

Reborn 931

Chapter 931 The End of War

"I only said that earlier just so Lillian would give up on us! I never really wanted her dead! If I did want her dead, why would I have let her go?" Rowan tried playing the family card.

"We're a family, how could I ever harm any of my own kin? Everything was for your own good; it was meant for teaching all of us what choices our family should make when faced with important decisions."

"Thank you for your guidance." Mathew smirked coldly, "Right now is when I'm making my choice seriously."

"Mathew, if something happens to me, do think that there's still a chance for redemption left for yourself? Oscar has too much power right now. Without my connections, there's no way that even someone like yourself could fight against him successfully." Rowan pleaded nervously, "Besides, you are my only son. One day in time when old age catches up with me and death comes to me, all of this land will belong solely under your name anyway! If you kill me now then everything that lies ahead of yours will crumble into dust!"

"From the moment you let Oscar break both of my legs, I no longer had any feelings for you. You were willing to ignore my legs for your own benefit, I know you would do anything for your own interests, even take my life. Rowan Collins, you think I'm stupid? You think I'll still believe your words? I'm sure that once I let you go, you'll shoot me the next second. For you, humph! Nothing but power and ambition is important." Mathew was not disturbed by Rowan. He had seen through everything.

He spoke coldly again, "And you think I can never rise again? Rowan, you're too full of yourself! I've learned so much from being by your side all these years, so much cunning and deceit. Even if you die, I can still hold up the entire Collins family!"

"You can't!"

"Why not? When you plotted against grandfather, didn't he threaten you like this? But look at where you are now! Why can't I do what you did?" Mathew no longer cared about Rowan's threats. "I suddenly realized that this is just karma! You were so cruel to kill your father and siblings in the past, and now your son will kill you. It's a fitting end."

"Mathew!" Rowan was pushed to his limits by him.

"Go to hell!" Mathew lost patience. He killed Rowan without mercy and quickly left-he couldn't afford to waste time escaping.

With a loud bang, Rowan was ruthlessly shot dead by Mathew. As he died with wide-open eyes and an unblinking gaze filled with terror, anger and despair, his life as a cunning man, who eliminated anyone who posed a threat, came to an end in history forever.

Everything had just happened in front of Lillian.

She watched helplessly as her brother killed their father right before her eyes. She thought they were close as a family but everything had changed. Even when Sarah went to prison and Mathew lost his legs,

Lillian always thought that they understood each other. Sarah couldn't be saved because of the situation, and Mathew took the blame for losing his legs so that their family could survive.

Lillian always believed that they loved each other and were sacrificing for this family.

Now she knew. They were all wrong. Everyone only cared about their own interests. Her father did too. So did her brother. They were only trying to achieve their own goals, not for the sake of this family at all.

Lillian looked coldly at Rowan lying in a pool of blood. He had lived such a glorious life but died so easily, in such a brutal way.

"Lillian!" Suddenly Mathew called out to her.

Lillian held Una tightly as her heart trembled with fear. Mathew's voice was filled with bloodshed. If she hadn't seen Rowan die by his hand with her own eyes, she wouldn't have believed that they would turn on each other like this.

"It's your turn now!" Mathew pulled the trigger.

Lillian just stared at him. After hearing her father beg for mercy earlier on, she knew there was nothing she could say or do to stop him from killing her too if he wanted to do it badly enough. She felt terrible, knowing that she hadn't protected Una well enough. but then again, what was there left worth protecting? She was a child no one expected or cared about. What meaning was there in living when she was not even valued by her own family or Oscar?

It might be better off dying before living without experiencing any beauty in this world.

Lillian had already come to terms with it all.

Just as Mathew pulled the trigger, suddenly countless gunshots rang out around them.

The sudden noise made Mathew's hand jerk violently causing him to miss his shot. At that moment, Mathew was frantically shouting to his men, "Hurry up, lift me onto the plane! Quickly!"

It was clear that Oscar's men had arrived. If he didn't leave now, he would surely die. As for not killing Lillian, she must have been lucky. For him, escaping with his life was the most important thing right now.

Mathew was quickly lifted onto the plane. At the same time, Lillian grabbed Una and ran away as fast as she could.

The Collins family's secret escape location had other means of escape besides planes, such as cars. Lillian got into a car with Una and stepped on the gas pedal to quickly flee.

Meanwhile, Mathew had already boarded a helicopter which hovered in the air before taking off rapidly. Oscar got out of his car.

"Lillian and Una are not on board?" Oscar asked while looking at where the helicopter went.

"Lillian left with Una in a car; we've sent people after them!" replied one of Oscar's men.

"Good." Oscar narrowed his eyes, "Shoot down that helicopter!"

“Got it!” Theodore grinned; this was what he loved doing most. Those who thought too highly of themselves deserved to be destroyed.

With one command from him, everyone evacuated while aiming their massive destructive weapon at the helicopter, which exploded upon impact into pieces, falling apart like ashes with sparks flying everywhere.

Chapter 932 Lillian’s Escape (1) Negotiation

Lillian was driving herself. When suddenly she heard a crash, she shuddered and then raised her head, only to see flaming fragments of a helicopter falling from the sky. Tears welled up in her eyes. As expected, Oscar was never a merciful one. Did he think that she was in that helicopter?

She wondered if he knew she and Una were running away in the car.

No matter what he thought, the miserable death of the Collins family was his aim, and of course, Una was no exception.

Biting her lip, Lillian sped up a bit because she saw a few cars after hers. And she turned her head to look at her daughter, who was still asleep in the passenger seat—she had never been wakened up during this bumpy ride. Lillian was not sure whether she was sleeping because of the sleeping pills or if she could never wake up again.

Just as painful as she could be, Lillian was driving the car madly on the road, without any destination, thinking she would rather die in a car accident than end up dead at Oscar’s hand. She would never allow herself to be so pitiful in front of that man.

Meanwhile, Oscar was also in a car following Lillian.

“Commander,” a guard informed him, “Madam is a little out of control, she’s driving fast. If we keep chasing her, it’s likely to cause an accident. Based on the speed, if there is an accident, her chance of survival will be low.”

Oscar grabbed the phone. He was torn about his decision. As he ordered, they could not hurt Una Wells, and now, the guards could not guarantee the child’s safety under such circumstances.

“Commander? Shall we keep chasing?”

“Fall back!” Oscar ordered.

