Reborn 861

Chapter 861 Theodore Comforts Susan

In the end, Justine and Susan compromised and went to catch some sleep in the room. But Susan left right after she walked Justine there. She left along with Justine only because she wanted her to take a break. She wasn't in the mood of sleeping, for fear that she could never see Manuel once she fell asleep. So she returned to the CIU.

Theodore was there for Manuel. She used to think Theodore was a shaky playboy, who was good at nothing but playing around. It changed her mind when she saw him standing beside Oscar in a suit and tie. Theodore was more mature and reliable than she had thought.

She went over. Theodore also saw her. She was exhausted but still insisted on being there for Manuel. Theodore couldn't tell what he was feeling.

Susan had asked Manuel to stay the night before, and Hannah must have asked Susan to do her the favor. Hannah was always a smart cookie. She knew it would be dangerous to escape, so she tried everything to make Manuel stay to save her.

Nevertheless, Hannah hadn't imagined that Manuel would throw himself in danger to save her and that he could die for her. Theodore would also risk his life to save Hannah. It was all for Oscar. Since they were young, they had been told to save someone Oscar loved and cared about at any cost. They lived for Oscar and the reign of the Wells family.

"Why not get some rest?" Theodore calmed himself and said. Normally, he looked playful and unreliable, but he turned out to be calm and reasonable when it came to something big.

"I can't sleep." Said Susan.

"You can't help here." Said Theodore coldly. He was still mad at Susan for keeping Manuel though he had figured out the whole thing.

Susan swallowed slightly. It was true that she could do nothing to help Manuel. On the contrary, she had brought him so many misfortunes.

Theodore glanced at her and looked back at Manuel, "Manuel wanted to stay."

For one second, he wished to kill her for Manuel lying in there. He had seen it coming that Susan would get Manuel killed someday. But he didn't have the heart to hurt her when she was so down. Manuel loved Susan and would feel bad even when Theodore shouted at her. Well, the Wells family were fated to be screwed by women, just like Oscar and Manuel, he thought.

"I didn't know it would end up like this." Said Susan, who didn't know who she should turn to and get it off her chest since Manuel was injured in the accident.

She couldn't talk to Hannah because the latter might feel guilty. She knew Hannah was suffering no less, and didn't want to upset her more. She couldn't talk to Justine, either, not because she was afraid of being blamed, but because she didn't want Justine to feel worse. Anyway, her only son Manuel was in a coma because of her, who wasn't worthy of him. So, Theodore was the only possible listener. To her,

Theodore was strange but familiar. For the first time, she felt he was a reliable man, who could take a lot that others couldn't.

"I didn't imagine he would be in life danger. I thought he'd get slightly injured and would be fine in a couple of days." Susan said with her eyes swelled with tears, "I'm a damn fool. I've been too naive! I didn't see things would end up so bad!"

Theodore could understand her feelings. One could never see how dangerous it could be unless he went through some terrible things. Susan was an innocent girl who was brought up in a beautiful world. That was why she couldn't see the dark sides of the world and didn't know a lot of shits couldn't be settled by law.

"Manuel won't blame you." Comforted Theodore. He just told her Manuel's mind that he saved Hannah willingly, and he wanted to stay for Susan.

"Maybe I'm a jinx!" Susan said in tears.

Because of her, Manuel had been injured a lot. For her, he had once disabled his legs. For her, he had almost fallen off the roof. Now he was unconscious in bed because she had told him to stay. Maybe she should simply stay away from him.

"If he survived, I would stay far away from him. I can do anything as long as he lives..." Susan choked with sobs and murmured in grief. She couldn't cry her heart out since Manuel was injured. She was afraid she couldn't get herself together before Manuel woke up.

"You fool!" Theodore swore and said with concern, "Manuel wouldn't survive if you left him."

He patted her on the head lightly, "Would you like to cry on my shoulder?"

Susan stared at him. For the first time, she got the feeling that Theodore was so gentle and sweet. For God's sake, he was loathing before and she used to hate him a lot.

"We're good friends, right?" Theodore smiled lightly. He didn't forget that they got drunk and swore to be good friends but just refused to admit it.

Susan looked at him and began to weep. For such a long time, she was all on her own and sucked it in silence. She had learned and forced herself to be strong. But she still wanted someone to be there for her and warm her heart. Tears dropped down non-stop.

Theodore opened his arms and indicated her to come. Susan choked with sobs and could vaguely see his broad and strong chest, which was someplace like a shelter for her.

However, she wiped her tears the next second, "No need. I'm good. Thanks."

Theodore frowned slightly. Susan looked like she would collapse any minute. He could even see in her eyes that she longed for comfort and care. It surprised him when she turned him down.

Susan managed to calm herself, "I'm afraid that Manuel wakes up and sees that. I don't want him to think I'm a loose woman."

Theodore was speechless.

Chapter 862 Hannah Tries Walking

Theodore and Susan were there for Manuel out of the ICU. In another ward, Hannah tried getting off the bed with the help of the nurses. She had been in bed since the cesarean section. The pain was so sharp that she couldn't help to frown when she landed her feet on the ground again.

Oscar stayed by her side, looked at her face and asked with concern, "Does it hurt a lot?"

"It's OK," Hannah said lightly since she had been used to this kind of pain.

"You can try later if it hurts too much."

"No. It doesn't hurt that much." Said Hannah indifferently.

Oscar pursed his lips and said nothing else. Hannah endured the pain and took another two steps.

"Ms Cooper, so much for today. Take it easy." Reminded a nurse.

"OK," Hannah said and nodded.

She went back to bed. One moment later, she told the nurse to help her get up and practised walking a few more times.

"I wanna go out of the room." Said Hannah.

"Ms Cooper, slow it down. It's the very first day that you get off bed. You'll be injured if you fall by accident." Advised the nurse.

"No worries. I can do it." Said Hannah firmly.

The nurse was in a dilemma. She looked back at Oscar to ask for his permission. Oscar nodded and agreed.

"Alright. But don't go too far." Said the nurse.

Hannah said nothing in response and walked out step by step with the help of the nursing worker. As expected, a bunch of guards in black were watching the door. Probably, the whole floor was cleared out and no one was allowed to come close. Hannah struggled to walk down the corridor for a long distance and finally reached the elevator.

"Ms Cooper, where are you going?" asked the nurse.

"I'm going to the ICU." Said Hannah honestly. She thought Manuel was there. The ICU was quite far away, and it was pretty dangerous to walk there on her first attempt.

