

Reborn 841

Chapter 841 Oscar Shows Up Again

"I don't mind crying my eyes out as long as you are happy!" said Susan firmly.

It was like anger talk, but Hannah was moved. Susan was always there to warm her heart. So, her life was full of love. It was worth living.

"OK. Gotta go. I have to go to the hospital and check on oedema."

"OK. Keep me informed. Love you."

"Sure. Love you, too. Bye for now."

Hannah hung up and put down the phone. She looked at her swollen legs and feet and poked at them. It was quite serious. She got out of bed, put on the slippers, sighed and went downstairs.

Max was busy cleaning. He saw Hannah and stepped forward immediately, "Ms Cooper."

"I'm having oedema. I need to go see a doctor and see if I need any treatment."

"Oedema?" said Max surprisingly.

"Yeah. My feet and legs are swollen." Explained Hannah, "It's not serious. Just make sure."

"I see. I'll send the car and go with you." Said Max, who never took it something petty.

Soon afterwards, Max left with Hannah. It was getting hot in Kensbury City. Hannah looked at the scorching sun out of the car window and felt extremely annoyed.

The doctor did a series of examinations for her and confirmed that it was physiologic oedema in the later stages of pregnancy, which would be gone after the baby was born. So, she didn't need any special treatment. Given that, Hannah and Max left for home soon.

She abruptly saw Oscar when they were back. It had been two months since he left last time. She thought he would never come back again. However, he did come back right before his wedding.

Hannah didn't know how to face him.

Was she supposed to congratulate him or just turn a cold shoulder on him?

At last, she went for the second choice. The oedema was bothering her, though the doctor said there was nothing wrong with it. She had bigger trouble walking.

She said nothing, but Max acted enthusiastic. He went up to Oscar and reported, "Master Oscar, I've just accompanied Ms Cooper to see a doctor. She's having pregnancy oedema, but the doctor said it was normal. He advised Ms Cooper to have some massage and not to sit and lie for too long, and remember to raise the legs in bed to help with the blood circulation."

Max had remembered everything better than her. Hannah listened to Max talking and went past them to go back to her room.

Her room was on the second floor. Hannah had difficulties going upstairs and began to think if she should live on the first floor because she didn't want to suffer physically. Oscar had seen her clumsiness. It'd been two months only, but Hannah had changed a lot. The baby bump had grown dramatically and she'd gained a lot of weight. She seemed to be out of breath in walking.

"Master Oscar, how long are you gonna stay this time?" asked Max.

Oscar watched Hannah going out of sight and looked back at him, "I'll leave tomorrow."

"Oh, OK." Said Max in disappointment.

"I'm back in Kensbury City for official business. I'll leave tomorrow morning."

"I see, Master Oscar." Said Max respectfully. He thought Oscar was back for Hannah only. Somehow, he thought Oscar owed Hannah an explanation and should comfort her after he had announced to marry Lilian. But Max dared not say much about it.

Oscar had tried to avoid it. He had no idea how to explain the marriage thing, though Hannah knew it would come sooner or later. He simply kept working numbly around the clock and tried to kill time in this way. But, he still came to see her in the villa when he was back in Kensbury City for official business. Oscar went upstairs as well.

Hannah was doing a massage herself as the doctor indicated. The baby bump was so big that she could hardly touch her legs and feet. It was obvious that she'd gained a lot of weight. She didn't think so at first, but she finally got to know the great effect of pregnancy hormones.

Sometimes, she didn't want to look at herself in the mirror, because she thought she was fat and ugly. But she didn't care much about her look when Oscar was around. There goes the old saying that a girl will doll herself up for him who loves her. Oscar wasn't the one she loved, so she didn't care about it.

"Lie down. Let me help you." Oscar went up to her and said.

"No need." Said Hannah, "The doc said it's normal to have oedema during pregnancy. No biggie. They will be gone after the baby is born."

"Just lie down." Insisted Oscar.

He put a pillow below her back and adjusted her to the most comfortable position, then he put a pillow below her legs. After it, he began doing massage her. Hannah felt uncomfortable with it. How could she let Mr Commander massage her? But she accepted it since she couldn't say no to him.

It was quiet in the room. Oscar was kneading her legs, and Hannah was reading entertainment news on the phone. The most breaking news of the day was about Oscar and Lilian's marriage. The press had made a buzz of it. Everyone had heard about it.

Hannah didn't know what kind of wedding Oscar would give Lilian. Probably, it would be grand and luxurious. Undoubtedly, Commander-in-chief's wedding was a red-letter day for the whole country.

Hannah read the news silently and got sleepy. As the due date came closer, she gained more weight and had more difficulties moving, and she even felt like sleeping all the time. Most of the time, she was sleeping. Right at this time, she fell asleep while she was reading the news.

Oscar raised his head and saw her sleeping with the phone in hand. He stood up, took over the phone and took a look at the phone screen while he was about to put it away. He saw the news contents with a photo, in which he and Lillian looked at each other in the eyes, looking like they were deeply in love. Oscar swallowed, logged out of the news APP and put the phone away.

Hannah was leaning on the bed. Oscar bent down to carry her up and put her down on the bed. He found it a little hard to carry her. Hannah felt someone coming close but was too sleepy to open her eyes. She slightly changed the position and went back to sleep.

Oscar stared at her sleeping face. It was fortunate that Hannah was stronger than most people. No matter what happened, she knew what to do for her good, and knew how to minimize the harm to herself, just like this. She could manage to live a good life.

Chapter 842 Lillian's Offer

It was soundless in the room. Oscar kept staring at Hannah for a long and fell asleep. He always got his hands full. Sometimes, he could only sleep three to four hours a night. And he was bothered with insomnia if he had slept too long the night before.

Hannah opened her eyes and instantly saw Oscar sitting beside her, leaning against the bed and holding her hand. She pursed her lips and looked at the alarm clock on the night table. She had slept for more than one hour. Did he sleep like this during the period?

Hannah didn't feel guilty. Instead, she was uncomfortable with it. No matter what she was feeling for him, he had affected her life, just like this moment. Was she supposed to take back her hand? Surely, she couldn't wait to, but what if she woke him? She would rather see him sleeping. At least, she didn't have to face up to him or talk to him.

For a while, she was torn. In the end, she decided to take her hand back. She wanted to pee. The bladder couldn't hold much urine at this stage of pregnancy. Finally, she understood how hard it was to carry a child. It was a hell of a job. But Oscar woke up immediately as she moved. He was deep in sleep at the last second, but abruptly opened his eyes, feeling like his sleep was an illusion only.

"Sorry that I woke you." Said Hannah politely.

