OK." Susan nodded and listened.

"Anything else?" asked Manuel all at once.

Susan frowned and thought about what else she was supposed to say. Suddenly, she rolled her eyes and said, "Mr Johnson, thanks for giving me the chance to work at Phillips Bank again. I promise I'll do my best and devote myself to my work."

"Out!" Said Manuel angrily.

Shit! He wasn't fond of being flattered. Susan picked up her laptop and left hastily.

Manuel was furious, wondering why Susan didn't defend herself on today's document thing. He knew when the document was deleted when he restored it. Telling from the time, it was most likely that Clara had done it.

Manuel couldn't help clenching his fists, hoping Susan could be more sophisticated. For God's sake, she even watched porn, which he had never seen in his life. He was shocked when he fixed her laptop and saw the folder named "Mermaids". He randomly clicked one video open and watched it. Manuel took a deep breath, went up to the French window and cooled himself down.

"You're hotter!"

Suddenly, Susan's words crossed his mind and he couldn't help swallowing.

Oscar had stayed in Kensbury City for four days and left on the fifth morning. Hannah got up and found him gone. In the past four days, they didn't share the bed. They lived under the same roof as strangers, and neither of them enjoyed it. To her, it was a relief that he had left.

"Ms Cooper." Max addressed respectfully and went up to Hannah, who was watching TV.

Hannah looked back at him, "What's up?"

"Well..." Max hesitated, "Would you like to come and have a look?"

Hannah was a bit surprised, but still followed Max to a room on the second floor. Max opened the door. Hannah was stunned to see the room that had been decorated as a baby's room. It was all pink. Whatever was needed could be found inside, for example, the cot, diaper changing table, carpets and lots of toys in the corner.

She was thinking about where Oscar was going to put all those baby stuff when they were out shopping the other day. To her surprise, Oscar had built a baby's room within several days. She looked at the dream baby room and was moved, wondering if a pregnant woman was more sentimental.

"Master Oscar built it all by himself. I was trying to help but he refused. He has even painted the wall on his own." Explained Max.

Hannah pursed her lips. They stayed in the same house, but they spent little time together except when they went shopping on her birthday. And, she didn't know what he was up to.

"Master Oscar was so tired that he fell asleep in the baby room that night." Added Max.

Hannah remained silent. She didn't know how to put herself in Oscar's shoes. She knew he did want this child, but she couldn't understand his feelings. Maybe he felt the same for Lilian's baby.

"Master Oscar still..."

"Max." Interrupted Hannah.

Max looked at her, knowing she didn't want to hear him out. But he just felt he should do Oscar a favour whenever he saw the way he looked at Hannah. He was so restrained and heartbroken.

"I'm tired. I wanna take a nap." Hannah said and left.

She didn't step into the baby's room, which Oscar had specially built and decorated. She just refused to walk into it.

It was in a fine private hospital in the Capital. Lilian was lying on the bed and watching the doctor doing antenatal care for her. Rowan was there for her and both of them looked kind of serious.

The doctor examined the baby and said, "Miss Collins, the baby is 16 weeks now. All is good."

What Lilian cared about wasn't the baby's health condition, but its gender. She looked towards Rowan, and the latter nodded slightly. They understood it tacitly.

After the antenatal care, Lilian was waiting for Rowan in the car. Rowan came out a bit later. He got back in the car and sat down next to Lilian.

"Father, is it a boy or a girl?" asked Lilian nervously.

Rowan put on a straight face.

"A girl?" asked Lilian. At that very moment, she couldn't be more disappointed.

Rowan nodded. Lilian found it unacceptable. That was the last thing she wanted to hear, but it did happen.

"But the doctor said there might be a mistake, and could check it again when it's twenty weeks." Comforted Rowan.

"It can't be a mistake." Said Lilian, who never believed the odds.

Neither did Rowan. But he just hoped it could be the other way around.

"Father, now we must find out if Hannah is carrying a boy or a girl. It's the top priority." Lilian said coldly and ferociously.

### **Chapter 839 The Collins' Plot**

"I've tried," said Rowan, "but couldn't find out the gender of Hannah's baby. Probably, Oscar has blocked the news. I can't take the chance and act rashly, otherwise, we'll alert Oscar. He is so smart that he can figure out what we're gonna do next once we make a single move."

Rowan looked like shit. For all time, he thought the Balderston family was his only rival. It turned out that Oscar had wrapped him around his little finger. He felt bad when thinking of it.

Undoubtedly, Lilian knew it as well, and she must keep up appearances in front of Oscar. She must act to be a kind and thoughtful girl, who wasn't jealous of Hannah at all. But she had started to freak out since she knew she was carrying a girl. In the one-thousand-year history of Northfield, there had never been a female commander. If she was pregnant with a girl, that meant her child couldn't inherit the throne. If Hannah happened to carry a boy, the result couldn't be more obvious.