“Roger that.”

The cars running after Lillian’s all paused, while Lillian was still driving crazily, putting the pedal to the metal. When she restored to reason, she noticed through the rear-view mirror that the cars after hers were gone.

Did Oscar give up trying to catch her?

No, it couldn’t be that. He must be planning something else, she thought.

Lillian didn’t slow down her car, but because no one was chasing her, she drove much more steadily than before.

Oscar sat in the sedan and received a call from Manuel.

“Lillian has slowed down a bit. She should be calmer now.”

“Good. Tell me the exact location when she stops the car completely.”

Oscar planned to rescue Una after Lillian stopped the car.

“Got it,” Manuel replied.

So it went.

Oscar wandered around in his car for several hours.

Later, Manuel called again and said, “Oscar, Lillian has parked her car. I sent you the location on your phone, and I will continue to track where she ends up.”

“Okay.” Oscar hung up his phone and said to Theodore, “Go to this place!”

Theodore nodded and arranged for people to go directly to their destination, which was a ruined dock in The Capital.

So Lillian wanted to smuggle out of Northfield.

Oscar quickly arrived with everyone surrounding the dock layer by layer. All preparations were made.

“Oscar!” Theodore grabbed him, “I’ll go!”

Oscar shook his head. He had to go himself as he knew that Lillian would play dirty tricks-anyone could guess that much.

“Let’s go!” Oscar didn’t give Theodore any chance of stopping him as he ordered people to follow his footsteps close behind him, while Theodore gritted his teeth and followed along behind them reluctantly.

According to the locator position of Una, they got there.

Lillian was inside a warehouse at the ruined dockyard at this moment when it was already dark outside. There wasn’t even any sound or light coming from within except for the occasional sounds of waves crashing against rocks nearby.

Everyone slowly approached their destination without making any noise or disturbance whatsoever. There wasn’t even a hint of sound or light coming from inside. Everyone got ready for action.

Oscar asked someone gently pushed open the warehouse door

With a creaking sound emanating from its hinges which echoed throughout the empty warehouse space, Oscar pursed his lips tightly together.

Theodore gestured with hand signals, asking someone else first to enter into warehouse but Oscar refused outright. He suddenly walked in.

“Oscar!”

“Don’t provoke her into hurting Una.” Said Oscar firmly,

“But...” protested Theodore hesitantly.

“I’m confident.” Declared Oscar bluntly.

Theodore held back what he wanted to say next under duress.

Oscar ordered everyone else present there to wait patiently instead then walked straight into that warehouse alone.

“Lillian!”

Oscar’s voice reverberated throughout the empty space.

“You come out here so we can talk properly.” He continued speaking calmly yet assertively all along until finally adding these words, “I promise not to harm you even the slightest bit.”

There was still no sound in the warehouse. It seemed like she didn’t trust him.

“I admit that everything today was a calculated move on my part. I was manipulating you and your family, but that’s just how war works. Someone always has to make sacrifices. Today, it’s either me or your family who dies. I didn’t have a choice.” Oscar explained everything, “But when it comes to you and Una, I never had any intention of harming you both. To Una, I will always be her father and I can never abandon her. And as for you being Una’s mother, even if it’s just for Una’s sake, I could never kill you. Even though today you chose to help your family.”

Oscar spoke while moving his feet cautiously and keeping an eye out around him. He was slowly approaching a dark corner where Lillian could possibly hide.

“I understand your decision; if it were me, I would do anything to help my own family too. So from beginning to end, I never had any intention of doing anything to harm you for that matter.” Oscar continued walking forward while scanning his surroundings left and right.

“I admit we can’t form a normal family anymore but there isn’t anything else we can talk about once you come out.”

There was still no response.

“If you’ve decided to take Una away by yourself so she can live with only her mother without ever coming back here again, then so be it; after all, she is your biological daughter. Ultimately, the decision is yours.” Oscar said further, “But please consider rationally the difference between having her stay with me versus staying with you-if she stays with me then she’ll become someone who everyone looks up to.”

Lillian still hadn’t made a choice nor responded at all.

Oscar narrowed his eyes slightly,

He said, “I’ll give five minutes for consideration; If You don’t come out until then, I’ll assume you’ve made your decision already, which is taking Una away from here by yourself. I’ll leave!”

The warehouse remained silent.

Time ticked.

Five minutes passed, and Lillian didn't show herself at all.

Oscar cleared his throat before saying, "In that case, then, I'm leaving!"

As he turned around readying himself to leave, he abruptly stopped in place.

Chapter 933 Lillian's Escape (2) Hatred

Inside the warehouse, when Oscar pretended to leave, he suddenly saw something like a mark written on the floor next to his foot.

He turned on the light on the phone, lighting up the place around him.

There were some words written on the ground.

"Theodore!"

Theodore heard his voice and rushed into the warehouse all at once, fully alert. He worried that Lillian might want to die with Oscar at that moment. So he ran to Oscar without any delay.

"Oscar!"

Compared with him, Oscar was much calmer. He said, "Look at this."

Theodore lowered his head to see the floor and saw a locator, which had been put on Una and helped them find this place. And he was shocked as he saw the words written with blood, "OSCAR, I HATE YOU!"

"She found it!" Theodore was agitated about Lillian's discovery of the locator, knowing that Lillian must have misled them into getting here while she had run away somewhere else.

"Search the place!" Theodore ordered immediately.

The guards waiting at the door all rushed into the place and started searching.

After a while, one of them reported, "Commander, Captain, there's no sign of her."

Although that was an expected result, Lillian's escape was a fluke. Oscar was silent. Theodore could imagine how bad he felt inside. After all, Una Wells had just disappeared under their nose, and now, finding her back was like finding a needle in a haystack.

Theodore turned to order his subordinates, "Start canvassing the neighbourhood. Check any ferries and water vehicles departing from here since 3 PM today, and issue an all-points bulletin for Lillian. Once you have something, report it to me, no more moves, don't alert her."

"Yes, sir!"

The guards started moving. Theodore turned around and looked at Oscar. Following his gaze, he stared at the blood-written words Lillian had left behind. The words were clear as day. What kind of hatred would drive someone to write such gruesome words?

“Oscar,” Theodore called out to him. He was genuinely concerned that Oscar might fall back into his world and get stuck again. He even wondered if Una faced any more threats, whether Oscar could handle it this time.