Oscar watched Hannah trying hard to get out of bed.

"Where are you going?" asked Oscar.

"Bathroom."

"Let me go with you."

Hannah didn't say no. Oscar was holding her arms and Hannah was putting on her slippers, which were too small for her swollen feet. Oscar squats down to help her.

"The slippers are too small." Murmured Oscar.

"My feet are swollen." Said Hannah.

She stood up cautiously. It was getting more difficult for her to move since she got the pregnancy oedema. Oscar supported her with his hands and walked her to the bathroom, but he didn't leave. Hannah bit back the words and just let him stay. She believed he wasn't interested in a fat and ugly pregnant woman.

She took off her panties calmly. It wasn't hard as she was wearing a maternity dress only. The only problem was the big baby bump which had given her trouble sitting on the toilet. Seeing that, Oscar reached out to help her sit on it and then watched her.

"Can you please wait outside?" said Hannah, who couldn't pee while being watched, though she didn't care too much about her image at this time.

"I'll help you stand up when you're done," Oscar said before he got out.

Finally, Hannah was able to pee. She finished, stood up and didn't want his help. But Oscar simply came in right in time. He squats down and puts on the panties for her.

Hannah pursed her lips. Oscar helped her get out of the toilet, took her to the sink, washed her hands for her, dried them and washed her face.

"I can do it myself." Said Hannah lightly.

"I know." Said Oscar. But he didn't stop it. After that, he walked her out of the bathroom.

"Wait for me here. I'll wash up and go downstairs with you." Said Oscar.

Hannah said nothing. Oscar went into the bathroom, but Hannah just left. He came out and found her long gone. He'd tried to do it as fast as possible, but Hannah just refused to wait for him.

Oscar came downstairs and saw Hannah sitting on the couch and watching TV in the living room. There had been quite a few of news on him recently. At first, most of them were current events and political news, but the entertainment news on him had been on the rise since he announced his marriage to Lillian.

Hannah was calm and peaceful because she was used to it. To her, she would face up to it once she couldn't avoid it. At that moment, Oscar picked up the remote control and swift the channel to a variety show.

Hannah glanced at him and broke the ice first, "When is the wedding?"

The news said they were getting married, but they didn't tell when exactly. Oscar bit his lips hard.

"Lilian has a baby bump now, right?" Hannah said peacefully, "It's hard to hide it later."

"Hannah, stop it." Interrupted Oscar.

Hannah smiled and said, "OK."

She was just trying to start a conversation. It was fine if he didn't want to talk about it. Hannah focused on the hilarious variety show and smiled brightly. Oscar accompanied her in silence. His short stay didn't cause any argument. They just got on like total strangers.

Oscar left the next morning, and left a note to Hannah before he set out, "Take care."

Hannah wasn't interested in reading it but it was clear at a glance. She threw it into the dustbin, got up clumsily and went downstairs slowly, thinking why Oscar and Lillian must inform her about their wedding one after the other to disgust her. Why couldn't they cut her some slack?

Lillian was waiting for her in the living room. Hannah was surprised to see that she looked very different from two months earlier. She put on a good face, went up to Lillian and said, "Oscar has left this morning."

"I know." Said Lillian, "I'm here for you."

Hannah had also expected that.

"Would you like to speak alone?" she said.

Lillian nodded. Hannah took her out to the garden. It was cool in the morning in Kensbury City. The air was fresh.

"I can't walk too long. Let's just speak here." Hannah said and glanced at the bench in the pavilion.

Lillian nodded. She was also a straightforward person. Then she went straight to the point, "Hannah, you wanna leave him, right? I can help you."

Chapter 844 Dark Side of Ambition

"Hannah isn't an easy type to fool with. Even though I have little knowledge about her, you gotta remember she's scheming enough to put your sister in prison. And don't forget about what happened to Charles. All of these just happened not long ago. Don't underestimate her." Rowan still stayed alert.

"What happened to Sarah is a different case. At that time, Sarah was infringing upon Hannah's interest. But now I am trying to help her out. There's no better alternative than my aid. Besides, I have the justified reason-she is now kept as a mistress of Oscar. I, as a proud lady from a privileged family, would deem it the greatest disrespect which I wanna get rid of the most. That's why I believe she will accept my plan." Said Lillian.

"Even if you have convinced her, how are you gonna help us evade the connection from this when Oscar grows suspicion." Asked Rowan.

"We may find a scapegoat." Said Lillian frankly.

Upon hearing that, Rowan was stunned. But obviously, that would be the best solution. After Hannah got killed, a scapegoat would help to bail them out forever.

"So what's gonna be the scapegoat?" asked Rowan expectantly.

"Oscar wouldn't be likely to believe it if we make someone common the scapegoat. After all, an average person wouldn't have the power to get Hannah away from him. So here's my answer-the scapegoat has to be my brother." Lillian replied.

"Lillian! He's your brother! Are you gonna risk his life?" Rowan huffed seriously.

“Father, I don’t mean to be ungrateful. But that’s what we could do to prove that I have nothing to do with it. Now I mean a lot to the Collins. Father, I bet you should be aware of it...”

“But you can’t let your brother take the risk because of you. Lillian, yes, we are a political family and I know sometimes sacrifice is needed, but you can’t make your brother pay such a price. That’s our bottom line!”

“Father, just listen to me. As I just said, I mean a lot to the family right now. As long as I can prove that I am not involved, Oscar won’t retaliate against me. Besides, I will make the baby part of my bargain chips. If he were to kill my brother, I would stop him at the cost of my baby. He values the baby a lot. If I were to threaten him at the cost of my life, he wouldn’t kill my brother. But perhaps my brother still got a price to pay.”

But Rowan still seemed hesitant.

Lillian then continued, “Father, great success requires sacrifice. I can guarantee that my brother will be safe. But Hannah has to be eliminated. Now we have confirmed that I am pregnant with a girl. Before birth, my daughter is the greatest resource we can rely on. After I give birth to the baby, Oscar will take her away. If that happens, he will have no scruple to plot against us. That’s the only opportunity we have to seize.”

“What if he tries to kill your brother as soon as you give birth to the baby?” Rowan was taking something further into consideration.

“Father, if you are still worried, we can send Mathew abroad to keep him safe. And he can return a few years later after Oscar dissipates his hatred. I can assure you that I will capture Oscar’s heart as soon as Hannah is dead. When he truly falls for me, there’s no need to worry about my brother.” Said Lillian confidently.

Rowan fell into silence.

