Ruling 1001

Chapter 1001

Her resentment was slightly assuaged once he apologized for flipping out over her meeting with Alejandro. However, it was impossible for her anger to dissipate instantly. She still remembered the horrible things he had just said to her. She insisted on giving birth to the child? How could he say such things?

“I want to sleep,” she softly said, “You stay with Smore. I’ll sleep here tonight.”

He gazed at her as she sprawled on the bed, not moving an inch. Her hair was a mess and one arm was dangling off the side of the bed. She looked so delicate and endearing. He patted her body. “Don’t ever abandon Smore and me like that again. I can’t handle him without you. You get some rest. I’ll stay with Smore. He should be waking up soon.”

Arianne did not have the strength to respond to him. She waved her hand, indicating her approval. She forwent taking a bath and soon drifted off to sleep.

White Water Bay Villa.

Jackson hopped into the shower after arriving home. Tiffany had already showered and had no intention of doing it again. Just then, she received a message from Alejandro. “I need to return to Ayashe. You won’t have any more trouble. Don’t worry and take care of yourself.”

Tiffany was worried Jackson would fight with her again if he saw the message so she deleted it as soon as she finished reading it. It was 5 in the morning now. She could not sleep, and she was starving. She

waited for Jackson to finish his bath, and when he came out, she looked at him with a pitiful look and said, “I’m hungry.”

Jackson looked at her, an inexplicable emotion flashed in his eyes, as he said, “I don’t think that’s a good idea. According to the internet, it’s not advisable to have sex during the first and third trimesters…”

The corners of her lips twitched. “I’m really hungry. I’m hungry for food, not you! Do you have anything to eat? It’s almost daybreak. Let’s sleep after breakfast. I can’t sleep when I’m hungry.”

Upon hearing this, Jackson realized he had misunderstood. “Fine, fine, fine. I’ll whip up something for you to eat. Wait for me downstairs. Don’t lie on the bed and end up falling asleep.”

Tiffany snuck behind him as he busied himself in the kitchen and wrapped her arms around him. “The baby is really yours. Alejandro and I are just lunch buddies. Let alone sex, we’ve never even held hands. We usually just talk about casual things. Can you please stop being so suspicious? It’s hurting me, you know. I won’t lie and say he’s not interested in me. After all, he revealed to me a secret that no one knows. He’s actually not a cripple. His legs are fine.”

Jackson paused in his actions. He turned around to face her. “I trust you. He’s getting married anyway. It’s all in the past now. Your phone call last night really scared me. Don’t go back to South Park, and move back to the headquarters. That way, we can go to the office together every day, and I can stop worrying about you.”

Alejandro was getting married? Tiffany was stunned. “He’s getting married? Seriously? I had no idea. Looks like I’ve been narcissistic. Maybe he never had feelings for me at all. It does make sense. Who would be interested in a pregnant lady? I’m not that special anyway. Don’t you think you should apologize for insisting that I get an abortion? You really crossed a line back then.”

Chapter 1002

Jackson lowered his head and kissed her on the cheek. “I’m sorry, okay? Go out and wait for me. Breakfast will be ready soon. Listen to me. From now on, don’t contact Alejandro again.”

Tiffany was in a great mood. She headed to the dining room and waited for Jackson. In fact, back when she had called him in a panic and found out that he was already on the way over, her anger had dissipated. He was still her rock during her most crucial moments. That was enough for her.

By the time they had finished eating, the sun was slowly rising into the sky. The pair had not slept the entire night and were extremely exhausted.

Tiffany wrapped herself around Jackson like an octopus in bed. Jackson helplessly moved her arms and legs away from his body. “Don’t touch me. Stay on your side.”

Tiffany protested. “What’s wrong? Why won’t you let me hold you? Are you still upset? Excuse me, did you catch me having sex with another man? Do you have proof? Don’t force yourself into acting like everything’s fine if you’re still upset!”

Jackson flipped over and trapped her underneath him. “Will you stop bringing these things up? I know that you always speak without thinking. I’m not upset, okay? I just… I just get horny every time you touch me. Do you understand now? Now, don’t touch me…”

Tiffany stared at his face that was only inches away from hers. Her heart thumped wildly in her chest, and she weakly forced herself to behave. “Okay, I won’t touch you…”

Jackson gazed at her for a while before lying back down on the bed again.

Tiffany discovered that Jackson had already gone out by the time she woke up. Furthermore, it was already 4 PM. She finally discovered how Jackson had found out about Alejandro's impending nuptials when she read the latest news. That piece of news was released last night. She had missed out on it yesterday.

That explained why Alejandro had said that he was going back to Ayashe. He was going home to get married. Having been treated to so many meals by him, she supposed he could be considered as a friend. Regardless of their situation, they both have their own families now. She should send him a gift to congratulate him. The Smiths were also elites so she could not give him anything too cheap.