"Father, we must get rid of Hannah's baby." Snapped Lilian.

Rowan stared at her, waiting for her to go on.

“All we want is to take back the throne and power. We’ve planned to achieve our purpose with the baby, but it won’t work any more. So, we must figure out another way.”

“But it’s a tough job for us to take down Oscar. Now we are in a stalemate, and neither of us dares act rashly. I guess this situation will last for a long. Whoever dares take action now will end up no good. It’s a balance point for us, just like what we did with the Balderston family. It took nearly one hundred years to break the stalemate, and it’ll also be a long fight with Oscar.”

By then, they might have been dead.

“That’s why we can’t keep Hannah’s baby. The stalemate will be broken sooner if Oscar doesn’t have an heir. Then we can take back the throne without a battle.” Said Lilian in ferocity.

“Can’t agree more. But have you considered that Hannah could have more kids if she lost this one?”

Lilian pursed her lips.

“It’s easy for Oscar to have an heir.” Said Rowan.

“Right. But I must be the mother of his heirs.” Said Lilian furiously.

Rowan looked at her.

“So, to be more exact, we can’t keep Hannah and her baby.”

“Lilian, think twice.” Rowan was more experienced and gave it a second thought, “We’ve made a deal with Oscar. Oscar won’t spare us if we betray him. As far as I know him, he’ll start a civil war for Hannah if we hurt her. Well, we can’t afford to take it.”

“He’ll never know we do it!” said Lilian evilly.

“It’s impossible to keep anything from Oscar in Northfield. And, he’s protecting Hannah so well that we can’t find a chance to do it.” Rowan frowned and said.

“So, I’m on it.” Lilian smiled coldly.

Rowan was surprised.

“As long as I’ve won Oscar’s trust,” said Lilian, “he won’t be suspicious of me. Father, I’ve got the plan. Just back me up.”

Rowan wasn’t sure of it.

“Father, do you want to give out the throne to others willingly?” asked Lilian.

Hell no! He thought he was sure to win, but Oscar popped out and took the throne.

“We must win our dignity back!” said Lilian decisively.

“OK.” Said Rowan firmly, “If you believe it’ll work, I’m at your disposal.”

“Hmm.” Lilian nodded and got a plan in mind. She suddenly rolled her eyes and said, “Is Oscar back in the Capital?”

"I heard that he was just back. He's in the office now."

"Drop me at his office now."

"What are you gonna do?" asked Rowan. He thought they shouldn't disturb Oscar when he was at work.

"Of course, to win more of his trust." Said Lilian, "Don't worry. I know what to do."

Rowan agreed. The more time he spent discussing with Lilian, the better he got to know her. He found Lilian was smarter than his eldest daughter and had a deeper insight into things. He used to think she was too young and didn't get her involved. He thought he might not have to share power with Oscar if he had made Lilian part of it earlier.

The car arrived at the supreme power office of Kensbury City. Lilian worked here, so she could scan her face and go in. Then she went straight to Oscar's office. In the huge office, she saw Oscar and Theodore as well as a bunch of guards.

Oscar looked up at her. At that very moment, she was attracted by his charm. She was stunned by his breathtaking face each time they met. Indeed, he was a Mcdreamy to her, especially when he was on top of everything, which had added to his charm and halo.

She stayed poised, hid her feelings, and said with a smile, "I heard you're back."

"What's the matter?" said Oscar lightly. He was always neither cold nor hot to her.

"Oh, nothing much. I just want you to check the baby's examination report." She said and put the report on his desk, "I guess you might want to know. Here it is. The doc said it's all good."

Oscar stopped going through the documents and concentrated on the report. He picked it up and started reading it in silence.

Theodore came over from one side and read the report out of curiosity, "Oh, this is Cian's..."

Oscar glared at him sharply. Theodore pursed his lips and got the hint. He mustn't speak it out although it was an open secret. What was the point of it?

"How time flies. It's been 16 weeks. I'm having a baby bump." Lilian said and stuck out her belly.

Oscar and Theodore looked towards her and saw her belly had stuck out.

"Take better care of yourself." Said Oscar.

"OK, I will." Lilian nodded obediently.

#### **Chapter 840 "I Hate Both of Them!"**

Lilian was so sweet that Theodore started to like her. Seriously, he hated Rowan's guts before, but thanks to Lilian, he had changed his opinion about them.

"OK. I'll leave you to it. I'm here for some unfinished work, too." Said Lilian, "See you later."

"Want me to walk you to the office?" asked Theodore.

“Nope, thanks. I’m good.” Lilian said with a big smile. She appeared reasonable and thoughtful, which people would be fond of.

After Lilian left, Theodore couldn’t help to sigh, “Gosh! Karma is a bitch! But Lilian is strong.”

Oscar didn’t argue with him.