“Father, we can’t afford to miss the chance. I know what concerns you. I don’t want Mathew to take the consequence either. But that’s the best we could do. If you find it dangerous, we can indeed resort to another way. However, after I give birth to the baby, plus the situation that Hannah is still there with Oscar, it will be a great challenge for me to win his heart.”

“Alright, just do as you planned. But I gotta talk to Mathew first.” Rowan finally made up his mind.

“Okay. I am going home right now. Let’s talk after I return home.” Lillian nodded.

As soon as she hung up the call, the smirk on her face widened a great deal. With everyone under her control, now she only needed to expect the time to come.

The wedding date was announced. There were only ten days left, which meant Hannah should be leaving this country in ten days.

She contemplated a lot as soon as Lillian left. She was wondering if Lillian would take the chance to kill her. However, she supposed that Lillian wouldn’t be that stupid to take the risk. As far as she was concerned, Lillian must have reserved a Plan B. Obviously, it was easy to tell how earnestly Hannah wanted to leave. As long as she could get away from Oscar, she would never return. Thus, from Lillian’s

perspective, Hannah's departure shared no differences with her death. However, from Hannah's perspective, it differed a lot when it came to the possible consequences she was going to face. She bet Lillian was well aware of that.

Hannah then made a call to her parents to inform them of their departure. Miguel and Michelle immediately agreed. During these days, the announcement of the wedding between Oscar and Lillian had gone viral nationwide. As Hannah's parents, they could tell how many grievances Hannah bore. So they agreed as soon as their daughter mentioned it even if that meant they would never return to this country. Meanwhile, Hannah's grandma also showed her consent as well.

After getting consent from her family, Hannah now had no scruples. However, she still reserved a bit attached to this land she had been living in since she was born. She stared at the screen of her phone for a long. Finally, she dialled a number, "Susan."

"Wow, you call me! What? You miss me?" Susan seemed to be in a good mood.

"Yeah, do you have time tonight? Come here to have dinner with me. I will tell Max to prepare your favourite dishes." Said Hannah.

"Great. But you gotta wait for a while because I have to work overtime tonight. There's a project to be confirmed. And I gotta hand it over to Manuel tomorrow morning."

"It's okay. I will wait for you."

"Alright, I will talk to you later. I gotta go now."

"Okay." Hannah hung up the phone, wondering what if she was going to tell Susan that she would be leaving ten days later and she would never return.

Some mixed feelings surged up in her mind. But soon, she got away from frustration. Then she talked to Max, "Susan will be here for dinner tonight. Prepare some of her favourite dishes."

"Yes, Ms Cooper." Max nodded.

Then Hannah stood up and walked into her room. As soon as she was about to enter her bedroom, she suddenly paused and turned to the baby's room which Oscar carefully decorated.

She had never set foot in ever since Max showed her this room that day. As she took a look, tears welled up in her eyes. She couldn't help thinking about Oscar's reaction after she walked away from his life.

How would he feel after that if he came to this room once again?

Chapter 845 Say Goodbye to Susan

Hannah didn't stay there for long. She then closed the door to leave. What had gone was gone.

At about 7 PM, Susan arrived.

"I hope I haven't kept you waiting for too long." Said Susan apologetically.

She planned to leave as soon as she finished the coordination of the project. But Manuel showed up unexpectedly to talk about the project. That was she arrived so late. She got annoyed as she was in a hurry to come to meet Hannah. However, whenever she faced Manuel, she felt like she was daunted.

"It's okay. Whatever. I got nothing else to do." Hannah smiled to reply.

Susan could tell it didn't matter to her. But she just felt like she got to apologize. She could tell how Hannah felt about her own life right now. Thus, she hoped that Hannah could break away from it.

"Come on, just wash your hands and get ready for dinner." Said Hannah.

She didn't want Susan to grow any worry because of her.

Susan nodded and headed into the bathroom. As she walked out of the door, she saw Hannah waiting and waving at her from the table. Susan walked over to sit down. Then they started dining.

Though the dishes prepared by Max did taste good, Susan didn't have much appetite. She simply watched Hannah dining elegantly in silence. A pang of sadness struck her heart, "Hannah, have you been dining alone recently?"

"Yeah," Hannah answered casually.

"Don't you feel lonely?"

"I have got used to it."

"I don't know why...I just feel like I wanna cry when I look at you today." Tears welled up in Susan's eyes.

Hannah felt a pang of heartache as well. Was that because Susan had felt that she was about to leave?

Hannah pretended to be composed. Then she changed the subject, "Did Manuel reproach you again? You look too sentimental today."

"I am tired of his reproach...he's being fastidious. What a psycho!" Susan seemed annoyed as soon as she mentioned Manuel.

Hannah was speechless.

"I just somehow feel sad when I see you today." Susan returned to the topic.

"Is that because I look too ugly right now?" said Hannah jokingly.

"Come on, stop your nonsense! You're the prettiest girl in the world! Even if you were to put on tons of weight, I would never change my view!" Susan hurried to say.

"Is that a kind of compliment?" Hannah smiled wryly.

Susan seemed to notice that Hannah looked more satisfied with her life right now than she expected. So she smiled as well, "Of course, it's a compliment. You're the prettiest girl I have ever met. I mean it."

Hannah kept on smiling. However, she couldn't help growing sadness at the thought that it would be the last time to meet this carefree girl for the rest of her life.

"Hannah, when is your due date?" asked Susan suddenly.

Judging from the size of her belly, she felt like Hannah was about to give birth to the baby right now.

“About a month.” Said Hannah perfunctorily.

She didn’t tell her the exact date because she might have left the country by then.

“Will Oscar be back to stay with you on that day?” Susan started murmuring.

As soon as she mentioned about Oscar, she seemed irritated, “I can’t believe that bastard is about to get married again in ten days! I just feel like tearing him apart!”

Hannah couldn’t help smiling. Now she barely grew any hatred against Oscar. Or perhaps it was because she no longer reserved any feelings for him. That was why she wasn’t irritated. But she somehow admired Susan’s personality to express her true feelings straightforwardly.

“Hannah, are you okay?” Susan seemed a bit sad again though she looked energetic a second ago.

“I am fine. As I said, I have been used to it. There isn’t such a great resentment against him. I know he has a tough reason. I truly understand his difficult situation.”

“You said you understand his situation?” Susan was exasperated. She couldn’t help wondering if Hannah got blinded by her unconditional love reserved for Oscar.

“No, it isn’t because of love. Instead, I can show my understanding just because I can make an unbiased judgment after getting rid of my feelings for him. Not until then did I make an impartial comment about his choice.”

“But I just can’t understand what you’re thinking.” Susan found it hard to stand in Hannah’s shoes. If she were Hannah, she would never think in the same way.