Oscar pursed his lips and said, “Una needs milk; we need to check all the places selling baby formula.”

Theodore was taken aback for a moment, for he hadn’t thought that far ahead. He was surprised that Oscar could still think clearly after everything that had happened.

“Okay, I’ll arrange it immediately,” Theodore replied.

“Theodore,” Oscar called out again.

“Yes?”

“Post news of my daughter Una’s disappearance on all major media outlets and offer a large reward for anyone who finds her, right now!” Oscar continued giving instructions.

“But won’t Lillian find out we’re looking for Una? Won’t she do something extreme?” Theodore worriedly asked him.

“That’s precisely what I want! I want her to feel threatened by how important Una is to me! I want her to use Una as leverage against me!” Oscar enunciated each word carefully.

Theodore instantly understood what he meant-if Lillian used Una against him, she would have no choice but to contact him directly. It was better than waiting around aimlessly hoping they’d find some clue about where she might be hiding.

However, Theodore wasn’t sure what the consequences of such actions would be like- he had no idea how far Oscar would go while being threatened by Lillian with Una Wells. If Lillian wanted him to die, Oscar could sacrifice himself.

News about Una Wells’ disappearance spread like wildfire across various media outlets both big and small alike, causing an uproar throughout the entire country overnight! This news even made its way overseas eventually reaching Hannah who was living abroad.

Hannah had already settled down somewhere safe since leaving Northfield on that fateful day not too long ago. She knew deep down inside though nothing ever truly changed when dealing with people from “the Collins family”-Oscar still kept close tabs on them, regardless of where they went unless something drastic happened to the Collins family. It was obvious that the Collins family had come to an end. But Una became the victim.

The day Hannah left, Theodore told her everything about Oscar in a few words. He explained that they sent her away only because they were going after the Collins family and Oscar wanted to ensure her absolute safety.

To say she was touched would be an understatement. Sometimes when a heart died, it was hard to feel anything else. Now as she watched the news, all she could think about was what would happen if something did happen to Una Wells. Oscar wouldn’t be able to handle it.

When Cian Wells died years ago, it dealt him a fatal blow-that wasn't even his fault but completely unexpected. This time with Una Wells' accident, he brought it upon himself by using her safety for his purposes. So if something happened to Una, then something would happen to Oscar too. Hannah understood all of this clearly.

She couldn't help but feel emotional at times though, especially when thinking about Una Wells, who was Cian's daughter. If anything happened to her then Hannah wouldn't be able to accept it either.

"Hannah," Michelle suddenly called out to her and Hannah snapped back into reality as she rubbed her eyes nonchalantly trying not to let on how much this affected her.

Her mother walked over holding Salem in tow saying, "Your dad just saw on the news that there seems like there's trouble with the Collins family."

So now even Michelle knew what had happened in Northfield.

"They also said that Una Wells seems missing... do you know anything?" Michelle asked curiously, unable to resist prying further into things, which made Hannah remain silent indicating that she didn't want to discuss any further details at the present moment

"Did Oscar send us away because he wants revenge against the Collins family? Is he protecting us?" Michelle asked as realization dawned upon her.

"If so... is he trying to start over with you? Trying to give you and Salem a new home again?"

"If something happens with Una," said Hannah slowly enunciating each word, "then me and Oscar will never have another chance together."

Chapter 934 Hannah Returns Home

Michelle listened to her daughter's words, still somewhat surprised. When she heard Miguel mention domestic news earlier, she had been thinking about Oscar and all the hostility she had previously felt towards him disappeared in that instant. She was even moved by the fact that Oscar could do so much for Hannah to the Collins family.

Although Michelle wasn't very clear on national affairs, she had heard of the strength of the Collins family. However, Hannah's cold demeanour made her unsure once again.

Hannah spoke up again, being blunt and not wanting her mother to have any expectations. She said slowly, "No matter whether there are feelings between me and Oscar or not, as long as Una Wells is in trouble, there will never be any possibility between us."

Michelle didn't understand and wanted to ask something else when Hannah's phone rang.

Since coming here, Hannah had changed her phone number to a local one. So it wouldn't be anyone other than Theodore calling her.

She looked at the incoming call before getting up and walking away from Michelle. Hannah pressed the answer button saying, "Theodore."

"Yeah it's me," Theodore replied with a tired voice.

If Theodore was already at this point then one could only imagine what state Oscar was currently in.

“Is there something wrong?” asked Hannah nonchalantly.

“The incident over here, did you see it on the news?” asked Theodore

“I saw it.” Said Hannah lightly

Theodore tightened his grip on his phone hand knowing full well that many things were impossible for Oscar to involve Hannah with but he has his selfishness too. He even thought if Oscar knew he contacted Hannah he would probably kill him but he didn't have another choice, since anyone could die except for Oscar, which had been his mission since childhood, deeply rooted within him forever.

“I'll come pick you up back to Northfield.” Said Theodore.

Hannah felt a slight fluttering in her chest but didn't refuse nor agree either way.

“The current situation is that we haven't found Lillian yet but we're sure she's hiding somewhere within Northfield territory; if Lillian wants to live then we'll find her but if she doesn't...” Theodore trailed off without finishing his sentence.

Hannah remained silent, pursing her lips.

“Lillian hasn't contacted us yet. One day and one night passed, and we haven't found her in any baby stores. But you know, Una must be fed with milk currently.” Theodore tried to keep composed as he continued, “So, I worried she would do anything to retaliate against Oscar.”

That could be killing Una.

“I'll send you a picture.” Theodore paused a bit and continued, “I've sent it over.”

Hannah put him on speaker and checked her phone. Greatly shocked, she saw the words written with blood, “OSCAR, I HATE YOU!”

Theodore continued to say, “We've been searching for a day and a night until now. I've to prepare for the worst... If the worst happens, I'm afraid Oscar can't handle the fallout.”

“So what do you want me to do?” Hannah tried to keep calm too.

She knew Theodore must want her to do something since he had told her so much.

Theodore paused for a second and spoke up, “Except you, I don't know who else can give him something to live for. I hope you can be back to Oscar, I fear that Oscar would give up himself once Una dies.”

Hannah didn't reply to anything.

