

Reborn 911

Chapter 911 Lillian's breakdown

"Suddenly I miss him a lot," Lillian said with some difficulty.

Turning his eyes again, he glanced at Una in the room.

"Seeing how much Una looks like him now, makes me want it even more." Lillian continued, sad.

Oscar did not speak.

"Forget it if it's inconvenient. You've had a tiring day and you have to work tomorrow." Lillian said thoughtfully.

"Let's drink," Oscar said lightly.

Lillian was inwardly overjoyed. She just knew that as long as she mentioned Cian, Oscar would compromise a lot of things.

The two walked together to the garden gazebo of the old castle, where they could see the aesthetic night view and neon lights of the city, with exquisite snacks and drinks served to them.

Lillian poured a glass of wine for Oscar and one for herself.

"Time flies. Cian had been away from us for a year." Began Lillian.

Oscar sipped his wine. While thinking of Cian, he was in low spirits.

"I could recall his face. When he smiled, he was a carefree boy. If I hadn't learned later that he was your brother, the heir to the Wells family, unintentionally, I would have thought that he was born into an ordinary, privileged family, there is always purity and kindness in his eyes. How nice it would be if he had been born into an ordinary family..." Lillian said.

As she spoke, she got choked up. Oscar glanced at Lillian and remained silent while sipping the wine constantly

Lillian looked at him, with a thought in her mind.

"Is it possible for drunken sex?" she thought, excited. Anyway, when something happened, alcohol was the only thing to be blamed for.

Lillian drank a lot, deliberately.

It was getting later and later at night.

Lillian saw the bottle of wine next to Oscar and watched him lean back in his chair, seemingly somewhat drowsy.

"Oscar," Lillian called him.

Oscar did not respond.

"Oscar, you're drunk, I'll help you to your room now," Lillian said.

Oscar was still unresponsive.

Lillian's heart was racing a bit. She got up and carefully walked over to him and picked him up.

Oscar glanced at her, but he didn't refuse.

Lillian thought he consented to it by that.

suppressing her inner leap of joy as she helped Oscar, they walked step by step toward the bedroom.

She brought Oscar straight into her room and put him on her bed.

Oscar was lying on the bed, motionless.

Lillian approached him while trying hard to be calm. That was the first time she was able to get so close to this man. In sobriety, this man always kept a distance from her.

At the moment, he was literally, sleeping in front of her. She leaned over and untied his clothes with both hands trembling a bit. Her eyes were fixed on Oscar's compelling face.

Oscar looked more handsome than Cian apparently, with a mature man's charm, which was hard to pass up for women. Otherwise, she would not have had a special affection for this man at the first sight of Oscar, even though she was still secretly dating Cian at the time.

She finally undid Oscar's shirt, underneath which there were firm muscles.

Her throat moved slightly. Then she took out her phone and took a picture of him. It was an opportunity to get back at Hannah. So she sent the picture to Hannah.

Hannah heard the message ring and checked her phone. Then she saw the picture of Oscar, who was naked and lying on her bed.

It would be impossible to say that there were no mood swings in Hannah's heart. But it was not a surprise to her, since she bet it would happen sooner or later.

Being a couple, they would naturally grow some feelings for each other as time went by, Hannah reckoned.

As she was about to turn off the phone, that picture was withdrawn.

Lillian was smart enough to know not to leave any evidence.

Hannah laughed lightly and forgot about the message.

Lillian put her phone down and moved closer to Oscar. However, when she moved a bit, Oscar then suddenly opened his eyes. He looked sober enough, and that shocked Lillian.

When she was overwhelmed for a moment, Oscar was already up from her bed.

"Oscar," Lillian said, suddenly pulling on his arm.

Oscar shrugged her hands off straight away.

"Oscar," Lillian said as she suddenly threw her arms around him from behind.

She held tightly to his body.

Oscar frowned.

Lillian decided to go out on a limb. At this point, she was not willing to watch him leave her bed.

"I know I may be selfish, but I really want to give Una a complete family. I see you treating Una so well, I believe you would be the best father in the world. I want to make a real family with you, for Una." Lillian was excited.

Her body was shaking as she hugged Oscar because she was afraid that Oscar would reject it.

"Oscar," Lillian didn't get a response from him and continued, "I won't tell Hannah."

That name did stimulate Oscar's nerves. With a jerk, he pushed her right out of the way.

Lillian fell to the ground. She looked at Oscar with crippling hatred.

Oscar didn't even look back, "I'll give Una my best. No need for you to make any sacrifices."

"I don't it's a sacrifice for me," Lillian said excitedly.

"I don't want to compromise myself either," Oscar said bluntly.

Lillian's eyes instantly filled with tears.

So in Oscar's mind, she didn't deserve him.

Lillian was rendered annoyed.

"What happened tonight, I don't want it to happen again!" Dropping the words, Oscar walked straight away, leaving Lillian in the room.

She was blinded by hatred.

"Since you are so heartless and unrighteous to me, don't blame me for being ruthless to you." She thought. Then she dialled her father's number.

"It's so late, what's wrong?" Rowan was concerned.

"Do what you need to do to deal with Oscar, and I'll cooperate fully with you."

Rowan was stunned, then smiled wickedly and said in a rush, "I see."

"The sooner the better, I hope," Lillian said furiously.

Rowan responded.

After she hung up the phone, Lillian gripped the phone tight.

She swore, one day she would make Oscar regret everything he did to her today, everything that made her feel humiliated and unbearable.

Chapter 912 Clara's Fate

The next morning, Susan wiggled her toes. She didn't want to get out of bed. But the alarm clock kept ringing, and she didn't even have the strength to go turn it off. Luckily, someone had already helped her shut it off. She struggled to roll over and fell back asleep. At that moment, she felt someone kiss her forehead with a doting smile and cuddle up with her for more sleep.

When she woke up again, it was already noon. Susan was definitely hungry. She could hear her stomach growling loudly. She opened her eyes and saw Manuel up close. He slept right in front of her. She simply couldn't take her eyes off his sculptural fair face, where there were long eyelashes. What should she do? This man was so handsome that she wanted to violate him.

Susan leaned in for a kiss on his lips. After all, they were together now; Manuel shouldn't refuse anything she wanted to do.

Her lips landed on his forehead first but Manuel didn't react. Then they touched his nose tip but he still remained unresponsive. Finally, Susan kissed him on the lips again, only to find out how soft they were. How could a man be so soft?

And those lips belonged entirely to her now.

And just like that Susan went from wanting just a casual peck or two from Manuel's lips into being completely captivated by them. She kissed him deeply until fully satisfied before finally pulling away from those luscious lips.

Suddenly there came an intense pressure at the back of Susan's head!

Manuel had given such a heavy kiss that left no room for breathing.

What the hell?!

Was this guy pretending all along?!

As he pressed down heavily upon Susan's body beneath him while opening his eyes at last-he saw nothing but desire in her eyes. Flames seemed ready to ignite between them both.

Susan looked at Manuel warily because when he made such an expression usually meant one thing.

Nope!

If things continued like this any longer then surely death would come knocking at their door soon enough.

So she quickly changed tactics before things got too hot under the collar.

"Manuel," said Susan anxiously, "I'm hungry."

Her stomach grumbled loudly once more.

"How coincidental," replied Manuel, in a magnetic voice, "I'm hungry too."