"Bring the wheelchair." Said Oscar, who had been walking slowly behind Hannah's back.

The nurse sent for a wheelchair immediately.

But Hannah didn't ride in the wheelchair and said, "I'll sit down if I'm too tired to walk again."

Oscar nodded and the nurse had no choice but to follow her with the wheelchair. They went to the ICU on the elevator. From afar in the long corridor, Hannah saw Theodore and Susan.

Did it mean Manuel was still in danger? She held back her sadness and went over to them step by step. The bunch of people following her back had to slow down along with her. Theodore and Susan had heard them.

Susan turned around and saw Hannah, wondering why she was walking on her own. Didn't she have the cesarean operation the day before? How could she risk her life by walking?

Susan went towards her immediately, "Hannah, what are you doing here?"

Hannah looked at her worried face and felt bad.

"I wanna check on Manuel." She said.

"He's in the ICU. You shouldn't have come. You just had a baby, and you should lie down and rest well. How can you wander around like this?" said Susan in anger and distress.

Hannah said with a smile, "Let me just take a look at him."

Susan didn't want her to see Manuel, fearing that she would feel worse by seeing him so badly injured. But Hannah walked over slowly before Susan said anything. Through the window, she saw Manuel lying still in bed, which was much worse than she'd imagined.

She knew Manuel would be badly injured in the terrible car accident but didn't imagine the case would be so very bad. She even couldn't recognize him with so many tubes and machines to keep him breathing. Hannah wept silently.

"Oh, please don't cry, Hannah." Said Susan. She had tried so hard to hold back her tears but cried again when she saw Hannah in tears.

"I'm so sorry." Apologized Hannah. She didn't know what else to say.

Theodore cut in before Susan could say a word, "You knew it would be dangerous but still insisted on doing it. Do you regret it now?"

"I regret it." Said Hannah. It was true that she regretted it because so many people had nearly died for her.

Theodore was about to say something else, but Oscar gave him a sharp glance. Theodore shut up instantly. Anyway, Oscar wasn't happy to see Hannah get hurt though he was deeply hurt inside.

"Let's get out of here." Said Theodore.

Sometimes, he would just leave when he couldn't vent out his anger. Out of sight, out of mind. He dragged Susan to leave with him.

"Let go of me, Theodore!" said Susan in anger.

Indeed, Theodore was still that Theodore, who was so annoying.

"Catch some sleep if you don't wanna die! I'm afraid you die sooner than Manuel!"

Susan was out of words and wondering how he could be so mean. Then she was dragged away.

Seeing that, Hannah was grateful for Theodore and thought anyone working for Oscar was more useful than him, like Manuel and Theodore, who had helped a lot. But, Oscar had done nothing.

But she didn't blame him. She understood his responsibilities and concerns and he couldn't act at will. It didn't matter that he couldn't do it himself, because she would be up to it. She managed to chill out, watched peacefully Manuel in the ICU and turned around to leave. She walked away step by step, and all the others followed her once again.

She got in the elevator and asked, "Where's the baby?"

Oscar froze while he was about to press the button.

"I wanna see him." Said Hannah lightly. Maybe she was holding back her feelings.

Oscar felt his fingers shaking slightly. His sudden silence had got Hannah's attention.

"Is he dead?" asked she. The doctor said the baby was in very poor health when she was on the operation table. A newborn baby wasn't strong enough to fight the sickness.

Oscar shook his head immediately and answered, "Nah. He's in the infant incubator."

Hannah felt like crying. She thought she could accept any results, but it still stung her.

"I wanna go see him." Said she.

Oscar nodded. He pressed the button, wondering what he could do to make it up to Hannah. Maybe he could only give all she wanted to soothe her pain, even if she would leave him in the end.

Chapter 863 Lillian in Hannah's Ward

Hannah went to the ward and saw only one infant incubator in the huge room. It was her baby. He was premature and weighed much lighter than normal newborn babies. She hadn't seen him since the cesarean operation. Maybe he was dying or maybe the doctor was afraid that she couldn't take it. Anyway, the baby was taken away right after he was born.

It was the first time she had seen her baby. He was sleeping still in the infant incubator. He looked so tiny and his face was wrinkled. It broke her heart to see that. The baby had suffered a lot with her from the pregnancy to the delivery. She thought she was a terrible mother.

"Hannah," Oscar called her name. Probably, he had seen the sorrow in her eyes.

Hannah swallowed and tried hard to hold back the tears, "What did the doctor say?"

"The baby is strong. The doctor said he could live with us like other babies for some time."

"How long will it be?" asked Hannah.

Oscar pursed his lips and said, "Maybe in a week, or maybe... in a year."

Hannah smiled coldly and took it as a cold comfort. The baby was still in danger just like Manuel. She gritted her teeth, trying to be stronger.

"Hannah, he'll be fine. I promise." Oscar said word by word, sounding very confident. He believed their child was a little strong buddy, and he would be back to them, safe and sound.

"Promise? How can you promise it?" asked Hannah indifferently.

"With my life!"

"You mean you would die with him if he couldn't survive?" Hannah looked at him calmly, which was like a knife sticking in his heart.

"OK." Oscar nodded, "If the baby died, I would pay you with my life."

Hannah shook her head. What was she going to do with his life? It couldn't help relieve her pain or grief at all! She turned around to watch the baby. A long while later, she left. She couldn't suffer for him, but she could seek revenge for him. The other people left with her.

Hannah returned to the ward. At the door, she saw a woman with a big baby bump waiting for them inside. It was Lillian, whose baby bump seemed to have grown overnight. Maybe she had tried hard to hide it from others before, and she couldn't wait to show it to everyone right now. Different dressing styles would also give people different visual effects.

Hannah had expected her and wasn't surprised. Oscar would find out the plotter of the car accident if he got to the bottom of it. Even after the accident, he would also know that no one else except the Collins family had the guts to do something like this.

It was a smart choice to admit the mistake sooner. Hannah regretted having trusted Lillian, a very tricky girl. Hannah went over. Oscar looked at her face and walked along with her.

Lillian saw them and stepped forward in no time. She walked in a hurry and looked panicked. And the big baby bump had made it look more dangerous. She was seeking sympathy.

"I'm sorry, Hannah." Lillian came up to them quickly and burst out crying, and she even fell on her kneels in front of Hannah.

Hannah smiled lightly and watched her like a stupid joke. Oscar narrowed his eyes but didn't help Lillian rise to her feet.