“That day when you left Northfield, I told you everything about Oscar's plan. And I understand you've given up every hope of him. But, if I had any other choice, I wouldn't have come to find you. I think you know what I mean, I take the risk of being killed by him to ask you. I don't care if he kills me, I live my life for him after all. But Oscar can't die!” Theodore stated in a rare serious and emotional tone.

In the meantime, Hannah was still silent, for she didn't know how to respond to him.

“Oscar is the chief commander of Northfield. His death would certainly cause chaos in the country, and his safety concerns not just one person but an entire nation.” Theodore said, pausing for a second as if on the brink of emotional collapse. He took a deep breath before continuing, “Hannah, could you come back for a visit? The Collins family’s power has been completely wiped out by us now. It’s safe to return to Northfield without any danger. Even if you don’t want to start over with Oscar again, please pretend and accompany him through this difficult time in his life.”

“I never thought I was more important than Cian Wells or Una Wells,” Hannah replied.

She wasn’t complaining; she was simply stating a fact. Oscar had suffered too much in his life, in which all of his loved ones had left him one by one. What he cherished the most were his family members. And her presence might not necessarily change any of Oscar’s decisions.

“Hannah, you underestimate your position in his heart!” Theodore spoke frankly, “If it weren’t for you, Oscar wouldn’t have acted so quickly! If it weren’t for you...”

Theodore paused and felt like he had said too much already. It seemed like he was blaming Hannah.

“I didn’t mean anything else by that.” He continued after taking another deep breath, “In the end though, the Collins family was ready to strike back at any moment. It wasn’t entirely because of you. But Oscar also wants to end things with them so that he can regain your forgiveness and be together with you again.”

Hannah tightly pursed her lips together but didn’t feel like arguing with Theodore at this moment, since when Oscar mentioned their breakup earlier on, he had prepared himself mentally that they would never be together again.

“Anyway,” Theodore spoke solemnly once more, “I hope that you can come back soon. I don’t know if anyone can change Oscar’s mind but I don’t want to miss any opportunity that will allow him to live.”

“Okay.” Hannah agreed readily enough from the start since what Theodore said made sense. After all, Oscar was leading an entire nation, which meant filial piety couldn’t outweigh national interests. Therefore, Oscar couldn’t die no matter what happened.

“Thank you, Hannah!” Theodore breathed out deeply as relief washed over him. He feared Hannah would refuse outright. If she had refused, he couldn’t force her to do anything.

“Get ready,” he said, “at the latest tonight, I’ll have someone come pick you up!”

Chapter 935 Hannah’s Determination

Hannah put down her phone, feeling heavyhearted after agreeing to Theodore’s request. He had prepared for the worst, believing that Lillian would seek revenge against Oscar by taking Una with her in a suicidal act of vengeance. This would undoubtedly be the ultimate form of retribution, but Lillian was not the type to go out so quietly.

Oscar must have known this too, and that was why he chose to reveal Una’s situation to the world—it was all part of his plan to lure Lillian out into the open.

Theodore couldn’t see past his fears and concerns, so he did everything in his power to protect Oscar.

Hannah was lost in thought and too invested in her worries. Michelle walked up beside her without being noticed and said, "Hannah."

Startled by Michelle's sudden appearance and voice, Hannah asked what was wrong.

"Who called you? You seem distracted." Michelle said with concern.

Hannah looked over at Salem who stared back at her with big eyes before breaking into a smile that revealed his tiny teeth as he reached out for a hug saying, "Hug..."

She picked him up and held him close. Salem's soft little body seemed like all she needed right now. For Oscar though, Una Wells might be what kept him going. At the thought, Hannah squeezed Salem tighter as if trying to hold onto something precious before letting go when she realized how uncomfortable it made Salem feel as he squirmed away from her grasp.

Michelle noticed something off about Hannah's behaviour towards Salem and asked again what was wrong. Hannah released Salem from her embrace reluctantly and handed him over to her mother, while little Salem dove into Michelle's arms. Hannah was still gazing longingly at her son as she replied, "I need to go back to Northfield."

"What?! Why?" exclaimed Michelle loudly enough for Miguel who came rushing over asking "What happened?"

"Dad! I need to go back to Northfield."

"Why? All of us? Did Oscar ask that?!" asked Miguel, agitated.

"We won't go back! It was he who had asked us to leave, and now he regrets the decision. Though I know he has a reason, I'm unwilling to be ordered around like this. Temper, you see, I've got one myself. We're not leaving!" Michelle spoke with feelings since she still bore some grudges against Oscar.

"You're such an old lady." Miguel rolled his eyes at her and said, "When you left Northfield you complained about everything being different here. Now that it's time to go back you don't want to go?" He turned towards Hannah and said, "Don't listen to your mom. If it's time for us to go back then let's do it."

Hannah watched their interaction with amusement as they bickered but cared for each other. She smiled slightly but her eyes were red.

"I'll be the one going back first." She said.

As for her parents, they would probably follow soon after.

Miguel was surprised by what his daughter had just said.

"Theodore had just called me. It isn't Oscar's idea. But something is wrong with Oscar, Theodore wanted me to come back to help." Hannah explained.

"What happened?" Miguel asked anxiously.

"It's nothing major." Hannah reassured him, "I'll take care of it myself and if there are no other issues I will come pick you guys up."

“But I’m worried about you going alone.”

“Don’t worry. The Collins family is completely defeated now. No one will threaten me anymore.” She added, “Oscar won’t do anything harmful towards me either.”

Miguel still felt uneasy despite her words of reassurance. Even though things seemed settled over there already.

“Are you pressured into it?” asked Miguel.

He knew Oscar would not harm Hannah. But since Hannah had given up Oscar, if he forced her to stay with him, Miguel was afraid that it would be like what it used to be.

“No, he didn’t pressure me.” Hannah laughed and continued, “I admit that I was forced to stay with him before. But this time, I’ll go back willingly.”

Miguel was still agitated, feeling like there would be something big happened once Hannah went back, although everything in Northfield had already been settled down.

“I’m leaving soon anyway.” Hannah didn’t want any more questions or concerns from her father so she changed the subject quickly, “Theodore will send someone tonight latest.”

“So soon?!” Michelle couldn’t help but ask. She thought Hannah would leave tomorrow at the earliest.

Hannah nodded her head. If it was not that urgent, Theodore would have asked her to leave tonight.

“But I haven’t prepared for that,” Michelle said, sulky.

Hannah looked at her mother, her father and Salem.