“But now you are living with him...Don’t you feel aggrieved?” asked Susan with great sympathy.

“Yeah, I do feel aggrieved,” Hannah answered frankly.

Susan paused out of surprise. She supposed Hannah would have denied it perfunctorily.

“Hannah...”

“I got something else to tell you after dinner.”

Max wasn’t around at this moment. But still, she had to stay alert.

“Okay...Hey, if Oscar can’t return to your side at your due date, I will be here with you during your labour.” Susan continued.

Touched, Hannah kept on grinning with happy tears. Susan could always touch her soft spot.

Seeing her tears, Susan fell into a panic, “Hey, I don’t mean he won’t be back with you. I mean if he is too busy to return, I will come to you. Stop crying. Your tears got me in panic...”

While speaking, Susan felt like shedding tears as well.

Hannah managed to compose herself, “No, it wasn’t because of Oscar.”

She no longer sheds tears because of Oscar.

"I just feel like I am so lucky that I have you to be my friend. Thanks to you, I still reserve hope for my life."

Indeed, Susan was the only friend she cherished the most.

"I feel the same as you even though I have always been reproached by Manuel." Susan wiped off her tears and continued as she noticed Hannah had calmed herself down, "Hannah, you know what? I always feel like I have come back to life from a calamity. Perhaps it was because of the kidnap that I truly experienced the fear of death. Now I have grown more love for this world. I just feel like...I have never revived myself from true death. The life I am living right now makes me feel like I got it by stealing it. That's why I truly cherish what I have at this moment."

"The same to me." Hannah nodded.

Whenever she felt like giving up after being seriously struck by something terrible, there was a voice deep inside telling her that she got to cherish the chance to start over her life once again.

She told herself she could never fail the blessing of her destiny.

Chapter 846 Another Way Out

After dinner, Hannah led Susan into her bedroom, where there planted no cameras or bugs. So that would be the place where they could exchange secrets without Oscar being noticed.

After getting her stomach stuffed, Susan lay down on the bed relaxedly. But soon, she got stunned by Hannah's serious expression. She felt like Hannah was going to tell her a shocking secret. But she hadn't been ready yet.

"Hannah, what's wrong?" asked Susan in a trembling voice.

"Susan, I am gonna leave." Said Hannah.

"What?" Susan was confused.

"I am leaving Kensbury. Exactly speaking, I am leaving Northfield."

"For how long?"

"Perhaps a lifetime." Even Hannah herself wasn't sure about that. But as long as Oscar was still alive, she wouldn't be likely to return, she supposed. However, she couldn't tell if she could outlive Oscar. He should be a person of longevity, she reckoned.

Upon hearing that, Susan felt tears welling up in her eyes. No wonder she got struck by sudden sadness as soon as she saw Hannah today. It turned out that it was some kind of omen.

"Hey, don't cry for me." Hannah comforted her softly.

But Susan felt like she lost control of her tears. Though she wasn't overwhelmed with strong sadness, her tears were still running wild at the thought that it might be the last time they met each other. She even found it impossible to dissuade Hannah. As Hannah had just said, she was suffering from great

grievance because of being grounded. To be honest, Susan couldn't bear to witness Hannah living in agony. She truly hoped that Hannah could fight back and hit him where it hurt the most.

"When I settle down, I will get in touch with you. Then you can come to meet me." Hannah continued to solace her.

Said Susan sadly, "But there may be a long time for me to wait."

Hannah fell into silence. Indeed, she would have to lose contact with all her friends in Northfield for a long time in case Oscar would figure out her whereabouts. If Hannah were to leave successfully, she would never want to return.

"How about taking me with you?" Susan blurted out.

"Are you gonna give up on Manuel?"

"I tried but I failed."

"But what about your Father?"

Susan responded with silence in tearful eyes.

"Susan, I am not asking for you to leave with me while leaving everything behind. That's not why I am talking to you today. I just wanna say goodbye to you. And I don't want to simply disappear from your life without telling you any reason."

Susan almost reached the point of breakdown at the thought that Hannah would leave forever.

"I know what you mean. But I am just feeling sad. What's wrong with your marriage? What happened between you and Oscar? Can't he just say no to the marriage with Lillian? How tough the reason could it be so that he's willing to give up on the one he loves and marry a stranger?"

But for Hannah, it didn't matter to her anymore. Now she just intended to set herself free. Also, she wanted to set Oscar free. She was aware that the current ambiguous relationship between them would only bring them greater harm. She hoped Oscar could truly start over his marriage with another lady, which she deemed a decent end for the marriage between her and Oscar.

"Susan, there's something important that I need your help." Said Hannah seriously.

Though still greatly upset, Susan struggled to compose herself when noticing Hannah's serious tone.

"I am not gonna tell you how I will escape from his monitoring. After all, the fewer people know about that, the greater chance of success would it be. It doesn't mean that I don't trust you. Instead, you will be safer if you don't know about it." Hannah explained.

Tough and reluctant, Susan still showed her consent. She knew Hannah would not harm her. And she didn't want to put Hannah in a difficult situation.

"Honestly speaking, my plan to escape this time is rather risky." Said Hannah frankly.

Susan seemed a bit agitated.

“Hey, don’t panic. I try it because I have confidence. I will never risk my own life. But just in case of danger, I need to have it secured.”

“So what’s your plan?”

“I will be leaving on the day when Oscar gets married. Because of the wedding, he will be too busy to deal with everything impertinent to the ceremony. So that will be the best chance for me to run away. However, there is a risk-if I got plotted against, Oscar wouldn’t have the time to rescue me.”

“You mean you have made up your mind to leave?” Susan couldn’t help asking again.

“So I need Manuel’s aid.”

Susan paused out of surprise.

“I know Manuel will attend the ceremony.” Said Hannah.

Of course, Manuel had every reason to attend as an honourable guest. However, as soon as he left Kensbury, Hannah would have no one to turn to.

“Yeah, he will attend.” Susan nodded after some consideration.

“So I need you to hold him back. Let him stay in Kensbury. If I got in danger, I would notice you and you would have to tell Manuel about it so that he could come to save me.” Said Hannah.

This time, she got to plan for another way out. If everything went on smoothly, she wouldn’t need to turn to Plan B. But if not, Manuel would be the only one she could rely on.

“How am I gonna make him stay? Why don’t we just confess your plan to him? After all, the three of us have been through a lot together, I believe he would be willing to help.” Susan wasn’t confident enough to fulfil Hannah’s request.

“Yeah, I know he’s willing to help. But he will tell Oscar about it beforehand.”