"Trust me. I didn't know it would end up like this. Had I known it, I wouldn't have promised to help you escape."

Hannah said nothing and kept watching Lillian acting the play. She wanted to see how Lillian was going to put on the show to win Oscar's trust and forgiveness.

"I'm sorry, Hannah. I'm sorry, Oscar." Lillian was on her knees and said desperately, "I felt so guilty to hear you had a car accident! I thought I was doing the right thing but it turned out to be a disaster. When I heard Manuel and your baby were being rescued in the ICU, I even thought of killing myself. But the unborn baby in me..."

Lillian got more and more desperate as she went on. At that moment, it seemed she was the victim who had been hurt badly. What a play!

"So, are you trying to tell me you had nothing to do with the accident?" said Hannah calmly.

Lillian shook her head immediately, "No. I didn't know it would end up like this. I promised to help you escape because I didn't want to see you and Oscar hurting each other again. It's hard for you two to be apart, but I think time will heal. Well, I'm selfish. I hope Oscar could be devoted to our marriage, though we don't love each other and we got married for political purposes only. But what Oscar is doing is unreasonable and unaccepted. It would be a big scandal to him if someone exposed your love affair. All are equal before the law! Oscar has paid a great effort to take power and he can't just ruin it like that. You know what, it appears to be a peaceful and prosperous world, but the fact is, lots of people are still greedy for the throne. We can't see when it will come! To avoid the tragedy, I've made the bold decision to help you leave Oscar."

Hannah smiled again. It sounded like Lillian had done it out of righteous causes, and that she'd got no other choices and she'd done it for the good of everyone. What a solid reason! No one could blame her. Instead, people had to understand it and speak highly of it.

"I knew the best time to send you away was on my wedding day. Oscar would be too busy to stop you and then you could leave as planned. I would still do it without regret even if I would have to answer for it and be hated by Oscar for a lifetime. But... but I..." suddenly, she choked with sobs and couldn't go on. She bit back the words as if she was feeling worse than anyone else.

She freaked out and added, "But I didn't know Mathew would act on his own without telling us! I didn't imagine he would do such things behind the back of me and my father. Oh God! How I regret it! Had I known he had such a plan, I swore I wouldn't have told him to do it."

Oh, Mathew turned out to be the scapegoat.

Chapter 864 The Truth of Lillian's Baby

Hannah had underestimated Lillian, who could sell her brother out to kill her. At first, she didn't believe Lillian would risk her life to kill her, but it turned out that she had got herself a poor scapegoat. Hannah indifferently watched Lillian on her knees and said nothing.

Hannah had no idea what was in Oscar's mind. Maybe he would simply let go of that to balance the situation when standing in the position of the country. For the reign of the Wells family, Oscar compromised a lot.

Not long ago, she would also think about the reign of the Wells family. It was hard for them to take power again and she still felt guilty for Cian's death. Thus, she tried to understand and forgive him and accept everything. But she was driven crazy and didn't give it a shit any more.

"Don't you think your brother should pay for it?" she said. She would make believe that Mathew had done it all. She would take time and take them down one by one.

"My father has locked him up. He's been beaten up." Said Lillian.

"So, he's still alive." Said Hannah coldly.

Lillian gritted her teeth secretly. She knew Hannah wouldn't be softhearted and forgive her easily. Neither would Oscar. But she had to put on a good show to keep her family alive and get herself off the suspicion list.

"My father almost shot him when he heard what has happened. But Mathew is his only son and my only brother, we couldn't kill him. Moreover, he did it for me. I really couldn't bear to see him die. I... I'll take the blame for him!" said Lillian firmly. She acted like she was ready to take the blame for Mathew.

Hannah snorted and said, "Fine. First of all, you should also have a premature delivery."

Lillian was at a loss for words and stared at her. How could she say something so harsh even in front of Oscar? Indeed, she didn't care about his feelings at all.

"You'll have to suffer whatever I've suffered if you're gonna take the blame for your brother. My baby is premature and still kept in the infant incubator. He might die. Don't you think your baby should also go through it? And, your baby would also have to die if my baby didn't survive."

Lillian stared at Hannah and couldn't believe her ears. What a malicious woman! The baby was innocent but she got it involved.

"You can't do that, can you?" Hannah laughed ironically.

Lillian clenched her fists. Hannah had given her a hard time.

"Don't talk big if you can't do it. You look hypocritical." Hannah said it and went past Lillian. She had never thought of going easy on it, so she wouldn't make peace with Lillian.

"Hannah, do you know who's the father of my baby?" Lillian asked out of the blue.

Hannah paused her steps.

Lillian was also a smart girl. She had left no choice and must spill the beans to keep herself safe. She knew Oscar would get to the bottom of it if Hannah insisted. She always knew Hannah meant a lot to Oscar, otherwise, she wouldn't have tried everything to kill her.

Surprisingly, Hannah had survived! If she had killed Hannah, Oscar could do nothing with her but just accept it, because he would surely spare her, the mother of Cian's child. Anyway, her family would be safe. And she was sure that she could win Oscar's heart as long as Hannah was gone. However, Hannah didn't die. Manuel had risked his life to save her.

She knew Manuel and Hannah were childhood playmates. To her knowledge, Manuel was crazy about Susan, so she didn't think he would die for Hannah. That was why she hadn't kept a close eye on him. Indeed, Hannah was very smart.

Hannah looked back at Lillian and said, "Are you trying to tell me Oscar can't lose another child?"

Lillian shook her head and looked so distressed, "Oscar loves you so much. He won't have sex with other women or allow them to carry his child. He's exclusive to you. Our marriage is for a political purpose only. If there's anything else, he has to take good care of me for the sake of the baby."

Hannah knitted her brows and looked at Lillian. Right then, Theodore strode down the corridor. Probably, he had heard Lillian was here. He made it there and saw Lillian on her knees, in despair.

Undoubtedly, Theodore knew the Collins family had something to do with Hannah's accident. But he still couldn't bear to see a pregnant woman kneeling on the floor. He glimpsed at Oscar and decided to say nothing.

"What are you getting at?" asked Hannah. She was running out of patience. After what she had been through, she just wanted to kill Lillian and hated to waste time on her. She wouldn't pity or forgive her. She would make it clear and didn't care what Oscar was going to do.

"Cian is the father of my baby." Lillian said in a heavy voice.

Somehow, Hannah's poker face looked a little panicked.