“But, Oscar,” Theodore thought of something, “Lilian is 16 weeks pregnant. When will you officially marry her? It’s not good for her reputation as the baby grows.”

“I know,” said Oscar.

Certainly, Oscar had considered it. Now that even Theodore had put it forward, it must be urgent. He put down the report on the desk and lit a cigarette. Theodore got a lot to tell, but he chose to zip it when he saw his bewildered face. He then sighed heavily and smoked with him.

One month later, when Hannah was 28 weeks pregnant and Lilian was 20 weeks pregnant, Oscar announced the news that Hannah and he had fallen out and divorced by agreement. Normally, Oscar couldn’t divorce Hannah during her pregnancy, but they still got a divorce because they both agreed on it. It was breaking news, which had made a stir in the country.

The onlookers had smelled the rat earlier but they didn’t believe it. The news shocked them all. How come a nice couple ended up with a divorce? Was it true that no man could stand the test of money and power? Anyway, it was official news. So, it was true.

Hannah read the news and sighed with relief. Finally, she didn’t have to pretend that they were still a married couple in public

But Susan couldn’t take it. She called Hannah and swore right away, “Damn it! Oscar is a total ass! He has divorced you! How could he do that to you especially when you’re carrying his child? How dared he? Shit! I wanna knock some sense into him!”

“Chill out, Susan.” Hannah comforted, “It’s better this way. I no longer have to put up with the pressure and uncomfortable feelings that title has brought me.”

“Dear Hannah, are you OK?” Susan finished cursing Oscar and asked with concern.

“Yeah.” Said Hannah.

“I think, Oscar will announce the news that he’ll marry Lilian Collins next.” Said Susan slowly.

Hannah smiled. Susan was clever to see that coming. Oscar announced the divorce regardless of the great pressure for one purpose only, which was to marry Lilian. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have ruined his reputation. Probably, he didn’t want Lilian to have a bastard child. Still, Hannah felt bitter and pitiful deep down for her baby, who would be called a bastard since he was born.

“It wasn’t surprising.” She said casually.

“But don’t you care at all? Don’t you wanna kill him when he did this to you?”

“I do, but I can’t. Right?” Hannah joked.

“Hannah, it broke my heart to see you like this. You can be sad. You can vent your anger. Don’t grin and bear it.” Said Susan in tears. She couldn’t wait to kill Oscar whenever she recalled how badly he had hurt Hannah.

“I’m really fine with it. I don’t grin and bear it. I’ve been through tough days. I don’t care what Oscar is doing. I just don’t care any more.”

“Really?” doubted Susan.

“Yeah.”

Susan gabbled for another while before they hung up the phone. After talking to Susan, Hannah got a little blues. Max followed her everywhere. Did Oscar still think she would go extreme?

It wasn’t going to happen. She would no longer hurt herself for him again. It wasn’t worth it.

When Hannah was 32 weeks pregnant and Lilian was 24 weeks pregnant, there spread the news that Oscar and Lilian were getting married. But it didn’t create a buzz, since they had paved the way earlier. For example, the press frequently reported that Lilian had attended different public activities as Oscar’s date, Lilian had tidied up the suit for Oscar, and Oscar had smiled at her...

It was known to all that they were deep in love. To the onlookers, it was no big deal the news that they were getting married, and they believed it was only a matter of time. Moreover, their marriage was good for all people. The two big families allied, which could assure the prosperity of the country. They felt sorry for Oscar and Hannah, but they could understand Oscar’s choice when standing in the position of the country.

Susan freaked out again when she read the news, and shouted, “WTF! I curse them! The jerk and the bitch! They’ll go to hell! God! Please put a curse on them!”

“What do you want the curse to be?”

“They can’t have love all their lives!” snapped Susan, “They marry for interests only. They don’t love each other. They will never fall in love!”

Hannah smiled, thinking that Susan was still that kind-hearted girl. To Oscar and Lillian, love was nothing.

“Susan, my legs are swollen.” Said Hannah.

“What?”

“I found my legs and feet swollen this morning when I got up. I even can’t put on the slippers,” said Hannah.

“What’s wrong?” Susan was distracted and said, “I visited you the other day and you were fine. You look adorable with the baby bump.”

“I have no idea. I might have to see a doctor later.”

“You want me to go with you?” asked Susan.



“No, thanks. I can handle it. I guess it’s just the oedema of pregnancy.”

“I’ll go with you.”

“Listen, Susan. Focus on work. Or Manuel will find fault with you again.”

“Manuel, that asshole...” Susan held it back and murmured unhappily, “They are so annoying! I hate both of them!”

Hannah frowned.

“Manuel and Lilian!” said Susan straightforwardly.

Hannah realized it and couldn’t believe Susan had connected them.

“If only they make a couple!” sighed Susan.

Hannah burst into laughter, “You’ll cry your eyes out then!”