She got out of bed, washed up, and left the house. She could not seem to decide on an appropriate wedding gift. Thanks to Arianne's suggestion, she decided to ask Jackson's father, Atticus, for one of his completed paintings. It was a work of art from a renowned artist and was sold at a very high price. This was an appropriate gift. Most importantly, she did not have to spend a single dime on it. Atticus would never accept money from her anyway.

On her way back from collecting the painting, she called Alejandro and asked for his address.

Alejandro fell momentarily silent when he heard her intention. Then, he calmly replied, "If you insist on giving me a gift, I'll text you the address."

"Of course, I'm giving you a gift!" she exclaimed, "I probably won't be able to make it to your wedding, but I have to give you a present. Besides, you treated me to so many meals. I can't be ungrateful. Text

me the address later. Congratulations in advance on your marriage. I've seen the news reports, your fiancee is quite beautiful."

Chapter 1003

Alejandro still managed to maintain his composure. "Thank you." After that, he promptly ended the call.

He sat by the French windows in his room, gazing out at the fountain sculpture in front of him in the Smith Estate garden, in a daze. After a while, he sent Tiffany his address. He did not want to get married, and she did not even notice it. The only thing he wanted to do was pull her into his arms and never let her go. Unfortunately, no matter how many identities he assumed, he could never achieve his heart's desire.

Suddenly, he heard the sound of a door being pushed open from behind him. He spun his wheelchair around and looked at the doorway. Melanie Lark, the daughter of the Lark family, entered the room led by the Smith family butler. She regarded him with contempt, she had long heard about him being a cripple. She lifted her head high as she looked at him derisively, her expression was one of condescension.

He had prepared for this long ago and showed no reaction. Instead, he carefully observed the woman in front of him who was dressed in a red, knee-length mini dress, paired with stilettos, and a handbag in the same color. She was tall and slender and had a pretty face. The total price of her clothes and accessories would cost more than $151,000. She was just another wealthy, brainless bimbo. He was not interested no matter how pretty she was.

Melanie glanced at Alejandro and realized that he was quite good-looking despite his handicap. She could not help looking at him a few more times. The Smith family's butler excused himself at an opportune time, leaving the pair to have some privacy. Melanie cleared her throat and said, "My father has asked me to meet you… After all, we're getting married so we should get to know each other."

Alejandro stared at her blankly. “Aren’t you feeling upset?”

She was apprehensive. “What do you mean?”

“Getting married to an unlikeable cripple. Are you happy with that?” he asked indifferently. Then, he said, “I’m marrying a woman whom I don’t even like. I’m really upset…”

Melanie felt as though her pride had been trampled on when she heard his words. She was furious. “You don’t like me? Do you think I like you? We’re all aware that this is nothing but a marriage of convenience. Why should I be upset? Can it change our situation? How dare a cripple like you act condescending toward me? I haven’t even snubbed you…”

Alejandro suddenly laughed and exposed her. “Your disgust was written all over your face from the moment you walked into the room. Don’t worry, I won’t bicker with you. I’m a cripple. It’s a fact.”

Melanie felt slightly embarrassed. She noticed there were no chairs in the room so she had no choice but to sit on the edge of Alejandro’s bed. “Your room is quite simple. You don’t even have a chair. The interior is quite lavish though…”

Alejandro lit a cigarette. “I like simplicity. Besides, I have no use for chairs.”

Melanie paused. “My mom has asked me to stay here for the night to see if you can perform sexually despite your bad leg…” she said shyly.

Alejandro's lips curved into a wicked smile. "You're an adult. Why do you keep bringing up your parents? If you want to know, why don't you find out for yourself?"

Melanie blushed from his teasing. "You… Can't you watch what you say? I'd love to try, but can you do it?"

Alejandro knew what kind of person Melanie was from the very beginning; the very archetype of big boobs with no brains. Don Smith had mentioned to him before that this woman would be easy to deal with. It seemed like Don was right. He waited until he finished smoking his cigarettes before he rose to his feet and walked toward her.

Melanie widened her eyes. "You… Y-y-y-you! Aren't you crippled?"

Chapter 1004

He walked toward her and stood very still. Then, he bent down slightly, reached out, and held her chin between his fingers. "Since we're getting married, there shouldn't be any secrets between us. It was all just for show. Will you keep my secret for me? Don't tell anyone… mmm?"

Melanie gripped the duvet beneath her, lost in his deep, bottomless eyes, no longer able to escape. She nodded dazedly. "Okay…"

Their lips molded together in the next second. Melanie was the only daughter in her family. She had two brothers, and her fate had been sealed long ago. The Larks were the second most affluent family in

Ayashe. She was destined to marry a Smith. She had been prohibited from interacting with members of the opposite sex from a very young age. Therefore, she was a blank slate when it came to feelings. She had no previous experiences.

Aside from light kisses, there was no foreplay. Melanie's face paled from the pain when their bodies joined as one. She had lost all of her previous condescension. Alejandro released himself violently in her. His gaze was as cold and distant as ever, without a trace of gentleness. This woman had viewed him with condescension from the very beginning. She did not deserve his tenderness.