Oscar swallowed. At first, he didn't want to tell Hannah the truth, for he didn't want her to suffer the pain with him. But at this moment, he tacitly agreed out of selfishness, because he couldn't kill Lillian. He needed a good reason to keep Lillian's life, and there it was. Not surprisingly, he had made Hannah suffer all the misfortunes that she didn't deserve.

Theodore sighed heavily. Finally, the cat was out of the bag. He had thought of telling it long ago and he had tried to convince Oscar to tell Hannah the truth, but Oscar refused to. Oscar told him that he didn't want Hannah to live with guilt and force herself to understand or forgive him, and he didn't want her to grind and bear all the pain and misfortunes willingly that he had brought her. At least, she could complain and vent her anger on him if she didn't know the truth.

Chapter 865 Lillian's Show Time

"Cian and I met at a party. He had me at "hello", and we dated soon afterwards. I was still in college and my father was very strict with me. So, we didn't go public and we kept a secret relationship. I didn't know Cian was the heir of the Wells family until he died. I didn't know he was Oscar's younger brother as well." Lillian said sadly and choked with sobs.

Hannah stared at her without a blink. She had thought of many possibilities. She guessed that Oscar had to marry Lillian and ally with the Collins family for the reign of the Wells family. But she had never imagined that Lillian was carrying Cian's child.

She looked at Lillian coldly and heard her saying, "I realized I was pregnant after Cian died. I didn't want to give up on his child but my father didn't want it to ruin my reputation and forced me to do the abortion. So I told Oscar. To keep Cian's only child, Oscar made a deal with my father and gave him whatever he wanted."

Hannah listened and recalled Oscar suddenly decided to make peace with the Collins family when the war broke out. She always thought Oscar wasn't powerful enough to knock them down and it would be a loss for both sides if they didn't cease fire. It turned out it was for Cian's child.

She remembered Cian once told her that he was seeing someone, but he didn't love her. It was like sex partners. It wasn't for sex only. It was more likely that Cian did it for political reasons. Probably, he dated Lillian to use her. With the help of Lillian, he could keep his life or rise from the ashes if the Wells family failed to take power.

The Wells family had considered a lot for Cian, but he died to save her. Anyway, Hannah found it hard to accept. Oscar had done all those terrible things only to protect Cian's child. Suddenly, she didn't have a good reason to hate him. She smiled lightly to hold back her feelings.

Lillian saw her doing nothing and added, "Seriously, I don't want to see more misunderstandings between you and Oscar. I must tell the truth. I don't want you to hate Oscar for this car accident. I don't want you to hurt each other again. I wish you could bury the hatchet by learning the truth."

What? She wanted them to bury the hatchet? How was that going to happen? She couldn't forget and forgive him since Manuel and her child were still in danger.

"You mean you'll leave Oscar?" asked Hannah.

Lillian was stunned, thinking how Hannah could be so hardhearted. Unbelievably, Hannah told her to leave Oscar though she had told the truth and made a touching speech. Cian had died for Hannah, and she should be supposed to give in for his child. However, she was still mean and pushy, leaving Lillian no choice.

Lillian simmered with rage but still put on a good face, "Actually, I never wanted to be with Oscar for Cian's child, but my father is insistent. I can leave Oscar, but I'm just afraid the world will be in chaos again if I do so. I can't stop my father, and I can't even stop him from killing Cian's child."

She was threatening them. If she left Oscar and fell out with him, it might cause another war in Northfield or the death of Cian's child. As she said, she couldn't protect the child. What a smart girl! Cian's baby was her secret weapon, and she had made the best use of it.

It was impossible that Oscar would give up on Cian's child. When she first heard Cian still had a posthumous child, she could understand Oscar's feelings, and she could be sure that Oscar would give up everything for this child.

"So, you've decided to guilt-trip me and make me forgive you for what you've done." Said Hannah sarcastically. She embarrassed Lillian by going to the point.

Lillian was awkward. Indeed, that was what she wanted. But she still found it embarrassing when Hannah saw her through and exposed her in public. She shook her head to deny it, "I just told you everything, but I've never thought of guilt-tripping you. You said you wanted me to have premature delivery and..."

Lillian choked with sobs and looked heartbroken.

"I would take it if you could forgive my family for what they've done to you." Said Lillian word by word. She was sure that Hannah couldn't bear to hurt Cian's child. To be exact, she didn't have the confidence to nail Hannah. At first, she thought Hannah was a grateful girl who valued love and friendships and believed she'd care much about Cian's child since he died to save her. But she was wrong. Hannah was a heartless woman who hated evil like a mortal enemy.

But Oscar was different. He could be ruthless to anyone except Cian's child, which was her trump card. She could do anything during her pregnancy and Oscar would just turn a blind eye to it.

"It seems you don't love Cian that much." Taunted Hannah.

Lillian was frozen and stared at Hannah. Surprisingly, she had changed the subject.

"If I were you, I would do anything to protect the child of the man I love. I can even die for it! But I won't leave its life to anyone else." Snorted Hannah. She was playing Lillian off against Cian on purpose and trying to tell people that Lillian didn't love Cian. If so, Oscar didn't have to care much about her. However, Lillian had acted to be crazy about Cian and claimed she had nearly killed herself for Cian. That was why Oscar had shown pity on her and kept compromising with her.

"I just want to answer for my family's wrong doings. If anything happens to the baby, I... I will kill myself and meet Cian in heaven with the baby." She said in tears.

Hannah smiled again. What a heart-touching drama of love and death! What a good actress Lillian was! And in Oscar and Theodore's eyes, Hannah thought she was the one to be blamed.

Chapter 866 Sympathy

Theodore felt bad to see Hannah's cold face. He knew Hannah had suffered a lot and it was hard to forget and forgive it. He was sure that Oscar wouldn't just let go at that, but he still could bear to see her caring none about Cian's child. No matter what had happened, Cian had died for her. She would have been dead if Cian hadn't saved her with his life. Did she forget it? Couldn't she feel anything after being hurt by Oscar?

Theodore couldn't help it any more, "Hannah, enough!"

Hannah smiled. See? That was why she called it a good drama. Even Theodore had stood on her side. Hannah didn't blame him. In the first place, Theodore and she were only friends with mutual goals. Once their goals drifted apart, their friendship collapsed.

She looked up at Theodore and asked, "I should just let it go, right? Manuel and my baby are still in danger. And I should just grind and bear it, right?"