“You’re right...”

“So your mission is to make him stay and prevent him from knowing your intention.”

However, it wouldn’t be likely for her to outperform Manuel when it came to sophistication, Susan reckoned. As scheming as Manuel had been, Susan felt like she could be seen through within a second.

“Susan, my life is on you.” Hannah got burdened with great responsibility. She knew Susan could outperform usual when driven by stress.

“I don’t think I can deal with Manuel. But if that’s the only choice for you, I will go for it.” Susan nodded with her teeth clenching.

She would never hesitate to take any risk as long as it was for the sake of Hannah. However, how was she going to keep him staying in Kensbury without getting him noticed?

“You may try to seduce him,” Hannah suggested.

Susan was stunned. She didn’t think it was a good idea. However, she did figure out an alternative.

But what if Manuel simply ignored her?

At the thought of that, Susan was frustrated.

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Said Susan sadly, "But there may be a long time for me to wait."

Hannah fell into silence. Indeed, she would have to lose contact with all her friends in Northfield for a long time in case Oscar would figure out her whereabouts. If Hannah were to leave successfully, she would never want to return.

"How about taking me with you?" Susan blurted out.

"Are you gonna give up on Manuel?"

"I tried but I failed."

“But what about your Father?”

Susan responded with silence in tearful eyes.

“Susan, I am not asking for you to leave with me while leaving everything behind. That’s not why I am talking to you today. I just wanna say goodbye to you. And I don’t want to simply disappear from your life without telling you any reason.”

Susan almost reached the point of breakdown at the thought that Hannah would leave forever.

“I know what you mean. But I am just feeling sad. What’s wrong with your marriage? What happened between you and Oscar? Can’t he just say no to the marriage with Lillian? How tough the reason could it be so that he’s willing to give up on the one he loves and marry a stranger?”

But for Hannah, it didn’t matter to her anymore. Now she just intended to set herself free. Also, she wanted to set Oscar free. She was aware that the current ambiguous relationship between them would only bring them greater harm. She hoped Oscar could truly start over his marriage with another lady, which she deemed a decent end for the marriage between her and Oscar.

“Susan, there’s something important that I need your help.” Said Hannah seriously.

Though still greatly upset, Susan struggled to compose herself when noticing Hannah’s serious tone.

“I am not gonna tell you how I will escape from his monitoring. After all, the fewer people know about that, the greater chance of success would it be. It doesn’t mean that I don’t trust you. Instead, you will be safer if you don’t know about it.” Hannah explained.

Tough and reluctant, Susan still showed her consent. She knew Hannah would not harm her. And she didn’t want to put Hannah in a difficult situation.

“Honestly speaking, my plan to escape this time is rather risky.” Said Hannah frankly.

Susan seemed a bit agitated.

“Hey, don’t panic. I try it because I have confidence. I will never risk my own life. But just in case of danger, I need to have it secured.”

“So what’s your plan?”

“I will be leaving on the day when Oscar gets married. Because of the wedding, he will be too busy to deal with everything impertinent to the ceremony. So that will be the best chance for me to run away. However, there is a risk-if I got plotted against, Oscar wouldn’t have the time to rescue me.”

“You mean you have made up your mind to leave?” Susan couldn’t help asking again.

“So I need Manuel’s aid.”

Susan paused out of surprise.

“I know Manuel will attend the ceremony.” Said Hannah.

Of course, Manuel had every reason to attend as an honourable guest. However, as soon as he left Kensbury, Hannah would have no one to turn to.

“Yeah, he will attend.” Susan nodded after some consideration.

“So I need you to hold him back. Let him stay in Kensbury. If I got in danger, I would notice you and you would have to tell Manuel about it so that he could come to save me.” Said Hannah.

This time, she got to plan for another way out. If everything went on smoothly, she wouldn't need to turn to Plan B. But if not, Manuel would be the only one she could rely on.

“How am I gonna make him stay? Why don't we just confess your plan to him? After all, the three of us have been through a lot together, I believe he would be willing to help.” Susan wasn't confident enough to fulfil Hannah's request.

“Yeah, I know he's willing to help. But he will tell Oscar about it beforehand.”

“You're right...”

“So your mission is to make him stay and prevent him from knowing your intention.”

However, it wouldn't be likely for her to outperform Manuel when it came to sophistication, Susan reckoned. As scheming as Manuel had been, Susan felt like she could be seen through within a second.

“Susan, my life is on you.” Hannah got burdened with great responsibility. She knew Susan could outperform usual when driven by stress.

“I don't think I can deal with Manuel. But if that's the only choice for you, I will go for it.” Susan nodded with her teeth clenching.

She would never hesitate to take any risk as long as it was for the sake of Hannah. However, how was she going to keep him staying in Kensbury without getting him noticed?

“You may try to seduce him,” Hannah suggested.

Susan was stunned. She didn't think it was a good idea. However, she did figure out an alternative.

But what if Manuel simply ignored her?

At the thought of that, Susan was frustrated.

Chapter 847 Hold Him Back

“Susan, my life is on you.” Said Hannah seriously.

Susan was rendered rather stressed. She couldn't afford to make any mistakes. If anything went wrong, Hannah would get killed. Though heavily burdened, she still nodded, “I'll do my best.”

Susan would spare no endeavour. Hannah always trusted her.

“Okay, I am gonna take a shower. You gotta stay alone for a while.”

“Okay.” Susan nodded.

But still, she was rather distraught while wondering what she could do to keep Manuel from staying and prevent him from going anywhere else.

As soon as Hannah walked into the bathroom, the smile on her face faded away. It would be likely for them to separate from each other for a lifetime. She looked at herself in the mirror with her eyes fixed on her belly, murmuring, "Sweetheart, I am sorry. Mommy got no choice." If anything risky were to happen, she, together with the baby, would end up in death.

Meanwhile, the news about the wedding between Oscar, the Commander-in-chief of Northfield, and Lillian, the noble lady from the Collins, had been attracting tremendous attention from the public. Anything content about their wedding would hit the headline and trigger incredible clout from social media. Undoubtedly, it caught the eyes of all in this country.

Hannah simply kept on browsing the news about their wedding, the comments of which all consisted of compliments. However, perhaps only a few of them had ever remembered that back a few years ago, there used to be an amazing wedding between Oscar and another lady named Hannah. But fortunately, most people had forgotten about that, even including Hannah herself.

Just a day before the wedding, Oscar made a call to her, "I will be back the day after tomorrow."

He was telling her that he would be back to her as soon as the wedding finished. But Hannah found it hard to understand what he meant.