"Let's get up and have breakfast," Susan suggested.

Manuel smirked evilly, biting Susan's ear and saying, "You're tastier."

“Hmm...” Susan widened her eyes.

Why could he be so vigorous? He was completely reckless!

It had been a long time. Susan lay on the bed watching Manuel slowly dress.

They were both human beings. Why could Manuel be so refreshed while she felt like she had just died?

“I’ll make porridge for you, you can sleep a little longer,” Manuel said gently.

“Don’t act like such an innocent person in front of me,” Susan complained to herself.

All she could think about now was Manuel being an animal in bed.

Manuel finished dressing and came back to her side again.

“If you touch me again, I’ll die in front of you!” Susan threatened.

Manuel laughed with a handsome face. After he put on his clothes, if she told anyone what he looked like without them on they probably wouldn’t believe her anyway.

“Go to sleep.” Manuel kissed Susan’s forehead softly.

Susan’s heart softened once more. This man Manuel would be wasted if he didn’t become a gigolo!

Susan watched as Manuel left the room. Her body felt as though it had been run over by a car; weak and sore all over.

She regretted taking that birth control pill last night and agreeing to the half-year agreement with him. After six months passed, would she still be able to live well? She was starting to feel overwhelmed by these thoughts.

The phone rang again.

Susan struggled to pick up her phone but saw who it was before answering, “Don’t even think about making me come back to work for anything. I can barely move.”

The secretary paused for one second before asking, “Did you indulge yourself too much again?”

“Off the chart!” replied Susan bluntly.

Tammy couldn’t help but laugh at this lively leader; no matter how hard the work might be under her leadership it always seemed worth it.

“It’s not about work this time... it’s...” The secretary hesitated deliberately before continuing, “You should check out the news.”

“What do you mean?” asked Susan curiously.

“Just take a look at it yourself.” Tammy sounded mysterious yet excited when speaking those words.

As soon as Susan opened up the news app, there appeared one headline after another. The news headline read, “Daughter of Director X Involved in Scandalous Night with Two Men!”

Susan thought for a moment before realizing it was Clara. She became excited at the thought.

She sat up straight in bed, forgetting about her discomfort.

Quickly clicking on the article, she saw many pictures. Though they were all pixelated, the explicit content was still clear. There was even a short video that didn't show anything but left nothing to the imagination.

Susan finished reading and felt terrified.

Last night she had sent Clara to a hotel as revenge for what Clara had done to her. But all she had imagined was that Clara would be violated by someone else; she never expected this scandal would break out and become national news.

If last night it had been Clara plotting against her, then now it was Susan who would have been exposed. She guessed that when Clara found someone to violate her last night, Clara didn't reveal her identity or let them know who she was. So when Susan sent Clara over there last night, they didn't suspect anything either. After obtaining evidence of the scandal though, they investigated who exactly these people were involved and if anyone held any significant status, which could make their story even more sensational.

Once Susan realized this possibility though, she breathed a sigh of relief.

She felt no sympathy towards Clara; everything happening now was what she deserved. This incident not only ruined herself but also implicated her father and family members-truly awful retribution.

Just as Susan finished reading through everything, her phone rang again-it was from her secretary trying unsuccessfully to hide their excitement.

"Miss Phillips, have you seen it yet?" The secretary asked eagerly.

"Yes."

"Clara has been exposed! I'm so happy about this karma coming back around!" The secretary couldn't help feeling ecstatic at seeing Clara finally get what was coming to her.

Chapter 913 Salem's First Birthday Party

Susan chatted with her secretary for quite some time. The conversation ended with the secretary saying, "Wishing you a good pregnancy."

Damn, she wanted a "good pregnancy," but someone was too stingy to give out benefits.

Susan lay back down on the bed, sleeping.

She was so hungry that she couldn't fall asleep before. But in this drowsy state, sleepiness came again. Just as she was dozing off, she felt someone kissing her. Susan woke up from her dream and saw Manuel pressing down on top of her.

"Manuel!" Susan quickly stopped him.

Manuel smiled and said, "Looks like kisses work."

"What works?" Susan kept pulling the clothes to cover herself.

“You’re awake now,” Manuel said.

What kind of way was that to wake someone up?!

It scared the crap out of her.

“Get up and eat some porridge.” Manuel got off of her body.

Susan breathed a sigh of relief.

At least Manuel wasn’t too crazy about it.

Manuel brought over the porridge, scooped a spoonful near Susan’s mouth and said, “Eat it.”

Looking at Manuel suspiciously, she asked, “You’re feeding me?”

“Don’t you like it?”

“Sudden happiness makes me afraid you’ll take advantage of me.” Susan looked very serious, “Do you want to feed me until I’m full then eat me?”

Manuel was speechless, “I don’t always do that.”

“Hmm?” Susan wondered.

“I need rest too.” Explained Manuel.

Men were different from women after all.

Susan sneered; no matter what he said was useless anyway.

But in the end, Susan still didn’t refuse Manuel’s kindness. The two took turns to share the porridge with the same spoon.

Happy days were truly sweet as honey.

However, some families were happy while others were worried.

When Hannah received Oscar’s message, she was watching Clara’s news broadcast. Clara was someone she had never met, but because Susan often complained about her, she had a feeling that she knew Clara well. And because of this, when this woman suddenly revealed such a scandal, she couldn’t help but wonder if it was karma catching up to her. But no matter what, Clara’s downfall was at least good news for Susan. It meant one less ticking time bomb in her life.

Just as she was feeling slightly better about things, she received a message from Oscar. The feeling at that moment could only be described as bittersweet. Just as happiness began to bloom within her, something sad happened too. Her mood would be greatly affected by it.

She looked at the message content: “Do you want to come to the Capital?”

So after sleeping with Lillian last night, did he feel guilty and wanted to make it up to her?

Otherwise, why hasn’t Oscar asked her to visit the Capital all this time?

Hannah edited a text message, saying, "No. Sal has been having a bad cold lately and I'm taking care of him."

Actually what Hannah wanted to reply was: "You felt guilty the first time. After a few more times, it would become routine."

There wasn't any response for quite some time before another message came through, reading, "How is Sal doing?"

"The doctor said he just has a little cold and will get better in a few days. But when Sal isn't feeling well he only wants me around; my mom or nanny can't replace me. If I leave now he'll cry non-stop." Hannah explained calmly.

"Okay. Take care." Oscar responded again with two more words, "Thank you."

Hannah didn't bother replying anymore since there were plenty of excuses available like holding onto Salem or not seeing the phone messages.

On the other end of the phone line, Oscar waited for quite some time but didn't receive any more messages from Hannah.

He had summoned up great courage just now to ask if Hannah wanted to come to visit him in the Capital.

He couldn't go back home right now since Rowan seemed ready for action anytime which meant that Oscar couldn't let his guard down even slightly. So his only way of seeing Hannah would be her coming over here instead. He even wondered how many more times they could meet.

It might very well be their last chance.

Oscar leaned back on his office chair looking out into the vast expanse outside through floor-to-ceiling windows, as far as his eyes could see lay all of the Capital beneath him. But he was tired.

He was never meant to be the heir of the Wells family.

It wasn't him from the beginning.