"Nothing would have happened if you didn't leave Oscar!" Theodore lost it and blurted out.

Hannah lowered her eyes. Right. She asked for it. Nothing would have happened if she hadn't tried to leave Oscar. She faked a light smile.

Seeing it, Theodore felt bad again. He didn't mean to blame Hannah but didn't think she should be so mean to Lillian since she didn't do it herself. The worst case was that they would break the stalemate with the Collins family and started another war. There was no need to be so mean to an innocent woman and Cian's child.

"Theodore, have you ever loved someone?" asked Hannah.

Theodore was stunned and shook his head immediately, "Nope, and I don't know how much one can love someone. I can't understand why Oscar and Manuel have lost themselves and suffered a lot for women. So, I can't understand the love between you guys."

"You don't understand love, so you can't feel the pain when you're in love with someone and see him falling in love and even having babies with someone else. You can't understand the sadness and bitterness that I suffered when I saw Oscar being with the other woman. You can't feel it. It was worse

than killing you. I just wanted to get rid of such an awful life. I just wanted to leave, forget this relationship and start over again! I don't know what I've done wrong."

She didn't want to speak her mind before, because she believed it was unnecessary. But, she didn't want to suck with it any more. She didn't want to be the bad person while Lillian had made herself an innocent victim. She didn't need to be blamed and criticized. More importantly, she also needed Theodore to have her back.

Lillian had acted pathetic to seek sympathy. As Lillian won more and more supporters, it would be more and more difficult for Hannah to seek revenge.

Theodore was out of words. It was true that he had never loved someone so much in his life, but he seemed to feel the pain and sadness in her tone.

"But Oscar had no other choice. He married Lillian for Cian's baby." Theodore defended Oscar.

"Why didn't he tell me?"

"He didn't tell you because he didn't want you to be guilty and make yourself understand him. He didn't tell you because he wanted to suffer all by himself and didn't want you to pay for it."

"Anyway, I was hurt, right?" asked Hannah.

Theodore bit his lips and got nothing else to talk back.

"In this relationship, I don't think Oscar is wrong. Neither is Lillian. Karma is a bitch. I'm ready to drop out of the shit and let him stay a happy couple with Lillian. I can take it no matter if it's for Cian or the reign of the Wells family. But why must he satisfy his needs in such a selfish way?"

"He was afraid that he would lose you for good once he let you go." Defended Theodore.

Hannah smiled and burst into tears, "You think he still has me? Besides me, he'll possibly lose his cousin and his child!"

"He didn't see that coming, either. Trust me. He's done a lot for you. He even left you the best guards to protect you."

"To house arrest me."

"Anyway, Oscar did it out of love."

"He hurt me and everyone in the name of love."

Once again, Theodore was speechless, as if whatever he said was unreasonable. Indeed, Hannah was deeply hurt. And Oscar had caused it all. Theodore didn't know what else to say and thought it had gone out of his league. He'd better shut it and compromise.

Lillian got worried. She knew the only person who would stand on her side was Theodore. Oscar could do anything for Hannah. She was afraid he would realize it as Hannah wished.

"Hannah, please stop fighting with Theodore." She interrupted immediately.

Hannah put on a sarcastic smile. See? Lillian was playing the good person again. She was so smart that she knew who she should drag over to her side.

"OK." Hannah said, "Theodore was right that I shouldn't let Cian's child pay for what your family have done. I wasn't thinking."

Lillian narrowed her eyes, wondering what the catch was this time. One second ago, Hannah was bloody cold but she looked very kind at this time. Was she putting on a show? To whom? Did she also realize the best policy was to seek sympathy, not fight fire with fire?

"Your brother should answer for it since he's done it. That's what the law says. The act of the party should be responsible for his sins. No scapegoats!" said Hannah.

Lillian gritted her teeth, realizing that Hannah had never thought of punishing her in the first place. Whatever she said and did was telling people that she was determined to get to the bottom of it. She also knew Hannah could do nothing with her. Tons of people would stop Hannah from hurting her and it would also give her a bad name.

Chapter 867 Miguel and Michelle

Lillian kept wordless. She would not surrender easily, for she would try her best to keep her brother alive til the end.

"Have your brother give himself up." Said Hannah, cold and impatient.

Then she turned to leave.

"Hannah, please. Please let him off! My brother did that just for me. Please forgive him. He is regretting what he has done and is locked down by my father. He had paid for that." Lillian begged.

"Really? Then he should pay for the cost. But according to you, I don't think your brother paid for it." Hannah refused.

Lillian was frustrated by her refusals time after time, even after she had unveiled that her baby was Cian's blood. Hannah did not sway and if she insisted on putting Mathew to justice, there would be no way to save him. Though Lillian had prepared for the worst, she would not surrender to Hannah so easily.

"The key of the cost that he should pay, as I understand," Hannah added, "is equality. For example, Manuel and my baby are in serious injury; then the culprit should suffer the same; and if they cannot survive, your brother should go with them."

"But... but..." Lillian could not continue the sentence. Her face seemed full of sorrow, while her heart was in deep loathing; and she must have killed the woman before if she could. She didn't expect Hannah could be so merciless, for she was begging without dignity but still failed to change her mind.

Lillian's face was distorted by pain. She stared at Hannah and said painfully, "If you insist..."

However, she fell on the ground, unconscious, before she completed the line.

Luckily Theodore was agile enough to fetch her, holding her in his arms. Lillian looked pale in extreme weakness. But Hannah turned a blind eye to them with a poker face; she just passed coldly by them and went out of the ward. She did not care if Lillian was truly in a coma, for it was impossible to feel sympathy or pity for this woman.

Oscar kept silent from the start. Hannah had no idea how he would deal with it, for it did not matter. What mattered was the way she could achieve her goal.

She heard Theodore's anxious calling for a doctor and saw the corridor getting chaotic afterwards. But they all turned out to be a meaningless background, unable to disturb her thoughts. So Cian's baby was Lillian's powerful safeguard. There was no way for her to fight against Lillian, at least during her pregnancy.

Hannah returned to her bed and tiredness caught her. There might be hard to find the other new mother like her, walking so far, standing so long, and going through so many challenges, both physical and mental, just on the second day after her cesarean.

She needed some rest and her sole duty for the time being turned to get herself recover and stay strong, for she couldn't die at this time.

She slept soon after her lying down. During her slumber, a visitor came quietly and sat by her, wordless.

When she woke up, she was surprised to find Oscar beside her, since she thought he must stay with Lillian, and got puzzled when he came back to her.