Was he trying to convey that she was more important to him? The wedding meant nothing but a formal procedure to go through. Or perhaps he was trying to convey that he would still keep her as a mistress aboveboard after he slept with Lillian at the wedding eve.

Hannah coldly replied, "No, just spend some time with Lillian. I bet no one would like to see her husband leaving her alone on the second day after they get married. Oscar, out of the manner of a gentleman, you should be responsible."

Oscar responded with silence while clenching his phone hard. Meanwhile, Hannah couldn't tell what he might be thinking. Perhaps Hannah was just confessing her true feelings. Unlike the situation before when she needed to avoid annoying him, now she deemed it unnecessary to cover up her feelings as she was about to leave. What was more, she had made up her mind-she would leave without hatred or any other feelings.

When she reached somewhere overseas, she might still be proud of him and applaud him whenever reading his achievements while he was leading the country.

"Be nice to Lillian. I will take care of myself." She made it the word goodbye to Oscar.

She hoped he could live with Lillian from now on. Even though being alone, Hannah believed that she could still live a good life. And she wanted no interference from Oscar.

"Good night." Oscar showed no straight answer.

Silent, Hannah hung up the call. Only she was aware that it would be the last call between her and Oscar.

Susan had been distraught for ten days ever since Hannah told her about the mission. Commonly speaking, Manuel would have to leave for the Capital tonight as the wedding would be arranged

tomorrow morning. So Susan had tried all she could to hold him back. However, she had no better solution but to figure out some trifles to report to Manuel.

“Miss Phillips, are you trying to waste our time?” Manuel looked sulky.

He seemed to notice there was something wrong with Susan. While biting her lips, Susan had made up her mind to do all she could to hold him back.

“I gotta leave for the Capital and I have a flight to catch tonight. I got only an hour left before the plane takes off. And because of you, I have to rush to the airport with an empty stomach.” Huffed Manuel with annoyance.

While listening to his complaint, Susan kept on telling herself that she had to hold him back for at least one more hour.

“Miss Phillips!” Manuel grew more sulk.

Susan hurried to collect herself, “I’ll pay you the dinner!”

Manuel got speechless. Now he only wanted to end the conference and rush to the airport. He took a glance at her and stood up from his seat, “You may leave the rest to report to me the day after tomorrow when I return to Kensbury. Okay, now dismiss.”

Upon saying that, he walked away.

Staring at his back, Susan felt like crying out.

As soon as Manuel walked out of the conference room, his phone started ringing. It was Theodore’s calling.

“Hey, Theodore?”

“Manuel, what’s wrong with you? Where the hell are you? Tomorrow will be Oscar’s wedding date.” Theodore shouted.

“I am on my way to the airport.”

“What? Didn’t you tell me that you had booked the flight setting off this morning?”

Indeed, Manuel had booked a flight ticket to set off this morning. However, because Susan had been insisting that she got something important to report, he had to reschedule the flight over and over again until it reached the latest one today.

“I got something tricky to deal with.” Manuel fudged his response.

“Is that because of Susan?” Theodore soon noticed what was happening.

“No. It’s about business. Alright, I gotta go to catch the flight.” Manuel simply denied it.

“Hurry up. I am expecting you in the club to have a drink!”

“Okay.” Manuel hung up the call and he had reached his own office.

Clara was following by his side. While Manuel was adjusting his tie, she hurried over, "Mr Johnson, let me do it for you."

Before Manuel could refuse, Clara started untying his tie.

But suddenly, the door was pushed open. Manuel turned to look at the door, noticing that it was Susan who was standing there in anxiety. Now she got to try all she could to make Manuel stay, even at the cost of seduction.

However, as soon as she saw what he was doing with Clara, she felt like her plan to seduce him would never work. Undoubtedly, Manuel had been extremely self-disciplined. She still remembered that even when he was drugged with love-philtre, he could still manage to compose himself and drive her away. Let alone when he stayed sober right now.

"Is there anything else?" asked Manuel while pushing off Clara's hands.

Whenever Susan came to him, he would always keep a distance from Clara.

However, Susan just seemed that he was just pretending so that no one else could see the other side of him-especially when he showed his tender version or got turned on by lust.

"Nothing serious...I just wanna know when you will be back the day after tomorrow. I would get prepared to report to you beforehand."

Chapter 848 Susan's Struggle

"I will talk to you after I return." Huffed Manuel.

At the beginning, he even wondered if Susan found herself reluctant to see him leaving. That should be the reason why she tried all means to talk to him, he reckoned. However, he noticed that her action somehow seemed weird today.

"Okay..." Susan nodded. Then she walked away, looking frustrated.

While staring at her back, Manuel seemed to be growing more sulkiness.

Meanwhile, Clara could notice the changes of his feelings. No one could actually impact on his mood except for Susan. Though jealous, Clara still feigned a considerate look, "I have told the chauffeur to wait for you at the gate. And I have also noticed the airport. As soon as you arrive, there will be a fast passageway exclusive for you. I am sure you can catch the flight."

Manuel nodded.

"We gotta say thanks to my father." Clara smiled, trying to claim credit for herself. Of course, she also tried to remind Manuel of the power of her father. Meanwhile, she was clearly aware of the relationship between Manuel and Oscar even though he barely told anyone else about it.

"Thanks." Manuel replied decently.

Clara was rendered a bit upset. But she held it back.

"Come on, let's go. I will see you off in the airport."

“No, thanks. It’d better for you to return home.”

“It’s okay. We share the same route. And I will tell the chauffeur to drive me home after that.” Clara insisted.

Manuel seemed to acquiesce. Upon seeing that, Clara was delighted. Though Manuel always maintained a distance away from her, he would still compromise whenever she insisted. She supposed he might still reserve feelings for her. If it weren’t because of Susan, she believed she would have started a relationship with Manuel already. From her point of view, Manuel didn’t seem to love Susan. Perhaps it was just a feeling of frustration that made him hard to let go after his failure to maintain the gone relationship with Susan.

That was the nature of guys, Clara reckoned.

At the thought of that, she got into the car together with Manuel. Meanwhile, Susan parked her car nearby. While watching them getting into the same car intimately, she felt like being stuffed with mixed feelings.

Upon seeing their car leaving, she couldn’t help thumping hard onto the steering wheel.

What else could she do to make him stay?

Then she started the engine to follow over like a creep.

On their way to the airport, she failed to figure out a solution however hard she tried. She ever thought about hitting their car to make him stay. However, she worried what if he got killed in the crash. A dead Manuel wouldn’t help Hannah out.

After struggling for long, with her teeth clenching, she made up her mind. She stepped on the gas to hit her own car against the barricade nearby.