“I’ll be back soon.” Said she.

“It’s your decision, we’ll be supportive of whatever you wanted to do. But remember Hannah, don’t compromise yourself. It’s not a problem that we’ll live here for the rest of our lives.” Michelle said, “Though we don’t know anyone here, it’s not bad to stay here. It’ll be an adjustment.”

“Alright.” Hannah smiled at her. She was grateful that her parents had been always supportive of her decisions, no matter how much trouble she brought them. Though she was emotional, she had to hold back all her feelings, for she didn’t want them to worry.

“I want to hold Sal more.” Said Hannah.

Michelle handed Salem to her. Then Hannah went to the garden outside the villa holding her son in her arms. She walked to the gazebo and put Salem on the table. The little boy smiled a lot. As long as he didn’t feel uncomfortable, he would reveal always his tiny little teeth smiling at Hannah. Seeing her adorable son, Hannah had more difficult feelings inside.

“Sal, if Mama doesn’t come back...”

Her voice was choking with sorrow while talking to her son. She felt she couldn’t bear her feelings anymore. Salem was too young to understand but he knew Hannah was sad at this moment, staring with his innocent eyes at his mother.

"If Mama doesn't come back when you grow up, you help Mama take good care of Grandpa and Grandma, okay?" Hannah said gently.

Salem waved his little chubby hands and wanted to dive into Hannah's arms. Hannah immediately hugged him tight, while Salem wrapped his arms around Hannah's neck tightly, as if he was comforting her with all his strength.

Her eyes were filled with tears.

Sorry, Salem. I can't guarantee I'll watch you grow up.

Chapter 936 Hannah Disappears

That night, Hannah returned to Northfield. She never expected to come back so soon. She thought it would be at least a year or two before she could return.

When she arrived at the Capital International Airport, Theodore was waiting for her.

"Hannah," he said as he approached her.

Some things seemed difficult to say, but seeing Hannah come back made him feel emotional.

Hannah nodded slightly and replied.

"I'll take you to Oscar's place," Theodore said straightforwardly.

Hannah didn't refuse and asked, "What's the situation now?"

Theodore didn't hide anything from her and replied honestly, "We still haven't found Lillian's whereabouts. We have blocked off the entire Capital and Northfield. Lillian must still be within our borders. But she hasn't appeared in public view yet..."

Theodore pursed his lips as he looked at Hannah and continued speaking with a serious tone of voice, "I'm prepared for the worst-case scenario."

"What about Oscar?" Hannah asked anxiously.

Had he also prepared himself for the worst?

"I don't know," Theodore shook his head helplessly, "Since Una disappeared right under our noses, Oscar has barely spoken or slept; he has just been sitting there day and night without moving an inch. I don't know what he is thinking."

Hannah could imagine how Oscar must be feeling right now.

"If it weren't for Oscar being in such a terrible state of mind, I wouldn't have let you come back," Theodore explained sincerely.

"I understand." Hannah nodded understandingly. She knew how important Oscar was to Theodore.

But then again, Theodore wasn't someone who couldn't handle pressure either-if he had asked her for help already then it meant that this situation had become too much even for him to bear alone.

"I'll go use the restroom first." Said Hannah.

Just before they left the airport terminal building together with their entourage of bodyguards, Hannah spoke up abruptly. Theodore nodded absentmindedly without giving much thought to it. She walked towards the restroom nearby, while Theodore and the others were waiting patiently outside.

After a long while, Theodore couldn't help but glimpse into the restroom. He forced himself not to make more moves though he worried that Hannah might do something unexpected. But on second thought, Hannah had no reason to disappear just like that, since if she was unwilling to come back to Northfield, she would have refused before the departure. Theodore would not force her.

After almost twenty minutes, Theodore couldn't wait any longer, so he dialled Hannah's number.

There was no response. He tried again but it didn't get through either.

At that moment, Theodore still thought that Hannah must have gotten into trouble; he didn't believe she would leave herself like that.

If Hannah was in danger, there was no way for him to make it right, even with his life.

He broke into the lady's room, which caused horrible shrieks out of the restroom. Panicked, Theodore searched every corner inside with his men. Then they found a phone in a cubicle. That was Hannah's phone, with the words, "I'm out of here. Don't try to find me.", on the screen.

Theodore clasped his fists. The SIM card in the phone was the one she used abroad. He punched the door with anger. The bang scared the ladies inside.

"Find her!"

"Yes, sir!"

In the meantime, Hannah had been in a taxi. She used an excuse of going to the bathroom to avoid Theodore's sight. As Hannah expected, he was not on guard against her, since she had promised to come back. So she left quite smoothly. She spent some money and changed an outfit with a lady, and she just left it under his nose. Hannah was thinking if she was caught by Theodore, perhaps he would strangle her. However, she deemed that she would be able to complete many things better herself. More importantly, she didn't feel that being by Oscar's side would have any effect. She didn't deem herself that important in Oscar's eyes.

The driver sent her downtown. Since Hannah was clear on what she would do next, she had prepared a lot of cash herself. Cash transactions would not leave online evidence. At least, they couldn't find her in the short term.

She went to a store to buy a new phone and a new SIM and then got herself another cab.

Hannah sent out a message with the new number. Although she was not sure whether she would get any response or how long it would take, she thought she should have a try.

The cab sent her to a clothing store. Hannah bought a new outfit and got changed, thinking that Theodore must have watched the video surveillance and known the clothes she wore when she got out of the bathroom.

After leaving the clothing store, Hannah needed to find somewhere to stay but she couldn't go to a hotel. She could only go to a 24-hour restaurant and grab something to eat while thinking about what next steps were necessary.

Suddenly, her phone rang causing Hannah's heart rate to skyrocket with fear as she looked at an unfamiliar number on her screen.

Lillian didn't use her phone either but she still turned it on just in case there was any information waiting for her, despite knowing that doing so could reveal their location.

Hannah answered.

"Lillian."

"Hannah, it's you. I thought Oscar was playing games again!" Lillian said sarcastically

"It's me." Replied Hannah bluntly, "I'm in The Capital now. I want us to meet up."

Lillian laughed mockingly and said, "You think I'll give you the chance? You just want me to show myself so Oscar can kill me! Let me tell you something, I won't die that easily; there is no way I will fall into your hands!"