Watching the man resting his head on his arms on her bed, she thought he must sit on the lounge and stayed sleepless for the last night, with some infrequent snaps when he was too tired but soon getting awake again. This was a sleepless night indeed, and she had suffered the same.

Who could keep a sound appetite for sleep after so many had happened?

And she could not be sure if she had slept for an half hour just now for nightmares haunted her.

She shifted away her sight from the man to the ceiling and was lost in a stupor without interference in his dreams.

At length, Oscar was wakened up by Miguel and Michelle who came in to visit their daughter. Fortunately, they and her grandmother were just slightly concussed, which could be fine after a day of rest. They were not nice when they saw Oscar who kept quiet under their significant acrimony.

"Hannah, how do you feel now? I just heard from the nurse who said you walked around the hospital after you could leave the bed. How dare you? Too much exercise after surgery might be harmful to your cut." Michelle was concerned, ignoring Oscar as if he was invisible.

"I did so because I was sure I was capable. And now I am resting on the bed, right?" Hannah comforted.

"Don't push yourself," Michelle added.

"I won't." Hannah obeyed with a nod.

She had to ease her family's worry as much as she could.

"Are you hungry?" Michelle asked, "I have the maid to send meals. I guess she might arrive soon."

"Great." Hannah nodded.

Michelle sat beside, chatting with Hannah in concern, while Miguel followed her with infrequent interference.

The loving family did not pay any attention to the awkward outsider, Oscar.

Then Cooper's maid came in with lunch.

The lunch boxes were simple but nutritious, specially made for Hannah who just went through a cesarean. However, Hannah did not have a good appetite, so she just took some with her self-motivation.

Her parents stayed with her for lunch, while Oscar was ignored, intentionally. No one invited him, and he did not request either. Anyway, he was not their family any more.

After lunch, Hannah persuaded her parents back to their ward because she felt sleepy. Though her parents were unwilling to leave, they were at length subject to her persuasion and went out with their glaring eyes at Oscar. If their ex-son-in-law was not the Commander-in-chief, they must have given him a good fight.

Hannah made an effort to keep a faint smile at them.

After her parents left, she turned to Oscar and explained, "Please forgive them for their affection for me."

At last, she spoke to him. However, he was not pleased, for her effort to please him was the least he needed; and he knew, her existing compromise was only for revenge.

"It's understandable for their animosity." Said he.

"How about your lunch?" Hannah shifted the subject. It would sound fake for her too-much consolation; moreover, she was tired of talking too much with Oscar.

"Max will send it soon," Oscar replied.

"Max now must harbour abundant detestation to me," Hannah murmured.

No one could stay peaceful after he was tricked.

"He won't," Oscar confirmed.

For Oscar, Max must not, for this was only a relationship of requiring and obeying. Max would do whatever he instructed anyway.

"How is Lillian?" Hannah suddenly raised another question.

Chapter 868 Hannah's Change

Oscar shivered at that question. He looked at Hannah, only to meet her calm face without a touch of acrimony.

"Is there anything wrong?" Hannah asked in concern for Oscar did not answer.

She sounded a bit anxious.

After a while, Oscar said in control, "No big deal. She just needs to hospitalize for several days for observation."

"Great." Hannah was relieved, "I was shocked at that moment, seeing her falling. If there is anything wrong with her or her baby, how could I make it worth Cian's life?"

"Hannah..." Oscar couldn't bear to hear her say so, for he did not want to consign her to bearing what she shouldn't.

"I am grateful to hear that Cian still has blood on the earth. I think you must feel the same, right? I can even imagine how excited you were when you were informed that Lillian carried Cian's child. So I can forgive you for all you had done to me." Hannah said sincerely, "Actually you should have let me know earlier, instead of keeping it from me."

"What would you do if I told you before?" asked Oscar.

"Maybe I would still leave you to Lillian, but at least I can understand your choice, unwilling but musthave, for your brother. And I could live on without harbouring so much loathing for you." Said she, sincere other than perfunctory.

"I'm sorry." Apologized Oscar.

"Never mind. It's understandable. I know the reason that you hide this from me. You don't want me to involve in the duty to your family. And I guess, the Collins must threaten you at that moment, right?" Hannah assumed.

She was putting herself into his shoes.

Oscar nodded, "When I was informed Cian still had a child, I accepted all the terms from them, including a divorce with you, marrying Lillian, and concealing the truth that Lillian's baby is not mine. Moreover, I agreed with them to ensure the baby can have a complete family, and promise them the baby would become the only inheritor of the crown, for Cian."

Hannah understood completely Oscar's excitement and fear as well. And his fear forced him to compromise.

"How many months along with Lillian?" asked Hannah.

"Six months." Answered Oscar.

No wonder her belly looked so big. She had thought it should be 4-month for she was misled to believe that it was Oscar's child. Then four-month made sense if that was Cian's. They were just chatting about Cian and Lillian in harmony as if they were still the loving couple before.

Then a nurse came in and said, "I come to check if Ms Cooper has a milk supply."

Hannah felt a blow to her heart, for that reminded her of her baby's absence. And Oscar seemed to be frozen with hurt for a while. Without the baby, what could she do if she had a milk supply?

But Hannah did not display her sorrow, and so did Oscar.

The nurse then approached Hannah and opened her clothes, while Oscar was not required to shun, so he just stayed still, watching. When Hannah promised to stay around with Oscar, she gave up most of those she had cared for.

The nurse touched her breast and pressed slightly, asking, "Does it hurt?"

She felt her breast was a bit tight so she nodded. She was a bit sick when she was awake this morning, but she did not know that was a sign of milk supply.

"OK. I will call for lactation service for you because your baby is not around you, you might easily suffer from mastitis that will hurt you more." The nurse added.

"Thank you."

Then the nurse left and soon after she brought in another medical care staff, a specialist for lactation service.

Hannah lay on the bed, while Oscar stood by watching. This must be a painful process from Hannah's expression. But she just kept silent, other than moaning.

"Ms Cooper, your lactation might be sufficient for your baby. Through the massage I just did, your milking condition has improved. So when you feel your breast get tight next time, you can have the electric breast pump to get your milk out. If the doctor allows, you can have the nurse pass the milk to your baby. Anyway, mother's milk is the perfect food for a baby."

"Got it." Hannah nodded.

She reacted peacefully without a hint of sorrow for her baby in her heart, constraining her melancholy for her baby's absence.