She was still haunted by the car crash happening last time. But now the same thing struck her once again. She felt like being hammered on the head. With her sight blurred by dizziness, she almost passed out. She struggled to keep herself awake. Then she started fumbling for her phone to call Manuel. Now that a crash just happened to her, Manuel should be staying, she reckoned. That was the best solution she could figure out to make him stay.

She struggled to reach her phone and started dialing the number while her head was still twisted and stuck. It couldn’t be pulled open. Then she saw the anxious face of Manuel, who was knocking on the door.

Did Manuel find she was in a car accident?

Manuel failed to pull the door open. The next second, he punched on the window.

Clara, who followed over, was stunned. So was Susan.

He actually punched the window with bare hand.

“Mr Johnson, stay calm. I have called the police.” Clara hurried to stop him.

The window still remained intact.

However, he didn't seem to care. Another punch then fell onto the window. It sounded so loud that Clara could tell how much it hurt. The chauffeur got off the car and hurried to say, "Mr Johnson, I will go to get the hammer."

Then he ran back into the car.

Manuel seemed to ignore what the chauffeur was saying. He kept on punching over and over.

Crack! The window eventually shattered into pieces.

Susan hurried to cover her head with both arms. The next second, she felt like someone grabbed on her to pull her out. She raised up her head to look at Manuel, noticing how agitated he appeared. Though she did step on the gas before the crash, it didn't accelerate much because she was daunted by fear. So she was probably safe.

"Manuel..." Susan called for his name.

She wasn't severely injured though she felt quite dizzy. Nor did she feel much pain in her body. However, some of the broken glass pieces happened to cut her while Manuel was pulling her out, which hurt her a lot.

After getting her out, Manuel put her down onto the ground to check her carefully from head to toe. Though she bled a little, there wasn't a deadly wound.

"Are you okay? Is there anywhere painful? Are you still dizzy?" asked Manuel after a quick check.

It was actually a straight open road with few cars. He just couldn't figure out how came she hit the barricade. If it weren't for him observing through the rear mirror all the way, she would have been unnoticed for hours.

"It hurts." Susan looked painful.

"Which part?" as soon as he felt relieved a bit, he soon turned alert again upon hearing that.

"I don't know. It hurts all over...I might be dying..." Susan kept on whining.

"You know what? You are irksome, but I am sure you will survive." Said Manuel seriously.

Susan got speechless.

"Tell me! Which part?" Manuel repeated.

Though he didn't find any serious injury on the surface, there could be possibility that she suffered from hemorrhage, he wondered. Manuel hurried to hold her up in his arms. Susan was startled by his move. Then she heard him shouting to the chauffeur, "Take us to the hospital."

It suddenly occurred to her that she made it-Manuel would be staying from now on.

Chapter 849 Stay By Her Side

Manuel took Susan into the car. The chauffeur hurried to return to the driver's seat. As soon as Manuel put her down onto the backseat, he slammed the door shut.

Clara was left outside the car. Watching them leave, she felt burning with jealousy. Driven by anger, she couldn't help stamping her foot. She felt it hard to understand why Manuel cared about Susan so much.

She swore she would strive for his heart. Whatever it took!

Susan was rather startled. She felt she go to remind him that Clara was left behind alone. But she was somehow delighted about that. During these days, she felt like she was overwhelmed with jealousy whenever she saw the intimacy between them. In her point of view, she felt like she had revenged herself right now.

Susan reached out her hand to give a tug at the end of his shirt.

"Are you feeling unwell?" asked Manuel worriedly.

"Can you hug me tight? I am scared." Said Susan.

Manuel seemed hesitant.

"I lost my baby because of the crash last time." Susan continued weakly. Meanwhile, she seemed to be sobbing.

She wanted to seek sympathy. However, as soon as she mentioned it, she felt like her heart was aching. Honestly speaking, she didn't intend to give birth to the baby at that time. However, even after she lost the baby, she felt like her heart was being shattered into pieces. For a long period after that, she couldn't help wondering if the baby had survived, perhaps her relationship with Manuel would have been fixed.

Silent, Manuel murmured, "What has gone is gone."

Though it meant nothing but an old story for Manuel, it felt like a kind of agony Susan could never overcome.

Tears welled up in her eyes. She regretted what she had done before. As she turned to look at him, she saw Manuel's face getting closer. He reached out his finger to wipe off her tears gently, on the surface of which she could feel his warmth, "You will have another baby."

Susan seemed a bit confused.

"You will have another baby." He repeated softly. His words brought her back to the old days when he was infatuated with her. Perhaps he still reserved faith in their relationship while it was Susan who strayed away.

Susan slightly closed her eyes, "Manuel, I am sorry."

His finger paused at the corner of her eyes.

She felt sorry for pushing him away. And she regretted getting further and further away from him.

"I wanna..."

"Mr Johnson," The chauffeur suddenly cut in.

Silent, Manuel cast him a cold glance. He had always stayed amicable with anybody. However, just a second ago, the chauffeur felt like getting intimidated.

But he continued in a trembling voice to explain, "There seems to be an accident ahead. Shall we make a detour?"

"You're the one who drives. You should know how to make judgments." Manuel huffed seriously.

"Yes, sir."

Susan was also stunned by his tone. She almost got fooled by his tenderness just now. Now she deemed it necessary to stay alert.

As Manuel turned to look at her, he noticed that Susan was trying to avert her eyes from his. She appeared different from a moment ago. As soon as she noticed his anger, she hurried to say, "I am fine...I am sure I am fine right now."

Speechless, Manuel felt like he was talking to a fool who never knew what he meant.

When they arrived at the hospital, a medical group had been expecting them at the portal.

As soon as Susan got off the car, they hurried over to support her to the stretcher. Then she was taken into the emergency room.

Manuel followed over.

Before she passed the door, she suddenly grabbed him. Though she was afraid that Manuel would be annoyed, she still bore in mind that the mission assigned by Hannah was of top priority. Even if Manuel failed to catch the flight, he would be likely to resort to other transportation as long as he wanted. Manuel took a look at her while hearing her saying, "Manuel, don't leave me alone."

"Now I am all alone! I got no one to rely on. What if the worst consequence happens to me?" Susan shouted out loud.

Those doctors were also rendered speechless.

She looked good with such a loud voice.

Manuel looked rather embarrassed.

"You will be fine."

"I mean what if..."

"Enough!" Manuel refuted fiercely.

Tears soon welled up in her eyes. He shouted at her just after a car crash.

Upon seeing her tears, Manuel felt a bit sorry. His voice got tenderer, "It's just a common check. You will be fine."