Time passed by, sometimes faster than one could imagine. Unknowingly, Salem turned one year old. The critically ill newborn had grown into a little boy who could walk, talk and bring joy to everyone around him.

On his birthday, Susan called early in the morning.

"How are we going to celebrate my godson's birthday today?"

Hannah replied, "Haven't thought about it yet? Let's just buy a cake and celebrate it with the family. Then let Salem make a wish."

"Don't tell me you didn't think about it," Susan said louder.

Manuel was brushing his teeth in the bathroom when he heard Susan's loud voice.

Didn't she call enough last night?!

“Come over tonight with Manuel. I’ll have my mom prepare some dishes.” Said Hannah calmly.

“That’s it?” Susan sounded dissatisfied.

“Sale has a special identity; you know he can’t be too publicized. But for him, as long as we accompany him and his super cute godmother is there with us, he will be very happy.”

“Although I’m flattered that you think I’m super cute and my mood is great because of that compliment.” Said Susan sarcastically. “But every time I think of the jerk, Oscar Wells, it makes me angry! How did I persuade you back then? When did you ask him to destroy your marriage after crashing into his car back then? Didn’t I say how much of an asshole he was?! Look at what happened now! Wasn’t my intuition spot on?”

“Yes, you’re right.” Hannah agreed while flattering her, “You have the best judgment when it comes to people; otherwise how could you end up with the best man in this world under your arm?”

“Well said.” Susan looked proud but suddenly remembered something else and became serious again, “Is Oscar coming back to Kensbury today?”

“He won’t come back,” Hannah answered truthfully.

“How much worse can Oscar get?! He hasn’t come back for so long without seeing you or Salem! If he doesn’t care about both of you anymore why does he still bother pestering you?! He was so greedy and despicable!” Susan was infuriated.

“He has many things on his plate right now.”

“Busy showing affection towards another woman or taking care of his precious daughter?” mocked Susan bitterly

Sometimes Hannah couldn’t win against her friend’s sharp tongue,

Of course, Susan was not rambling anyway.

Recently there had been frequent news reports about Oscar’s sweet family life with three members enjoying their time together. And Oscar hadn’t been back to Kensbury since Una Wells was born.

After she refused his message asking her to go to the Capital, he never mentioned it again.

She was thinking about whether Oscar had compromised.

Chapter 914 Taking the Initiative to Contact Oscar

After ending the call with Susan, Hannah felt a bit emotional because of what Susan said. Emotions were the most elusive thing. They could change at any moment.

Back then, she had also liked Charles so much. But after being hurt by him, her feelings for him changed and she fell in love with Oscar instead. Oscar could do the same thing too.

In the face of her cold rejection and living with Lillian day in and day out, he could change his mind just as easily as she did about Charles.

Hannah held her phone silently lost in thought when Michelle came into the room calling for her name.

“Hannah,”

Hannah snapped out of it suddenly.

“What’s up?” Michelle asked while looking at Hannah who seemed a little flustered.

“Nothing. Your voice just startled me.” Hannah made up an excuse,

“Do I have a loud voice?” Michelle self-reflected, “I’ve been taking care of Sal lately so my voice has naturally grown louder.”

“Do you need something from me?” Hannah asked instead.

“I was wondering if we should invite some relatives and friends over today for Sal’s birthday,” Michelle asked.

“No need Mom. Just like I told you yesterday, we’ll celebrate his birthday among ourselves.” Replied Hannah firmly but politely.

“Hannah, you can’t keep Salem locked up forever. He will grow up eventually and he will meet people outside someday too. He’s only one year old now but when he turns three years old are you still going to keep him from going to kindergarten?” Michelle disagreed somewhat strongly.

She found Hannah’s arrangements unsatisfactory but compromised. After sleeping on it last night Michelle still couldn’t understand why they had agreed on those terms.

“Let’s take things slowly, shall we? Salem is not even three yet.”

“Hannah...”

“Susan and Manuel will come here tonight.” Interrupting Michelle’s words, Hannah continued, “Prepare some dishes that Susan and Manuel like.”

“Oh okay then.” Sighed Michelle, helpless.

Seeing how determined their daughter was, Michelle decided once again that there wasn’t much else left except compromise. Michelle turned and left, but before she did, she suddenly thought of something and asked, “Is Oscar coming back?”

Hannah was taken aback. It had been a long time since her mother mentioned Oscar. There was no more blame or dissatisfaction. Perhaps she had completely given up on him.

At this moment, Michelle’s question caught Hannah off guard and she didn’t know how to answer it.

“Forget it,” Michelle could tell from Hannah’s expression what the answer was going to be. “I’ll go arrange Sal’s birthday dinner.”

“Okay.”

Michelle left.

After she left, Hannah gripped her phone tighter in her hand.

Was this it?

She waited for Oscar to change his mind. She waited for him and Lillian to become a family. She waited for herself to completely detach from Oscar's family.

Hannah narrowed her eyes in frustration. In the end, she picked up the phone again and dialled his number once more. Some things were beyond forgiveness with ease.

So, she didn't want to compromise with Oscar anymore.

The phone rang several times before he answered.

"Hannah." Came Lillian's voice from the other end of the line.

It had been a long time since Hannah heard Lillian's voice on one of Oscar's calls.

Had things started changing?

"I'll look for Oscar." Lillian said, "He is meeting an important international friend right now. His phone is with me at the moment so I can't give it to him but I'll have him call you later." Explained Lillian

"Okay, thank you."

"You're welcome."

They maintained their polite tone throughout their conversation until Hannah hung up the phone.

Her eyes tightened as soon as they disconnected.

Lillian put down Oscar's cell phone; her expression also cooled down immediately.

Oscar was indeed doing an important interview work at that moment so naturally he wasn't carrying his cell phone around. His executive secretary kept Oscar's phone safe while working next door. Lillian happened to be with his secretary. When seeing the secretary take out their cell phone, she took it over to answer any incoming calls.

No matter what kind of attitude towards Oscar now, the fact remained that nothing had changed about destroying his relationship with Hannah.

Her eyes narrowed as she watched Oscar move smoothly through the large hall in a suit looking mature and stable, a cold smile forming on her lips.

Soon enough, she swore she would take away all his glory.

This was his retribution for ignoring her.

Naturally, Hannah never received that call from Oscar again. She had expected that Lillian might delete the call record she made to Oscar, and she certainly wouldn't tell him about it, let alone ask him to return her call.

What saddened her was that Oscar had forgotten Salem's important day today. He was too busy to even spare a phone call for Salem. Thinking back to a year ago when Salem was born as a critically ill baby, Hannah still picked up her phone and dialled his number.

She thought if it was Lillian again, she would give up on calling Oscar again.

But at that moment, Oscar's familiar voice came through the phone.

"Hannah,"

Hannah pursed her lips. She had prepared herself for anything but him. The sudden sound of his voice left her stunned for a second again.

"Hannah?" Oscar called out to her in his usual gentle tone of voice.

Sometimes Hannah wondered if he did have multiple personalities or suffered from dissociative identity disorder.

"I know you're busy. Lillian answered my call this morning." She said truthfully without hiding anything from him about calling him earlier on.

"Mm-hmm." Replied Oscar.

He wasn't surprised that Lillian hadn't told him about Hannah's call or deleted the record of their conversation. So he didn't have much emotional reaction either way. But Hannah heard it as indulgence towards Lillian by Oscar because they were in love so whatever Lillian did, he wouldn't question it anymore.