After the nurse and her colleague went out, the room only had Oscar and Hannah. Hannah started to put her clothes on but soon she found he was helping her. She did not reject his help.

Soon, the door was pushed open abruptly.

Oscar covered Aurora in a hurry behind him. Theodore stood in slight embarrassment, surprised by the intimacy between the couple. After all, their fierce conflict before seemed to break them up totally. He regained his composure and said to Oscar, "Lillian seems suffering from poor appetite. Do you need to check with her?"

"Turn to the doctor to see if she can check out from the hospital." Oscar refused directly.

"I have. But the doctor said she is quite emotional. And uterine contraction had shown up. If she leaves the hospital now, it must be quite risky. The baby is only 6 months, any danger should be fatal."

"I see," Oscar said emotionless, but he showed no sign to leave.

"By the way, Max brings your lunch box to Lillian's ward. So just have your lunch first, for your poor stomach at least." Theodore did not give up his urge, though he had little hope for convincing Oscar.

"Mhm." Replied Oscar.

Theodore just shrugged and left. The best ending for this couple, as he could figure out, was that Oscar died before Hannah. Then none of them needed to suffer more.

After Theodore disappeared, Hannah finally dressed up with Oscar's help.

"Just go to see Lillian. I feel tired now. I need some sleep." Said Hannah.

Oscar did not answer.

"At the start, Lillian did make me shame, and my perception of her was distorted. But now I know her relationship with Cian, and I got relieved. So you don't need to concern about me. I hope you can spend more time taking care of her. Cian's blood is precious to me too." Hannah added.

She sounded so sincere, while the man remained silent.

"Just go to her." Hannah urged, "And I do need some rest. Don't worry about me."

Oscar watched her. There was a light hint of a smile on her face. She was pushing him to another woman joyfully.

He swallowed down the bitterness in his heart and obeyed, "I will come back later."

"OK." Hannah nodded without a touch of sadness.

Oscar stood up and turned to the door. Watching his back, Hannah's smile dimmed away.

Chapter 869 An Unexpected Kiss

When Oscar returned to Hannah's ward, he found she was using an electric breast pump with the help of the medical staff.

Since this was the early stage of milking, Hannah must hurt. Moreover, the process gave rise to uterine contraction. Hannah just gnashed and endured.

Half an hour later, there were only 50 millilitres of breast milk. But according to the nurses, this was enough for a newborn baby whose stomach was tiny. Then they left with the milk, while the other one started to clean Hannah's breast. Whenever the sucking was over, there would be a cleaning procedure following.

But Oscar moved forward and said to the paramedic, "Let me help her."

Then the paramedic followed hurriedly his instruction.

With a glimpse at her new helper, Hannah did not object.

Watching her naked breast which turned significantly red and swollen, Oscar asked, "Does it hurt?"

Hannah replied with a smile, "Not much."

The scene prickled Oscar.

"I am a newcomer in motherhood." Said Hannah.

The reply intensified the prickles in Oscar's heart. For a new mother, this should be a loving moment to be around her baby. However, her baby was still in the incubator, at stake.

He started to concentrate on cleaning. Whenever the pump touched her, Hannah shivered uncontrollably with pain. Oscar watched her in concern.

"It does hurt, but just a bit."

Oscar nodded in silence, with his hands getting gentler and gentler.

"How about Lillian? Is she OK?" Hannah asked naturally.

"She's fine," Oscar answered casually.

"Great." Hannah murmured, "It scares me whenever I recollected the scene of Lillian's falling. If that hurts the baby because of me, I will put my life in guilt."

"Hannah, please don't. That's not your fault." Oscar said. The most unbearable for him was watching Hannah bear the hurt or blame she didn't need to. He knew he had hurt her a lot and he didn't want her to endure whatever came to her.

"I mean it. Cian's child must be kept. So Lillian must be safe and sound." Said Hannah seriously.

Oscar was calming down the emotional tides in his heart.

"Please try your best to take care of her, just in case."

Oscar nodded in silence.

"But..." Hannah seized her words with a gaze at Oscar.

"But what?" Oscar cooed.

He never raised his voice before Hannah as if she was a scared bird. And he must be a cautious birdkeeper.

Hannah was curious if Oscar treated Lillian the same way. But if so, she thought it was acceptable anyway. When she was calm down, she did not hurt the baby in Lillian's.

"Lillian said that my accident was planned by Mathew."

Oscar confirmed with a nod, "Should be."

He did suspect the initiator was Lillian. But soon his suspicion perished, for Lillian in his observation was less ambitious. So it was less impossible to kill Hannah. But the rest of the Collins family did have the motivation to ensure the sole right of inheritance for their blood.

"I don't want to hurt Lillian's baby, but it doesn't mean I can allow the culprit at large." Hannah added, " Someone should be blamed for what Manuel and our baby are suffering."

"I swear, the culprit must be held accountable." Promised Oscar.

"But will it make troubles to you?"

"Never."

"If Lillian insists to cover Mathew, and that might cause any harm to her baby, then just let go of it," Hannah said with considerable sincerity.

"I know how to make it right." Oscar put it straight.

"I trust you." Hannah smiled at him.

Oscar was lost in her smile for he could not remember when was the last time she had smiled at him like that. When he heard of the car crash, he thought he might lose her, for good. He could not dream that he still had a chance to see her smiling at him.

By the love that flooded his heart, Oscar was pushed to approach Hannah. Seeing the man getting closer and closer, Hannah slowly closed her eyes. She had prepared for herself when she decided to stay, including enduring Oscar's kiss.

This was a cautious kiss, like a butterfly shivering its wings when landing on a flower. He just pressed a gentle kiss on her lips, without entering.

As soon as Oscar was going to withdraw, he suddenly opened his eyes in shock. He could not believe Hannah was kissing him back, even stretching her tongue into his lips, playing with his.

Oscar controlled his inflaming desire with all his sensory faculty tracing Hannah's lure. At last, he could not control more but hold her into his arms to extend the kiss.

At that moment, a woman stood at the door. Lillian just watched them glueing together in silence.

She thought, after the car crash, they could have no chance to reconcile. Hannah, as she learned, would not consign herself to be around Oscar who must give up any effort to keep Hannah after he saw her resolution to leave him. So even though Hannah could survive the plot, they were impossible to be together any more.

But the scene before broke Lillian's secret wish. Was her knowledge about Hannah far from enough?

Her fist was tightened out of anger, and her sight turned vicious due to envy.