"Don't leave me, okay?" Susan implored.

He didn't respond.

After checking the time, he supposed he could take a helicopter first and then go by car even though he couldn't catch the flight. If so, he might still make it on time.

"Manuel, are you gonna leave me alone?" tears streamed down her face, "I have nobody to rely on ever since my dad turned vegetative and my grandparents had all passed away when I was a kid. I barely know about any of my relatives. As for my best friend Hannah, she's still pregnant. I don't wanna get her worried. My stepmom, I mean your mom, has headed to the Capital for Oscar's wedding this morning. If you walk away, I will be all alone in the hospital..."

"I don't mean I am leaving!" Manuel got speechless.

He never thought about leaving ever since the car crash.

"Really?" she burst into happy tears.

"Yes."

"Will I see you as soon as the check is finished?" asked Susan once again.

"Yeah." Manuel kept on nodding.

"Don't lie to me."

"Have I ever lied to you?" his voice turned louder.

"Alright..." Susan hurried to stop asking. She then let go of his hand reluctantly.

"Don't walk away." She turned around to repeat.

Manuel nodded.

He had been staying by her side, always.

Chapter 850 An Unexpected Kiss

Soon, the check was finished. Luckily, it appeared that she was only merely wounded on the skin. But because of the impact on her head, the doctor suggested that she stay in the hospital for a night. And she would be free to leave tomorrow morning if she was fine.

It exactly accorded with what she wanted-with that excuse, she would ask Manuel to stay with her overnight. If anything went wrong with Hannah, Manuel could be able to bail her out.

Finally, she made it.

As soon as Susan was taken out of the emergency room, she saw Manuel waiting there as expected. As he was eye-catching, she soon noticed him among the crowd.

Manuel hurried over and then the doctor told him about Susan's physical situation.

Susan seemed to notice that Manuel let out a sigh of relief. He was still caring about her, she reckoned. At the thought of that, Susan was touched. Then the medical team took her into a VIP ward while Manuel was following.

After everything had been set, the team walked away. Only Susan and Manuel were left alone inside. While she was having an infusion, Manuel stayed by her side to browse the phone. Susan had no idea what to talk about. The silence of embarrassment lingered in the air. But suddenly, he stood up from the chair.

Susan hurried to grab his arm, "Where are you going?"

She was afraid that he would be leaving after he made sure that she was fine. Before Hannah had successfully carried out her plan, she got to stay alert in case Manuel walked away.

"I gotta pick up a call." Said Manuel.

As his phone was muted, Susan didn't hear any ringtone.

"Will you be back?" asked Susan worriedly.

Manuel nodded to reply. Not until then did she let go of his arm reluctantly. She saw him walking over to the window. Luckily, he didn't walk out of the room. However, she was somehow frustrated as she started wondering who was calling.

Was that a call from Clara?

She must be pissed after being left alone, Susan supposed. Perhaps Manuel would start solacing her softly after being bombarded by questions. At the thought of that, Susan felt like burning in anger. All guys were fickle in a relationship, she supposed. Susan got crosser as she recalled how infatuated he used to be with her.

Of course, Manuel had no idea what was on her mind right now. He was answering a call from Theodore, "I am sorry. I got something urgent to deal with. I am afraid I can't attend the ceremony. I will call Oscar later and pass him my congratulations."

"Congratulate my ass! Can't you tell how awful he feels? I tell you to come just because he asks us for a drink to kill his bad mood." Said Theodore.

Manuel could tell how Oscar felt right now. But he had no idea what to do.

"You can't lie to me. I know you stay there because of Susan, right?" Theodore ascertained that Susan must be the reason.

"Yes."

"You got into her trap! I knew it!" huffed Theodore.

Theodore considered Susan a tough lady worth friending with. However, when it came to what she had done to Manuel, he found it hard to forgive her.

"No, I know what I am doing. I've learned my lesson." Manuel refuted.

"Do you mean now you have restarted a relationship with her but you will try to avoid greater damage to yourself after you've learned your so-called lesson?" Theodore started interpreting what he meant.

Manuel responded with silence.

“Shit. You were just making excuses!” Theodore concluded.

From his point of view, falling in love with Susan once again was the dumbest thing.

“Is Oscar there with you?” Manuel changed the subject.

“Yes, you wanna talk to him?” asked Theodore.

“Yeah.”

Theodore then passed over the phone.

“Oscar, I am sorry. I can’t leave for the Capital tonight. I suppose I can’t attend your wedding either. There’s something I got deal with.”

“It’s okay. Take care.” Said Oscar.

“Don’t overdrink for the sake of health.”

“Okay.”

“Alright, I gotta go.”

“Bye.”

Manuel hung up the phone, feeling a bit distraught. Of course, he could tell how much Oscar love Hannah. Oscar was the victim suffering the most from the wedding tomorrow other than Hannah, he supposed.

Manuel then returned to the room. As soon as he walked inside, he noticed imploring eyes from Susan. He was somehow a bit confused-since when had she appeared so attached to him?

But still, he was moved.

He walked over to sit down beside her, “Don’t worry. I won’t leave. Just feel free to sleep if you want to.”

“I am not sleepy. But I am starving.” Said Susan all of a sudden.

Not until then did he realize that neither of them had dined tonight.

“I will order some food to be delivered here.”

“Get me some spicy food. I want some Mexican dishes like...”

“No, only a light diet.” Manuel interrupted.

Susan fell into silence with puppy eyes.

“You just got injured! You gotta be careful about diet.”

But Susan was aware that she was totally fine, though she didn’t dare to confess yet. She then remained silent.

Soon, some nutritious food was brought to her front. But it tasted plain. While watching it, she didn't feel like she had much appetite.

"Open your mouth." Manuel was feeding her.

Susan opened her mouth reluctantly to take it in.

"It's hot!" she suddenly cried out.

Manuel was also stunned by her reaction. Just a second ago, he got annoyed when seeing her disfavour against the food. Thus, he forgot to check the temperature of the food. When seeing her crying out, he looked apologetic.

Then he suddenly approached to kiss her.

The air seemed to be frozen.

Susan was rendered startled with her eyes wide open. She watched his face getting so close and their lips attached.

He reached out his tongue, making her blush all over her face.

Manuel didn't let go of her until quite a while later. As soon as his soberness took the upper hand, he seemed to realize what he was doing.

After the unexpected kiss, he fixed his eyes on her, who was also goggling at him.

His face, and his ears, were painted blushed as well.

"Still hot?" asked Manuel.

She wanted to say yes because she wanted more kisses to bring down her burning desire.