"I made it clear in my message earlier that Oscar isn't with me anymore." Explained Hannah calmly, "And there is no way for him to know your whereabouts. The only reason why I contacted you is Una Wells."

"Hmph." Lillian scoffed once more, "Do you care about her?"

"I do care." Replied Hannah firmly, "Cian Wells saved my life back then with his own life; Una Wells is all he has left behind. His flesh and blood, how could I possibly turn away from helping?"

"Oscar can be so ruthless, where do you stand in comparison? I even suspect now that your deteriorating relationship with Oscar was just an act to make me lower my guard and for my late father to do the same."

Chapter 937 Ambushed

"Oscar is acting, but I'm not!" Hannah replied to Lillian with each word emphasized.

Lillian's face turned cold as she thought about everything she had been through. She had spent the whole day and night on the run, but thankfully, having grown up with her father, she had some anti-detection skills. At least for a week, Oscar wouldn't be able to find her whereabouts. However, she couldn't guarantee how long she could hold out. She knew that there was no way for her to leave Northfield and if this continued any longer, Oscar would eventually find her.

If Oscar found her, he would surely kill her.

Her father always taught them to cut off all ties with enemies so they couldn't rise again. Of course, he died a gruesome death because of it. But some deep-rooted beliefs had been ingrained in their siblings' bones. Therefore, Lillian couldn't fall into Oscar's hands.

Even if it meant death was an alternative option, she wouldn't die at the hands of Oscar. Her self-respect didn't allow her to be in such a miserable state.

"I have no feelings for Oscar anymore whether you believe it or not." Hannah spoke again, "I contacted you voluntarily just for Una Wells."

"I won't believe you!" Lillian gritted her teeth.

"If you don't believe me then why did you take the risk of calling me back?" Hannah exposed Lillian's lie.

Lillian gritted even harder on hearing this statement from Hannah, who was never foolish anyway.

Hannah said right. She turned on the phone today just because she wanted to see what information was on it and if Oscar sent her any messages.

Oscar sent many messages before, asking her to come back and telling her how important Una was to him. But still, she didn't trust him at all. Not even one word from his message seemed trustworthy enough.

Lillian knew that she didn't trust him yet she was still unable to stop herself from checking the messages. Just when Lillian angrily wanted to throw away the phone, she saw a message from a random number with Hannah's name.

She hesitated for quite a while before dialling that number. At the same time though, Lillian knew very well that once she turned on this device, Oscar's people would lock onto roughly where they were based upon signal transmission via base stations. She already left with Una from the place where they had just settled down.

At this moment when calling Hannah, she had already made up her mind about something. If not, she wouldn't have turned on this device either. Lillian knew her impending doom but she wanted to wait for that day without regretting too much.

"Do you want to see me?" asked Lillian.

Exposed by Hannah, she didn't want to pretend anymore.

"Yes."

"Do you want to save Una?"

"Yes."

"Well," Lillian laughed coldly and continued, "I'll send you an address, come to find me."

"Okay." Hannah sounded a little excited. Although she tried to keep herself composed, her fingers were trembling.

"But Hannah, if you play any tricks, I will die in front of you, and so will Una Wells. Don't think I can't do it. Even though she's my daughter, I can hurt her too. If I don't kill her, she will still die. She will also be killed by Oscar! I'm not gonna lie to you. I called you back cause I've prepared for the worst! Anyway, I can't leave Northfield and I will die on this land, sooner or later."

Hannah did not doubt her words. At the moment Hannah received her call, she knew well that Lillian had already been pushed to the extreme. Fortunately, before Lillian made up her mind, there was still a lot of reluctance inside her towards this world. And because of her unwillingness, she wouldn't die in silence.

"I won't lie to you, give me the address." Said Hannah.

"I'll give you an hour. If you don't arrive on time, I won't wait for you."

"Okay."

Lillian hung up the phone.

Soon, Hannah received her message. She quickly searched for a specific place, which was fifty minutes far away by car.

Time was enough. Then she got herself another cab in no time. She tried to tell the driver her destination in a calm voice, while her heart was racing madly inside.

The radio was being played in the car, repeating the news of the Commander's missing daughter. The reward, the contact and the number were also broadcast.

The driver couldn't help but say, "I didn't expect accidents to happen to Commander's daughter."

Hannah remained quiet. She was wearing a cap, which helped her avoid being recognized by people.

"Miss, have you heard?" The driver suddenly gossiped, "Everyone is saying that the child didn't go missing on her own, she was taken away by the Commander's wife! It seems like the Collins family perished, and only the Commander's wife and child survived. They say it's because she wanted revenge for her husband's actions, but who knows if it's true or not."

Hannah didn't engage in the conversation. She said indifferently, "I just returned to the country and I'm not very familiar with what's happening here."

"Oh." The driver sensed Hannah's rejection and didn't say anything more.

After a while, the driver spoke up again, "Miss, why are you going to such a remote place so late at night?"

It was already dark outside now. When she arrived back at The Capital it wasn't even noon yet.

"I have a friend over there."

"A girl should be careful when out alone." The driver kindly reminded her.

Hannah responded with a nod.

The driver didn't say anything more either.

At that moment, Hannah thought of something and she asked, "Sir, are you familiar with that place? My friend asked me to come over so I came over but I've never been there before and I'm afraid of getting lost."

“As a taxi driver, I’m somewhat familiar with all areas. There aren’t any residential areas or commercial buildings around there, just an abandoned pier where hardly any workers go anymore. If you go over now this late at night and want to come back later on, well then no one will be able to drive you back!”

“It’ll be fine. My friend is nearby.”

“Okay.”

Hannah silently watched outside as they drove further down an increasingly deserted street, growing increasingly nervous. They finally reached the destination, Hannah paid him his fare before exiting from the cab.

And right in front of her lay nothing but desolation. Under cover of darkness, everything looked bleakly barren. The overly dark sky made everything seem somewhat terrifying.

She called Lillian immediately upon arrival, “I’m here now, where exactly are you?”

“Share your real-time location with me,” Lillian replied curtly before hanging up.

Hannah shared her location details without delay and then waited patiently for her arrival.

Time passed by slowly. When she began wondering if Lillian wasn’t coming, Hannah felt a sudden blow to her head from behind. Before long everything went black, she had fainted.