Hannah tried not to get emotional. She told herself she must stay calm no matter what happened next. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to take revenge on anyone anymore.

In an even tone of voice, she said, "Today is Salem's birthday."

"Mm-hmm." Replied Oscar still with little emotion in his response.

He knew. It shouldn't be possible for him not to remember such an important date.

Didn't he care about it?

"Manuel and Susan are coming back tonight to celebrate with Sal. I just wanted to ask if you're not too busy and whether you'd like to come over?" Hannah asked hesitantly anyway.

Oscar fell silent considering the invitation seriously before giving any answer.

"If you're too busy then forget I asked. I'll send you photos and videos later." She felt like pushing further would only make things worse between them. Otherwise, Oscar might do something worse.

"I'll try my best." Oscar suddenly spoke up.

Hannah was frozen for a moment.

"After I finish my work, I'll try to come over," Oscar promised and added, "But don't wait for me."

So he was just placating her.

She gave a cold smile, feeling a bit heartbroken.

Chapter 915 Oscar's Low Point

Hannah sounded indifferent. At least that was what she conveyed to Oscar through her voice-no emotion whatsoever. She said, "Okay then. I won't disturb you anymore. See you."

"See you." Oscar's voice trailed off softly after hanging up the phone.

He put down his phone and stared at it blankly without saying anything for a long time. Theodore was beside him and saw how detached he looked after talking to Hannah on the phone; it seemed like he had left reality altogether. Theodore thought if he let him continue brooding like this, his soul might leave his body soon enough.

"Oscar," Theodore called out to him.

Oscar blinked and said, "I need to go back to Kensbury."

"Now?!" Theodore exclaimed in disbelief.

This was such a crucial moment; leaving now could spell disaster.

Oscar nodded.

"Are you crazy? You've waited so long already; why do you want to go back now?! What if something happens while you're gone?" Theodore couldn't calm down at all.

After all this time of keeping things under control with Rowan simmering beneath the surface, it seemed like they were about ready for an explosion any day now.

And yet here came Oscar saying that he wanted to go back home.

If he left now, they would give Rowan an opportunity.

"It's Sal's birthday today." Explained Oscar.

Theodore did not pay attention to much detail or dates – not even when his own son's birthday was – so hearing this from Oscar caught him off guard as well.

No wonder why something seemed off about him since early morning today.

Theodore didn't know what else there was left for him to say or do at this point either way.

He naturally didn't want Oscar to leave. But thinking about how Salem hadn't seen his father in half a year on such an important day, Oscar would be unbearable not only for Hannah but also himself. He knew that it would be difficult for anyone including himself if they were put into Oscar's shoes right now.

"I don't know how much longer I can live," Oscar said.

"What are you talking about?" Theodore couldn't stand it anymore.

There was nothing seriously wrong with him.

He was just being overly dramatic.

"Regardless of whether we win or lose, I'm not confident," Oscar stated bluntly.

Theodore was very certain, "Rowan is no match for us."

"No one can guarantee that there won't be any unexpected events." Oscar looked at Theodore.

Theodore pursed his lips.

Yes, nothing in life was ever 100% certain.

He only meant that as things stood now, Rowan couldn't cause too much trouble. But Oscar always thought more than he did. He might have thought of something that Theodore hadn't anticipated but was highly likely to happen.

"I'm afraid that when the time comes, I won't even get to see them one last time." Oscar chuckled lightly at the corner of his mouth.

A faint smile appeared on his face. It seemed like he was mocking himself. Theodore really couldn't bear seeing Oscar like this anymore. They grew up together since they were young. Theodore knew exactly how strong a person Oscar was. But ever since Cian died, it seemed like something changed in him. Oscar had changed a lot.

Theodore sighed, "Then you should go back now. I'll stay here. Even if Rowan wants to do anything, I can respond immediately from the Capital."

Oscar looked up at him.

Theodore nodded and said: "Since birth, my father has sold my life to your family anyway."

Oscar still had some emotional fluctuations because of Theodore's words.

"I'll go to hell if you do!" Theodore laughed and exclaimed jokingly, so as not to make Oscar feel too guilty about leaving the Capital behind.

"Theodore,"

"Don't say anything sentimental," Theodore interrupted him, "I'm afraid I'll get goosebumps."

Oscar pursed his lips.

"I'll arrange a private jet for you right away." Theodore began planning, "Try your best to avoid the Collins family's attention and hiding from them would be best."

"Based on current timing, you should arrive back around 7 PM which is perfect timing for dinner," Theodore said.

Oscar nodded.

"Then let me take care of it." Theodore left directly.

Looking at Theodora's back, Oscar was thinking that, perhaps, Theodore would be the most suitable candidate.

It was past 5 p. m.

Susan, Manuel, and Justine arrived at Cooper Manor with bags full of gifts.

Salem was one year old and could already walk. Although a bit wobbly, he looked adorable with his cute little smile as he toddled around.

Susan picked up Salem who was still learning to walk and asked him, "Do you miss me?"

Salem looked at Susan for a moment before breaking into a big smile. He had four teeth showing in his mouth which made him look even cuter.

"I can't help it. Seeing Sal makes me want to have another baby right away." Susan said as she held Salem close to her chest.

She wanted to give Salem a sibling so that he would have more family members and more happiness even without a father present in their lives.

"Just hurry up and have another one then!" Justine chimed in while trying to take Salem from Susan's arms.

Salem looked at Justine but suddenly turned his body towards Susan, holding onto her tighter than ever before. It seemed like he didn't want anyone else holding him except for his mother.

Justine's face turned green with envy while Susan felt happy seeing how much her son loved her back.

Hannah couldn't help but admire how strong-willed Susan was for not giving in to pressure from her mother-in-law.

"You've been together with Manuel for so long now; where are your babies?" Justine started picking on Susan again. "You said you had good fertility; that you could get pregnant easily? What happened? All talk no action!"

"Your son knows better than anyone if I'm all talk or not." Replied Susan confidently.

"What do you mean by that?!" Justine fumed.

"Manuel, tell her." Called out Susan as she turned towards Manuel who appeared quite embarrassed by the situation.

Hannah couldn't help but laugh silently beside them, knowing exactly why they hadn't been able to conceive yet – something that shouldn't be discussed openly like this.

Quickly changing the topic, Hannah asked about all the gifts they brought along for Salem,

"Oh yeah! We bought these earlier today when I skipped work." Exclaimed Susan, excited-looking. She seemed to forget about their previous argument altogether.

Justine held back any further comments since they were guests after all-plus arguing with someone like Susan would only make things worse.

Susan carried Salem and walked towards the gifts.

"I skipped work to buy them this afternoon, and Manuel gave me a dirty look." Said Susan.

Manuel was wordless again, for he was unhappy with her because she didn't tell him to go shopping together.

"I thought boys would like toy guns and cars, so I bought some." Susan put Salem down on the ground and picked up a toy car to play with him. "Do you like it, Sal?"

Salem's speech wasn't very clear yet, but he smiled when he looked at the toy car.

Chapter 916 Oscar's Sudden Return

"Every time Sal smiles, he looks just like you." Susan suddenly said.