Her eyes shrank suddenly out of shock when she saw the woman before squinted back at her.

With his back facing Lillian, Oscar was impossible to spot her, while Hannah caught her. Their sights tangled together in acrimony.

So was Hannah provoking her on purpose?

Lillian must yell out of fury if she could. But she repressed and turned around to leave.

Hannah had a gift to know where her rival's Achilles heel was.

Lillian was clear, it was foolish to interrupt the couple at the moment. For one thing, the awkward disturbance would be translated as a sign of a loser before Hannah; for the other, her secret love might be exposed. Once Oscar detected her fancy, she must be dangerous.

Seeing Lillian's moving further, Hannah pushed Oscar away. Her judge was correct that her enemy, Lillian, was smart enough to keep silent about what she had seen. At the moment Hannah might be the only one who discovered Lillian's interest in Oscar.

Feeling the slight move by Hannah, Oscar released her at once.

The air seemed frozen by the embarrassment caused by the unexpected kisses. None of them had expected they had such intimate behaviour again so soon.

Oscar asked in a dull voice, "Do you need to have a walk?"

Suitable sports would be good for a new mother after a cesarean.

"Yes." Hannah nodded.

Then she held up Oscar's hands, and they strolled around the little ward, with their fingers crossed.

Chapter 870 "Would you Accept My Gratitude by Sex?"

When Lillian left Hannah's ward, she came across Theodore on her way back.

Theodore was out to look for her. He was responsible to stay with Lillian, but a call drew him out. When he came back, Lillian disappeared. He was scared by her because he could not allow any risk to Cian's child. So he was relieved when he saw Lillian standing safe before.

"Where have you been?" Theodore asked with a considerable edge to his voice.

"I came to Hannah for a talk," Lillian said genially with a slight grievance.

"Why do you want a talk with her? She must be in fury at the moment. Don't worry. Oscar will handle it. You'd better not involve in it." Theodore said coldly.

"I just want to ask for her forgiveness, and I won't set a hand in it. My brother must pay for what he did." Lillian said with a sorrowful voice, "Whenever I think about Manuel and Hannah's baby still lying in ICU, I am tortured by guilt and pity. So I just came to apologize from the bottom of my heart. But to my surprise..."

"Surprise?" Theodore frowned.

Did Hannah send her away again?

Theodore could understand Hannah, but he still failed to accept her ruthlessness toward Cian's blood.

"You don't need to go far," Lillian added. She could read Theodore's mind from his expression. And at this moment, she had to turn herself into a victim, a nice and thoughtful victim who was always considering others. So she explained, "Hannah did not badmouth me."

"So?" Theodore was confused. If Hannah did not wrong Lillian, why Lillian seemed awkward to tell?

"I came and saw Hannah and Oscar kissing," Lillian said with shyness. She looked so natural as if she was just embarrassed by accidentally witnessing their kiss, instead of a hint of jealousy.

Her explanation surprised Theodore. He doubted. Really? Could Hannah allow Oscar to touch her? Did she change her mind?

"So I felt a bit embarrassed," Lillian explained with a lower voice.

There was nothing more than embarrassment from Lillian's expression, which impressed Theodore. From his point of view, it was barely to find a woman that could resist Oscar's charm, such an outstanding and handsome guy. That was why he worried that Lillian would turn out to be one of those common women at the beginning when she married Oscar. Once she fell in love, she might easily go extreme, for example, she could not accept Hannah. But fortunately, at least, she didn't seem to get interested in Oscar.

Theodore added, "They were once a loving couple, and they will resume being after their misunderstanding is cleared up."

"Luckily I am not the one between them." She said, relieved, "I am guilty of their divorce. If my appearance impact on their love, I won't be relieved of my guilt."

"Don't go too far. There are so many things out of your control." Theodore comforted, "Let's go. I send you back to the ward. The doctor said you'd better rest in bed for these days, for the sake of your baby."

"Thanks, Theodore. You're so nice." Lillian said smiling at him.

Her sweetness stunned Theodore who was a bit embarrassed, for this was the first time someone said he was nice.

A week later, Hannah recovered but she still stayed at the hospital for her baby.

After a week of efforts by the medical staff, her baby was out of danger but still badly weak. It would be risky to free him into the environment outside. So he had to stay in the incubator for one more week. After that, if he was in good condition, he could be put out of the incubator and even checked out from the hospital.

Manuel became stable too but was still in a coma. But the doctor denied this as a sign of vegetable because Manuel had a slight response whenever the doctor called him. He was just too weak to move or keep awake for long. That was why he seemed asleep always.

Susan sat beside him, staring at his face with piles of injuries, and asked in sadness, "Manuel, are you still alive? If so, could you please just move your thumb?"

Manuel lay still without a move.

Susan waited with mounting despair. According to the doctor, he now was out of danger and could respond to them. Why did he keep motionless for her calling? Did the doctor deceive her?

Susan could not help and stood up to call the doctor. But suddenly, she felt her hand dragged, which was so slight that she nearly thought it was an illusion.

She gazed at the hand, unbelievable. After just a week in the hospital, the man got so skinny.

"Manuel, can you hear me?"

Then she saw the man's bony jaw make a tiny nod.

Suddenly Susan was overwhelmed with wild joy, with tears welling in her eyes. She could not help but yell, "Thanks, Buddha, God, Father, everyone in heaven..."

Her yelling stuck into his ears. He wondered if there was something that could mute her. Didn't she know the patient needed quiet?

"If you are alive, why didn't you respond to me?" Susan turned to moan. She was so desperate that once she felt she was not herself any more.

Her complaint suffocated Manuel's little desire to respond to her. Her first question sounded more like a curse other than concern.

Manuel kept still in silence, while she stopped her moaning. Then she approached him and said in his ear, "Manuel, Hannah has successfully delivered her baby, and that is a..."

Susan halted for she forgot to ask if that was a boy or girl. And no one told her either.

But it didn't matter.

She went on, "The doctor said, the baby has become out of danger. If everything goes right, the baby can leave the hospital after a week. Don't worry. Either Hannah or her baby stays safe and sound."

Finally, Manuel was satisfied with what he heard. He kept still on the bed, wordless and motionless. Watching his cheeks, Susan was upset by his weakness, and said in melancholy, "Thanks, Manuel."

She said from the bottom of her heart. Without him, she must have lost her best friend and the baby as well.

How could she express her huge appreciation?

Then she said, "Will you accept my gratitude through sex?"