Chapter 938 Lillian’s Madness

It was a quiet night, so quiet that it seemed as if there was no breath left in the world. It was like she had been transported to another place, maybe heaven or hell. Hannah opened her eyes and all she saw at first was darkness. She struggled to make out her surroundings and realized that she was in an abandoned warehouse.

She tried to sit up but then heard a familiar voice.

“Awake?”

Hannah was taken aback and she turned her head to see Lillian’s face up close in the darkness. Lillian looked resentful.

After being attacked by Lillian, Hannah didn’t die as expected. She tried hard to calm herself down.

“Hannah, I never thought you would go this far for Una Wells. Do you know how dangerous it is for you to come here alone?”

Lillian laughed wickedly thinking about how smoothly everything had gone according to her plan until now. She got one more person added as a scapegoat before dying.

Hannah knew what Lillian was thinking and said directly, “Una Wells’ life is important to me.”

Lillian sneered because she didn’t trust anyone anymore.

“You give Una over to me and I’ll take her away safely.” Said Hannah.

“Do you think I’m that easy?” sneered Lillian who believed that if she gave Una Wells over then they would kill her without any consequences.

“Well, you never planned on living anyway.” Responded Hannah calmly, which only made Lillian angrier.

Hannah could see the pistol in her hand, swaying a bit in the darkness. She kept telling herself to keep calm, in case Lillian would press the trigger if she was agitated by her.

“Oscar cares a lot about Una Wells.” Said Hannah.

Lillian laughed coldly once again while gritting her teeth saying, “If he cares about Una, would he use her as bait?! Come on! You must have talked with Oscar beforehand, otherwise, why else would you risk your life to save hers? But let me tell you something, Oscar only values his power. He doesn’t care about anyone else!”

“It was just an accident.” Hannah explained, “Oscar used Una as bait because he thought he had a surefire way to rescue her. He didn’t expect it to end up like this. If you give Una back to Oscar now, he’ll let you go, I promise!”

“What guarantee do you have? Are you Oscar? Do you know what kind of person he is? You don’t know anything! Hannah, don’t be so naive. We’re all victims.” Lillian said harshly.

“How can we get Una released?” Hannah didn’t want to waste time arguing with Lillian.

Lillian was deeply sceptical of Oscar now and no amount of explanation would change that.

“Release her? How can I release her? What good will it do if I release her?” Lillian sneered, “I say if I let Una live, she’ll live?”

“She can! I guarantee with my life that Una will grow up loved by thousands!”

“That’s impossible. Oscar just wants to kill everyone.”

“Lillian, do you want Una alive or not?”

From the way Lillian spoke, Hannah could tell that she had been pushed beyond her limits and she was in an abnormal state both physically and mentally. Someone like this could be very dangerous and might do extreme things.

“If you want Una alive then take a gamble. Even if it fails at least, try for Una, instead of giving up on her altogether.” Hannah raised her voice trying hard to convince her.

Lillian looked at Hannah for a moment.

For one second, she felt that Hannah was truly helping her. If Hannah had notified Oscar directly, she could have let him straight towards her instead of risking herself coming alone.

Lillian showed some emotional fluctuations at the moment. At this moment, she also thought about her daughter, Una Wells, who had been running around with her in the past few days. Una did cry loudly but as long as Lillian patiently coaxed her, Una would obediently listen to her and stop crying. She hadn’t gotten any formula for Una for such a long time but the little one didn’t make any trouble. Besides, the little one had been well-protected since birth and had never experienced such grievances. And that

made Lillian's heartache. That was not the life she wanted to give to her daughter, instead, she should have watched her grow up as a little princess.

But everything was ruined by Oscar, and her family, who were important to her abandoning and betraying her.

Lillian laughed abruptly, with a sinister and terrifying expression on her face.

Hannah looked at her nervously. The sudden change from hesitation to madness in Lillian chilled her. The thing inside of Lillian Collins must have broken. Under such circumstances, she could do anything.

As she expected, Lillian began, "What kind of life is that if Una is alive?"

The loss of the urge to survive in Lillian gave Hannah a fright, which was the worst result for Hannah. And Lillian even gave up the hope for Una to live.

"Without parents, living is painful! She should die with me while she's still young and doesn't understand anything." Said Lillian.

"You're not Una, you shouldn't make any decisions for her!" Hannah said fiercely.

"Hannah, do you know why you were hurt a lot by Oscar? Because you're too weak!"

Hannah bit her lip, looking at Lillian, who had raised the black pistol in her hand and targeted Hannah.

"If you didn't come for Una, you won't die. I allowed you to come here, but I never said I needed myself a savior. There's nobody who can help me. Ever since the Collins family was destroyed by Oscar, everything about me, my glories, and my pride have all been ruined by him. So here today, I'm just going to kill you. I really hate you!"

Hannah felt scared instinctively at this moment, although she had prepared to save Una with her life. Moreover, she hadn't rescued Una yet.

Chapter 939 The Most Worrisome Thing

Oscar was on high alert in the heavily guarded castle in the Capital. There were many guards and reconnaissance troops, all of whom were working around the clock to find Lillian's whereabouts. Oscar had been watching the surveillance footage but had not found any leads after two days of searching. However, he knew that Lillian was skilled at evading detection because she had easily discovered Una Wells' micro-tracking device.

"Commander," said the leader of the guard troops, unable to bear seeing Oscar work tirelessly without rest, "you should take a break."

It had been two days since they started their search, and Oscar hadn't slept a wink. While everyone else took turns working, he refused to take a nap even once. He shook his head and continued scrutinizing every bit of surveillance footage they collected.

"Where's Theodore?" he suddenly asked when it seemed like it had been a while since anyone saw him.

"Captain left the castle this morning and hasn't returned yet." Reported one of the guards.

Oscar nodded absentmindedly. His intense workload made it difficult for him to concentrate fully on anything else but staying awake and alert at all times. He firmly believed that no matter how good Lillian was at avoiding detection, as long as she existed somewhere within their reach, they would eventually find her trail. It was only a matter of time before they did so.

He remained focused until Theodore returned moments later with an expression so grave that even though everyone noticed him walking towards them with heavy steps like someone carrying an enormous weight on his shoulders. Nobody dared to interrupt whatever thoughts occupied him then or ask what happened until he reached where Oscar sat engrossed in watching more video feeds.

“Commander has been looking for you.” Said one guard who rushed over immediately upon seeing Theodore enter through those doors.