Hannah nodded. Indeed, every time Salem smiled, his eyes would crinkle just like hers did.

"But when he doesn't smile, he's just like that scumbag Oscar." Susan gritted her teeth as she spoke.

She was bringing up old wounds. Hannah was speechless for a moment.

Justine felt awkward standing next to them too.

When she heard that Oscar wouldn't be coming back today, she couldn't quite understand it either. But there were many things that she knew Oscar couldn't control or force himself into doing either way. This could have been considered a taboo topic for today but Susan brought it up without any hesitation or burden on herself.

"What about these over here?" Hannah ignored what Susan had said and looked at another pile of clothes nearby instead.

"These are all my favourites." Susan picked up a small shirt without any self-consciousness about making the atmosphere awkward. She could instantly change her mood even in such an uncomfortable situation.

"Isn't this great? I think Sal will look amazing in this!" Said Susan, excited.

"It looks good." Hannah nodded in agreement with Susan's taste which had always been impeccable since childhood-Hannah used to get inspiration from Susan when designing clothes back then.

"But you bought too much," Hannah looked at dozens of outfits piled high and shook her head incredulously, "What are you going to do with all of these? He's growing so fast right now; soon they won't fit anymore! It's such a waste!"

"What is it a waste of?" Susan shrugged off Hannah's concern, "Sal is so handsome that those clothes should consider themselves lucky if they get worn by him even once!"

"Only Susan could make wasting money sound so casual." Hannah thought to herself.

"Well, I already bought them, so you have to make sure Sal wears them," Susan said.

"Okay." Hannah nodded in agreement.

"Don't say no to Susan or she'll annoy you to death." Hannah thought again.

Susan was feeling great. She couldn't resist giving Salem another kiss and asked him, "Do you like your godmother?"

Sal obediently nodded his head.

"Say 'godmother'." Susan urged him on.

Salem moved his little mouth but struggled for a while before finally making a sound. His cute expression was just too adorable and everyone in the hall couldn't stop laughing. Having a child at home doubled the joy of life. Just when everyone thought Salem wouldn't be able to say anything, he suddenly spoke up with a clear and tender voice, "Mama!"

This made Susan burst into laughter again as she said between giggles, "You can call me Mama too."

Salem felt even happier after receiving praise from Susan and started dancing around excitedly. "Come on, call Papa now!" Without any shame at all, Susan carried Salem over towards Manuel.

Manuel felt slightly embarrassed by what was happening but then heard Salem loudly shout out: "Papa!"

It was easy for him to pronounce since he had been able to say that word since he was six months old. Seeing this made Susan's smile even brighter, as she quickly handed over Salem saying, "Come on and hold your son."

Manuel also loved holding Salem very much. Although initially reluctant about being passed over by Susan's arms-with her still teasing him-Salem soon found himself cuddling up against Manuel's chest without any resistance at all. The three of them looked like an actual family together which caused Hannah's heartstrings to tug for just one second. If something bad were ever to happen to her unexpectedly, maybe she would rest assured to leave Salem to them, Hannah thought.

"Hannah," Justine suddenly called out beside her which snapped her back into reality once more.

Hannah turned her head towards Justine saying politely, "Yes?"

"Thanks for taking care of Salem," Justine replied kindly.

"It's not hard work; many people are helping out at home plus Sal is very well-behaved," Hannah smiled warmly before adding confidently, "Besides, he's my child, taking care of him is only natural."

Justine almost said something else but decided against it instead. Hannah was very smart and knew exactly what she was saying. However, she brushed it off lightly because she didn't want to say too much.

Upon further reflection, even the most patient woman couldn't tolerate Oscar's current situation.

Besides, Hannah was a proud woman deep down inside. She just didn't want to embarrass anyone too much.

In the living room, there were sounds of Susan and Salem interacting with each other, which seemed very joyful.

It was past 6 pm now. Salem's birthday banquet had begun.

Although it was called a birthday banquet, only a few people attended. The family had simply packaged an outdoor restaurant in the backyard with many small decorations commonly seen at birthday parties and prepared a cute cake that looked warm and cosy.

Everyone sat around the big table while Salem sat in front of his cake in the centre of the table. He was curious about his cake and wanted to grab it several times but Hannah kept restraining him from doing so.

Michelle lit up a candle on top of the cake as everyone started singing "Happy Birthday" for Salem. Sometimes they felt that this kind of birthday party might be more meaningful-important people offering sincere blessings-which made everything feel just right.

After singing "Happy Birthday," everyone taught Salem how to blow out candles on his like adults do but he couldn't seem to do it no matter how hard he tried, which made everyone laugh non-stop. The atmosphere really couldn't get any better than this.

"Never mind, never mind, let's help Sal," Susan said as she could no longer bear watching him struggle so much trying to blow out all those candles by himself.

Salem also clearly wanted some cake already, so Hannah smiled brightly, saying, "Okay."

But then her eyes suddenly froze for a moment when she lowered her head preparing herself for helping Salem blow out those candles.

Everyone became somewhat surprised due to Hannah's sudden change in expression as they followed her gaze towards Oscar, who stood outside in their backyard garden area looking at them.

Why did he suddenly appear here?

Susan didn't know what mood she should be feeling right now; if Oscar hadn't come back yet, then he would have been worse than an animal. But since he came back now, he was still annoyingly obstructive.

Who knew what feelings were going through Hannah's heart right now?

The originally good atmosphere turned somewhat awkward due to Oscar's sudden appearance. He was standing there feeling like an extra person who wasn't needed anymore. Instead, it was Justine who quickly responded. She walked towards Oscar, happy, and said, "Perfect timing! We're just about to blow out the candles for Salem's birthday. Come on over."

Oscar seemed to glance at Hannah.

Hannah had already concealed the hint of emotion in her eyes from earlier and had a smile on her face. "You made me not wait for you, so I didn't wait for you."

Oscar nodded.

He silently walked towards Hannah at that moment.

They both arrived by Salem's side together.

Chapter 917 Turmoil Arises, Susan's Fury

Oscar's appearance had some impact on the atmosphere of Salem's birthday party. It was obvious that the mood was better when he wasn't there. Oscar could feel it but chose to ignore it.

"Blow out the candles," Hannah said with a smile. "Let's all do it together."

Everyone leaned in to help Salem blow out his birthday candles.

"Salem, happy birthday!" Everyone warmly congratulated him.

Salem could feel everyone's happiness and he laughed, looking adorable and likeable.

Oscar just watched him silently.

He talked on the phone with Hannah sometimes and video chatted with his son too. The real-life Salem was different from what he saw in videos; only seeing him in person made Oscar truly realize how real everything was.

He reached out to hug Salem but stopped himself before doing so because he feared that maybe Salem wouldn't recognize him anymore. If he hugged him now, perhaps Salem would cry.

Hannah noticed Oscar's small movements but ignored them anyway.

After blowing out the candles, Hannah held onto Salem's little hand and cut the first slice of cake before having a servant take care of dividing up pieces for everyone else at dinner time.

Everyone went back to their seats and started eating dinner.

Since they hadn't prepared a seat for Oscar beforehand, Hannah had an extra chair added next to where Salem sat while she took her place on Salem's other side.

Salem sat in a child-sized chair.