Theodore sat down beside Oscar, who continued watching intently without acknowledging Theodore’s presence initially. Theodore appeared unusually distracted by something weighing heavily upon his mind. Ever since Lillian disappeared along with Una Wells under their noses, he had never appeared like this.

“Oscar.” Theodore finally uttered after a long while of hesitation.

“Hmm?”

Oscar thought Theodore was about to persuade him into getting some rest.

“Hannah...” Theodore paused hesitantly.

This name did agitate Oscar at that moment. However, Oscar didn’t change his cold face.

“... is back.” Theodore finished his words, which shocked Oscar.

He turned to look at Theodore, finally noticing that his demeanour was different from usual.

“Hannah is back in the Capital. I brought her back.” Theodore confessed all.

Though that was unexpected news for him, he knew Theodore’s intention. Theodore was afraid he could not face it because of Una Wells, so he brought Hannah to his side. Oscar understood that. Moreover, that meant Theodore had prepared for the worst. And so had he. However, he believed that Lillian wouldn’t have died so easily without contacting him one last time before her death. She couldn’t have died in such misery without giving herself a chance to vent. And now she was avoiding him just short of going too far. So there was still hope.

“But I lost her,” Theodore murmured with a hint of disappointment in his tone.

Oscar’s face suddenly changed as he stared intently at Theodore with eyes that were previously tired but now focused and somewhat intimidating.

Theodore knew Oscar would be angry, but he didn’t expect Hannah would play him like this. His voice trembled as he explained, “I’ve sent people out looking for her, but they haven’t found her yet.”

All Theodore could think about right now was that Hannah left because she didn’t want to see Oscar again. He thought Oscar’s anger stemmed from the fact that Hannah wouldn’t forgive him anymore.

Theodore wasn't planning on telling him any of this initiative since keeping secrets always made him feel restless and anxious like ants crawling all over his body

Just as Oscar was about to speak up, someone interrupted them, "Commander! We've received a signal source from Madam's phone."

Oscar paused briefly before quickly getting up and rushing over, while equally nervous-looking Theodore followed behind closely.

"The signal just returned from the base station." The reconnaissance soldier continued explaining, "Madam's phone has been used under this base station."

"Lock down the location and send someone over there immediately!" Theodore ordered the guards beside him.

"Yes, sir." The guards quickly arranged.

Oscar, however, remained silent. Ever since Lillian had lured them away from her last time, he knew that she wouldn't be waiting for them in the same place.

"What did she do after turning on her phone?" Oscar asked.

The reconnaissance team quickly checked and confirmed, "It seems like she only received a message."

"Retrieve all messages received on her phone!"

"Understood."

Ten minutes later, the reconnaissance team fed back all information they had retrieved. Most of it was messages sent by Oscar to Lillian, except for one message.

Oscar's face visibly changed as his voice trembled. He commanded, "Retrieve all information related to the phone number of that last message, RIGHT NOW!"

"Yes."

Five minutes passed.

"Commander, it's a new card sold to a woman in her twenties around 6 pm at X Store."

"Retrieve surveillance footage from that store!" Oscar's voice sounded anxious and even trembling slightly now.

From when Lillian disappeared before his eyes until now, this was only the second time Oscar had panicked so much. But at this moment, he seemed even more flustered than before.

Theodore could sense something was wrong but didn't understand what could have happened to make Oscar so agitated.

After some time passed, the surveillance footage appeared before them. A familiar figure appeared on the screen, which caused an intense shock through Oscar's heart.

It was Hannah. She contacted Lillian Collins.

When Theodore mentioned earlier about Hannah coming back and going missing, Oscar had an ominous feeling about what might happen next. Now he felt almost certain that Hannah would do something.

The reason for her to come back was not to accompany Oscar but to negotiate with Lillian. She intended to save Una Wells herself.

Hannah knew very well how much hatred Lillian held towards her. And because of the hatred, there was a high chance they would meet again.

Oscar's eyes turned red with exhaustion as blood vessels filled up inside his eyelids. Finally, what he feared most had happened.

Chapter 940 South Bay Wharf

Theodore could feel Oscar's nerves right away.

He watched the video of the woman wearing a baseball cap, deliberately disguising herself, and he could recognize her as Hannah at first glance. She was smart and had successfully slipped away from him under his nose. No wonder he couldn't find Hannah's whereabouts through the surveillance video.

Theodore was still angry with Hannah. But in the next second, his heart suddenly tightened, realizing that she went to find Lillian alone.

"Check all information about this phone number!" Oscar said fiercely. The tension in his body and loss of control over emotions made his voice low and hoarse.

"Yes."

A moment later, the soldier reported, "Data returned from the base station shows that this phone number had a conversation with another number. Someone called this number. Real-time feedback for this phone number has disappeared now but it was last seen near South Bay."

"Check information for another number."

Oscar was trying to keep himself calm as much as possible.

"The other number is also new, purchased two days ago at a store on Nan Lane. The last communication base station is also near South Bay."

Oscar clenched his fists tightly.

So that meant there was a high possibility that Hannah had already met Lillian.

"South Bay? Isn't that where Lillian led us before to an abandoned pier?!" Theodore suddenly understood everything, "She's hiding there!"

He didn't expect Lillian to be so clever. She went back there again. If only he had sent someone there earlier to keep watch there, they could have caught her. Lillian was a smart person, knowing that they wouldn't go back again after they searched that place once already in such a short time frame.

Theodore was so angry that even his body trembled with rage.

"Lillian played us like fools!" said he.

However, Oscar knew that when they searched for her before she wasn't actually at the abandoned pier location yet, and that it was highly likely she just went back there today. It was highly likely that she returned just to meet Hannah, which meant that their investigation was not off track. This was confirmed by the location where Lillian's phone had been turned on.

"Commander, I have retrieved the video of the store. The person who bought this SIM card is not Ms Collins."

Oscar saw a man in the video. At that moment, he understood why Lillian could disappear so completely under their noses.

It wasn't just her alone. She had an accomplice, with whom she could hide anywhere and get things done with ease.

Oscar clenched his fists tighter and thought about what would happen if Hannah went to see Lillian.

"Theodore, come with me to South Bay Wharf!"

"Yes!" Theodore replied promptly and followed Oscar's lead as a group of people trailed behind them.

Dozens of cars raced towards their destination at breakneck speed.