"Come on everyone! Let's raise our glasses! Here's wishing our dear little boy a very happy birthday." Susan felt that nobody should let Oscar affect their mood or punish poor little innocent Salem for someone else's mistakes. She didn't want anyone taking their anger towards Oscar out on her precious godson who was just too adorable for words.

"Happy Birthday!" Everyone raised their glasses together as one big family unit. Even Oscar raised his glass along with them all.

"Toasting!"

The atmosphere seemed to return to normal again after this toast Everyone began talking happily amongst themselves once more.

Salem had already eaten dinner earlier so now sitting in his child-sized chair munching away at his slice of cake while making quite an adorable mess everywhere around himself as kids tended to do when eating food like this.

Oscar looked at how cute Salem looked right now, which caused him to smile slightly. He picked up a napkin from the table and wiped the cream off Salem's face. As soon as he did this, Salem suddenly burst into tears.

Everyone at the lively dinner table was startled by Salem's crying.

"What's wrong?" Michelle was the most excited.

Oscar was embarrassed at that moment.

He explained, "I saw cream on Salem's face, so I wanted to wipe it off. I didn't mean to make him cry."

Michelle frowned.

At this moment, Hannah had already carried Salem in her arms and she walked away. Salem threw himself into Hannah's embrace as if he had suffered a great grievance and held her tightly.

"It's nothing. Maybe Salem is just shy. I'll comfort him." Said Hannah, trying to defuse Oscar's explanation but causing a sharp pain in Oscar's heart instead.

That made Oscar feel that he was completely an outsider.

Hannah comforted Salem for a while until he stopped crying. But when she tried to put him back in his high chair, he refused to go back in no matter what she did. He kept kicking his short legs up high and wouldn't sit down again. So Hannah had no choice but to hold him on her lap instead of eating anything herself, since one-year-old Salem wasn't very well-behaved either way once she put him down there anyway.

Oscar saw everything but dared not do anything about it because his own feelings towards them both were too complicated right now.

"Oscar, can we drink?" Manuel naturally noticed Oscar's mood change and asked for permission politely.

Oscar looked over at Manuel and nodded slightly before he said, "We can have some."

"Let's get a drink." Said Manuel.

"Mhm."

The rest of them continued drinking wine or beer while enjoying their meal together with casual conversation topics.

However, Oscar couldn't help but keep glancing over at Hannah holding onto little Salem tightly, as if she was afraid someone might take him away from her anytime soon. Hannah ate little.

Later, Michelle walked to Hannah and said, "Get some food, let me hold Sal for a while."

"No, thanks, Mom. I'm not hungry. Just enjoy yourself."

"I'm full. Come here, Sal." Then she picked Salem up from Hannah's arms.

Michelle carried Salem and left the garden. Hannah was not sure whether her mother was sparing time for her to eat or she just wanted to keep someone out of her sight.

Hannah picked up her knife and fork and continued to eat food.

"Hannah, let's have a drink." Susan raised her glass.

Watching Manuel and Oscar drinking so enthusiastically made Susan feel sullen.

“Okay.” Hannah nodded.

They each had two drinks.

Hannah thought for a moment, poured herself another drink, and said to Manuel, “Manuel, here’s to you.”

Manuel was talking with Oscar at the moment. When he heard Hannah call him, he quickly turned his head to look at her.

“If it weren’t for you a year ago, Salem and I wouldn’t be here today,” Hannah said with a smile on her lips.

It seemed like everything that happened a year ago had passed by now. All that remained was gratitude towards their saviour and the luck of surviving the ordeal.

Manuel smiled, “I’ve already told you it wasn’t a big deal.”

Wasn’t being bedridden for half a year considered a big deal?!

Sometimes Manuel’s kindness touched people’s hearts and warmed them up as well.

“Manuel,” Oscar also raised his glass solemnly. “Thank you.”

He risked his life to save both Hannah and Salem back then.

Manuel felt embarrassed by all this attention suddenly focused on him; he quickly drank two more glasses of wine in response.

Susan watched them from the side with an ambiguous expression on her face as she said, “What are you thanking him for? He didn’t save your life.”

Oscar pursed his lips in silence.

“And what good does saying thank you do?” Susan continued speaking deliberately provocatively, “When there is real danger around them, they don’t even know where you are?”

The more they tried to stop Susan from speaking out loud like this, the angrier she became about it all.

She spoke louder, “You can’t even protect your wife or children! What’s so great about being commander-in-chief? And since you already have your own family now, Oscar, why don’t you just let go of Hannah? Can’t you be generous enough to give her freedom? Don’t you think it’s despicable to control her life for yourself?”

“Susan, stop talking!” Manuel couldn’t bear listening anymore; he pulled Susan aside gently trying not to make things worse than they were already becoming between everyone present here today. Susan pushed Manuel away with a feeling of determination.

“Even if I get my head chopped off, I have to say it! How dare Oscar treat Hannah like this?!”

Chapter 918 Hannah, Leave Me

The atmosphere at the dinner table became extremely tense due to Susan's outburst.

However, Susan was completely unaware of it and pointed her finger at Oscar, saying, "Every day you show off your love for your wife and daughter in front of so many people. Have you ever thought about how Hannah and Salem feel? When you three live happily together, do you know what kind of life Hannah and Salem live? When your precious daughter had her hundred-day celebration, the whole country sent their blessings while Manuel travelled far to attend. But do you even know which day is Salem's hundredth day? I admit that even I have forgotten!"

The more she spoke, the more uncomfortable Susan felt.

She truly felt sorry for Hannah.

How could someone as proud as Hannah end up in such a situation where she had to rely on others? She didn't deserve this.

"Okay, Susan. It's not as bad as you think." Said Hannah gently, "I'm doing fine."

"I hate it when you say that everything is fine." Replied Susan with red eyes, "Every time you say that everything is fine, I feel like there's blood dripping from your heart while all we see is a calm surface. You care too much about others' feelings and don't realize how much pain it causes me."

Hannah was speechless. Susan had made her feel helpless once again. But deep down inside, she was moved by Susan's concern for her well-being.

Susan would always stand up for herself whenever she felt wronged no matter who or what stood in her way-a true friend indeed.

"Oscar," Susan suddenly turned on him again with accusations flying out of her mouth like bullets aimed directly at him.

"How can you bear hurting such an amazing woman?" She continued questioning him relentlessly, "When seeing Salem celebrate his first birthday alone without any guests around except us here tonight- does it make sense to leave them behind without any guilt or remorse?"

"Susan!" warned Hanna sternly before continuing calmly, "Everything happening now has been my choice, nothing related to Oscar's actions. Please stop talking."

"Why are you still defending him?! How much do you like him to let him bully you like this? He's already a married man! How long has it been since he came back to see you and Salem? I calculated it, it's been seven months. Even the hottest heart should have turned into ice by now! What are you using to sustain your feelings for him?"

Hatred. That was the word in Hannah's heart.

There were many things that Susan didn't understand, but she was moved by everything that Susan had done for her.

"Manuel," Hannah called out to Manuel, asking for his help.

Manuel nodded. He actually wanted to take her away with him earlier but was afraid of making the situation more awkward. But now if he didn't take her away, things would really get out of hand.

"You're drunk. Let's go back first." Manuel said as he pulled Susan along with him.

"Don't touch me, Manuel! I'm not afraid of Oscar and neither should you be!" Susan acted like a rooster ready to fight anyone who challenged her dominance.

"Be good and let's go home." Manuel coaxed gently.

"You can't seduce me!"

"... I'm not trying to seduce you."

Manuel was speechless. He had no choice but to squat down and carry Susan horizontally in his arms when she refused to walk on her own.

Susan was startled at first but then quickly wrapped her arms around Manuel's neck before realizing what she was doing and started struggling again, "Let me go, Manuel! Let me go!"

But Manuel ignored all of her protests as he carried her away from the scene while their noisy voices gradually faded into silence behind them.

Justine watched their backs disappear before turning around again towards Oscar, who hadn't uttered a single word throughout the whole ordeal.

Justine sighed before saying, "I'll check on Susan. Sometimes she gets too worked up so don't worry about what happened just now."

"Thank you, Aunt Justine." Hannah smiled warmly at Justine before adding, "I might have spoken too harshly earlier so please comfort her for me."

"She has thick skin; she'll forget about it tomorrow."

"Just leave it be then."

"Well, then I'll be going now."

"I apologize for any inconvenience caused." Hannah stood up from where they were seated together.

Justine shook her head with a smile on her face because there were many things left unsaid between them both that couldn't be expressed in words alone. She couldn't bring herself to advise Hannah and Oscar to make things work now.

Although Susan had just shown no respect for Oscar, she actually made a lot of sense.

Since he had already chosen another family, he shouldn't be selfish and make things difficult for another woman.

Oscar should let go.

Justine left.

At the dinner table, only Hannah, Oscar, and Miguel remained.

Miguel naturally wouldn't stay at the table any longer.

"I'll go help your mom look after Sal."

"Thanks, Dad."

Miguel nodded and sighed heavily before leaving.

In front of the large dining table were only her and Oscar now. They ate a small but exquisite dinner while surrounded by colourful lights flashing around them. It was quite romantic in its own way.

"Don't take Susan's words to heart," Hannah said lightly to Oscar. "She tends to speak without thinking when she's had a few drinks."

Oscar looked at Hannah as she smiled faintly as if she had let everything go and was doing well without him there with her anymore.

"Susan is right," Oscar spoke up in a low voice. "I am indeed very selfish."

Hannah's heart skipped a beat as she wondered if he had compromised already-compromised into forming his family with Lillian and completely letting go of her.

"Hannah," Oscar said slowly one word at a time, "Leave me."

Hannah's eyes flickered slightly as she swallowed hard in response-this was what it came down to after all.

She asked calmly, "Do you have good feelings towards Lillian?"

Oscar didn't answer it but his silence confirmed it all in Hannah's eyes anyway. Between adults who wanted everyone else not to lose face too much, many things could not be spoken out loud.

Hannah smiled slightly before answering, "I see."

There wasn't anything else that could be done if they didn't agree on something together. She couldn't force him into anything either way. She felt somewhat regretful about how everything turned out since they both held back so much for so long. In the end, though it seemed like Lillian still got what she wanted, while Hannah left her unfulfilled desires behind, she could let go of everything. After all, Hannah had a past pursuit of forgetting this man entirely.

"Then go back early." Said Hannah.

There shouldn't be any more contact between them since they made that decision.

Chapter 919 Salem's Repulsion

Hannah wanted him to leave right away since he had chosen Lillian. From now on, they had nothing to do with each other.

So she got up and was about to leave there. Despite the fact that they both had had a hard time keeping their relationship in the former situation, all of those ordeals could simply be ended in a word.

That was it.

On the point of rising up, her arm was suddenly clasped by him, tightly. His urgent grip made Hannah feel that he was very reluctant to let her go in a second. But that might be related to the possessiveness of a man, while women were always eager for undivided exclusive attention from someone else. Men had the pursuit of a sense of accomplishment in their bones, and affections meant nothing to them.

“Anything else?” asked Hannah, calm.

There was an unexpectedly calm attitude inside her, while she thought that she should hold a strong feeling of loathing. It seemed that all her hatred had been flung away upon hearing that she was dumped by him. It turned out that all her animosities were loaded onto this man. Once he disappeared from her life, the hate was gone with him.

“Can’t you stay with me for a little?” asked Oscar, in a distressful low voice.

She was desperate to refuse, but she compromised as she noticed his down face.

“Let go then.” Said she.

She could stay, but there shouldn’t be any more ambiguous atmosphere between them.

Oscar loosed his grip, slowly. Then Hannah sat back in the chair, but she picked a chair that was a little farther away from him this time, thinking that they were supposed to keep the distance.

Oscar knew what Hannah was thinking about, and he was simply staring at her. He could read nothing but detachment on her face. There was a moment when he thought he had been nobody but a stranger in her heart. Before this, she had humoured him rather than getting into an argument with him; while now, she could actually forget him, completely. Hannah had forced herself to endure a lot of things while facing him.

Oscar said, “Sal would be with you in the future, you can change his surname.”

Hannah didn’t refuse.

Changing his last name would be good for everyone. Salem shouldn’t have to bear the love and hate between them.

“If you want to take Sal out of the country,” Oscar said, “I’ll send you away.”

“That’s not necessary.” Hannah said frankly, “As long as you can guarantee that Salem and I are safe in Northfield, we don’t need to go anywhere. My parents are old and I’m afraid they won’t adapt well if they leave here.”

Oscar’s throat trembled slightly.

There were many things he seemed to be holding back from saying aloud.

Hannah looked at him and asked, “Should I leave?”

So just now Oscar wasn’t actually asking for her opinion, he was telling her what she had to do.

“Mhm,” Oscar responded softly.

Hannah chuckled lightly. She had tried every possible way to leave Northfield before, almost burying her whole family with her. Now she was being forced to leave instead.

"Give me a few days to prepare," Hannah suggested.

"One week," Oscar replied.

"All right." Hannah nodded.

That should be enough time.

"Hannah, I'm sorry." Oscar suddenly apologized.

She smiled, "You don't have to say that to me."

Oscar's throat moved slightly, wondering whether Hannah didn't want his apology because there was no relationship left between them anymore and she had completely let go. So, his apology didn't make any sense to her any longer.

"Let's both live well." Hannah laughed lightly.

After understanding everything between her and Oscar, there wasn't any hatred left between them. Oscar helped her get revenge, and she helped him regain his position as commander-in-chief. If it weren't for having a child together, they would have just been cooperating for mutual benefit.

Besides, along the way, they still paid a lot of painful prices, including Cian's death. This was probably an insurmountable obstacle that would always stand between them.

Both were silent. Oscar stopped talking. Nor did he leave. All Hannah could do was silently accompany him.

"Hannah!" Michelle's voice rang out in the hall, "Sal might be getting sleepy; he's looking for you."

As Salem grew older, he became more and more dependent on her. At night, he couldn't fall asleep without her by his side. Otherwise, he would keep fussing and crying.

Hannah replied, "I'll come over right away."

She stood up from the chair again.

Oscar just watched her silently.

Hannah said, "If you want to sit down for a while before leaving, that's fine. I'll go accompany Salem."

In other words, she wouldn't come back to say goodbye to him again. He could sit as long as he wanted and leave whenever he pleased without bothering to inform her separately.

Hannah didn't wait for Oscar's answer but left directly with hurried footsteps that sounded somewhat anxious and restless. There was no trace of reluctance in her departure whatsoever.

Oscar remained seated in the chair gazing at the starry night sky above him. He knew that since he let go of Hannah now, it would mean forever parting ways with her.

He stood up from the chair and then walked into the living room where Salem was still making a fuss, while Hannah tried to soothe him in her arms. This was probably what Hannah's life would look like from now on—a comfortable, warm-hearted yet free and beautiful life.

He should have just left without disturbing Hannah's life any further. But he decided to walk to them at that moment.

Hannah saw him approaching and asked, "Are you leaving?"

"I want to hold Salem," Oscar said.

Hannah seemed hesitant since Salem was already fussy enough at this moment. It wasn't exactly an ideal time for Oscar to hold him.

"Can I hold him for a little?" Oscar asked again.

Hannah nodded reluctantly.

This might be Oscar's last chance ever to hold onto Salem. She handed over their son into his arms.

Salem immediately burst into tears upon feeling his father's embrace, clearly showing signs of rejection towards Oscar. Salem's reaction broke his heart even more than before.

Michelle came running over after hearing all the commotion going on inside, "What happened? Is he hungry?" She asked while holding a bottle of milk powder in her hand. But when she saw the baby crying in Oscar's arms, Michelle got angry instantly.

"When will you learn not to force Sal when he's upset?" said Michelle in a huff.

Oscar swallowed hard trying not to show any sign of weakness or hurt feelings. Meanwhile, the little boy continued struggling against Dad's grip while crying louder than ever before almost suffocating himself several times.

Hannah didn't want to take Salem away from Oscar. As a parent herself, she understood his feelings and decided to let him hold onto the baby. However, Salem's crying only grew louder and Hannah couldn't bear to watch anymore. Finally, Oscar returned Salem back into her arms.

Salem clung tightly to Hannah as if afraid of being abandoned by his mother. He stopped crying but continued to sob quietly in her embrace.

Chapter 920 "Goodbye, Oscar."

He watched as Salem clung to Hannah protectively as if he feared losing his mother forever. It was clear that Salem disliked him and rejected his attempts at bonding with him.

Oscar had wanted to hold onto Salem for just a little longer despite the crying because he didn't know when or if he would ever get another chance again. But he also knew that forcing himself on them would only make things worse between him and Hannah.

He didn't want to leave a bad impression on her any further than it already was.

Michelle noticed that Salem had returned back into Hannah's arms and went off to prepare some milk formula for him, while Oscar remained behind watching them silently.

Hannah thought about saying something several times but ultimately decided against it until Oscar left on his own accord.

Oscar was a reasonable person, who would not do anything out of control. When it was time for him to leave, he would leave himself.

As Michelle handed over the bottle of milk formula towards Hannah, who then proceeded with feeding little Salem; Oscar continued staring intently at both mother-and-child duo without moving an inch from where they were seated.

He knew what needed doing yet found himself unable due largely in part because of how he strongly attached to them emotionally. Although he had prepared for this result, he found it unacceptable to sustain the pain when it came. His throat moved slightly. Oscar kept staring at his son, who resembled him in appearance and who was sucking on a rubber teat enjoyably.

He also looked at Hannah, whose full attention was on Salem, her face naturally exuding maternal love that was beautiful and warm. Oscar carefully took note of every detail of their appearance, deeply engraving it in his mind.

"Are you staying here tonight?" Michelle suddenly asked Oscar, who felt a flutter in his chest. He really wanted to say yes, but it wasn't possible anymore. He hadn't even opened his mouth when Hannah spoke up.

"He's leaving soon. Mom, you can go do your own thing."

Michelle left the room and Hannah continued to focus on Salem. He had been overly excited today-maybe because he knew it was his birthday-and hadn't slept much during the day. Even though it wasn't too late yet, he had already fallen asleep while drinking milk from a bottle.

Hannah put down the bottle and picked up Salem, as Oscar still lingered there. She looked up at him and asked if he wanted to hold Salem now that he was asleep. Hannah thought Oscar would like to hold Salem.

Sometimes blood ties were hard to let go of; she dared not to imagine what would happen to her if she were forced to leave Salem behind.

But then Oscar shook his head. At first, he really wanted to but then changed his mind because he feared holding him would make letting go even harder than before, especially since this decision couldn't be delayed any longer.

Hannah furrowed her brow at Oscar's response. What did this mean? Why didn't he leave?

"I'll bring Salem upstairs for bed." She said as she prepared herself for departure; whatever happened with Oscar now didn't concern her anymore anyway.

"Do you hate me?" Suddenly Oscar asked Hannah out of nowhere.

Her body stiffened briefly before answering him honestly, "I used to."

She also used to love him too once upon a time, but those feelings belonged in the past now.

Oscar nodded silently in response.

“Leave early.” Hannah urged, “Since you’ve made your choice, you should take responsibility for her and your family.”

Oscar’s throat was constantly rolling.

“Goodbye, Oscar.”

“... Goodbye,” Oscar murmured.

Hannah took Salem upstairs in her arms.

And Oscar left.

His steps were difficult and heavy as if carrying a thousand pounds on his back. Hannah stood on the balcony outside the second floor watching him leave from afar in the darkness of night.

His tall figure seemed inexplicably lonely.

Even though she couldn’t see his face clearly, she could feel that he was like a walking corpse.

Finally, Hannah’s eyes turned red with tears streaming down her face, whether because she had let go or found relief. This experience had been etched into her memory forever. It was enough to make her cry.

Oscar returned to the Capital late at night. When he arrived at the castle, he did not get out of the car. Since leaving Hannah behind earlier that day, he hadn’t uttered a word until now, while smoking continuously in silence inside the car, with his bodyguard standing respectfully outside not daring to disturb him.

After some time passed, Oscar’s phone rang. He glanced at it, seeing Theodore’s call coming.

“Theodore.”

His voice sounded low and hoarse as if coming from deep within an abyss. Theodore could sense how low Oscar felt even without seeing him just by hearing his voice over the phone line.

“Are you back?” Theodore asked curiously since he had been keeping track of Oscar’s movements all along. He found it strange that Oscar returned so quickly because he thought that Oscar would spend more time with Hannah and their son before returning home, for it had been such a long time since they last saw each other.

Was he getting more rational?

There wasn’t much time left before Rowan found out about Oscar’s returning to Kensbury so they needed to act fast while Rowan still didn’t know anything yet. Clearly, Rowan didn’t know about this thing yet.

Theodore thought that perhaps Oscar had had a quarrel with Hannah or something, or he wouldn’t have come back so soon if he had a good time there.

"I need you to prepare something; I'm sending Hannah abroad." Said Oscar bluntly, catching Theodore off guard with this sudden request.

Theodore thought he had misheard, "What did you say?"

"Send Hannah and Salem abroad," Oscar said, "in secret, to a safe country."

"Why?" Theodore didn't understand.

"I don't want them to take risks with me."

"But..." Theodore could of course imagine it, but by sending Hannah away like this, she could possibly be angry with Oscar.

She had fought so hard to leave him before and ended up suffering a lot from it. Now that she had finally settled down here, Oscar was sending her away.

"Well, for both Hannah and Salem, I've already been the worst," Oscar said.

"Do we really have to go this far? How strong can Rowan be?!" Theodore felt they could take down Rowan.