Melanie wrapped her arms around him in a mixture of nervousness and excitement. When she lost herself and tried to kiss him, he turned his face away. She thought that he did not like kissing during sex so she did not dwell on it. She certainly did not notice the coldness and distant look in his eyes.

After their lovemaking, Alejandro mercilessly detached himself from her and went into the bathroom.

Melanie felt the lingering sensations from their wild romp all over her body and stared up at the ceiling with blushing cheeks. At that very moment, her heart was already set on this man.

…

That night, the Smiths extended an invitation to the Larks. When they met in the dining room, the Larks still had some criticism over Alejandro's handicap but did not dare mention it. Alejandro was like an outsider. He concentrated on eating and did not speak at all.

Melanie would look at him flirtatiously once in a while, and he would reciprocate. Melanie was the only valuable thing about the Larks. He had no need to care about the others.

After the meal, Melanie's mother pulled her aside to speak in private.

Don Smith had called Alejandro into the study as well. "Did you deal with Miss Lark?"

"I've bedded her. Would you like to hear the details?" Alejandro replied impatiently.

Don Smith's face turned ashen with rage. "Can't you be civil? Your wedding is almost approaching. The ceremony will be held the day after tomorrow. I don't care what you want but secure the Larks. Piss me off, and I will take Tiffany Lane's life!"

Alejandro did not reply. He only wheeled himself away.

Downstairs, in the garden, Melanie was blushing from her mother's questions. "Mom… I told you, he can do it… I don't mind his bad legs."

The look on her face told Mrs. Lark that something was amiss. "Weren't you kicking up a fuss, saying that you didn't want to marry a cripple? I'm still angry at your father. You've only met Alejandro once, and you're already agreeable to it? What's so attractive about him? His looks? There are plenty of rich and good-looking guys in Ayashe. Are you feeling okay?"

Melanie lowered her voice. "He and I… We had sex before dinner. We're getting married anyway. You told me to make sure beforehand, or I'd be no different from a widow. If he can't perform sexually,

then, the wedding would be called off. However, he's able to… perform. That's enough, mom. I'll marry him. Stop nagging. At least, you don't have to be angry at father anymore."

Mrs. Lark choked in anger. "You… Ah, forget it. You're getting married anyway. I won't concern myself with this. Just don't regret this. I've always known that your marriage to Alejandro was set in stones, regardless of my disapproval. It's true that he's quite good-looking, except for his bad leg. I'm glad that he's fully-functional in that area. You'd better behave yourself after the wedding. You've never been allowed to interact with any other man so you better stick to this rule as well after the wedding. Knowing the Smiths, I won't be able to save you if you make any mistakes."

Chapter 1005

Melanie was determined. "I certainly won't make that kind of mistake. I'm happy enough with him. I'll stay over tonight and go home tomorrow to get ready for the wedding. Mom, go home with father and the others later. Don't worry about me. I have to nurture my relationship with him.

Mrs. Lark nodded. "Alright. Remember, never completely devote yourself to Alejandro. You're a Lark. You have to stay alert and guarded at all times. Should you ever need to part ways, you can come back to us."

Melanie disliked hearing these kinds of words. It was as though this was just a business transaction. She seemed to have forgotten she had thought so too earlier. She frowned. "I know… Stop talking."

The Tremont Estate.

Mark looked through the news on the Smiths through his phone. Arianne approached him with Aristotle in her arms. “Alejandro is getting married. He gave Smore a present during his one-month celebration. We should probably send something to reciprocate his gift.”

Mark lifted his head and looked at her before taking Aristotle from her arms. “I was just considering an appropriate gift. It has to be worth more than his gift. Since he’s given a mansion, we can reciprocate with an even more expensive mansion. We don’t have to attend the wedding ceremony. He wasn’t present for the one-month celebration anyway. It’s best to avoid this man as much as possible.”

Arianne agreed. “I heard the Smiths are deeply rooted in some dirty businesses. We’re dealing in honest businesses. We’re completely different. We shouldn’t get close to them.”

Mark stiffened ever so slightly. The Tremonts were rooted in dirt at one point too… Arianne’s statement had stung and unearthed a painful part of his memories.

Arianne realized that she had inadvertently touched a nerve and quickly changed the subject. “Alejandro warned Tiffie to be careful, and someone was targeting her last night. Everything seems to have gone back to normal today. I was really frightened. I don’t know what happened. Since Alejandro is getting married, Tiffie’s decided to give him a painting as a wedding present. She asked Jackson’s father for one of his paintings. She even mentioned that a famous artist’s piece would be very valuable, and there’s only one of it in the world. Except… I wonder if Jackson would be upset if he found out about this.”

“He will,” Mark replied without any hesitation.

Arianne fell silent immediately. She had only spoken casually. It seemed like… Tiffany and Jackson were going to have another argument again tonight.

As expected, at this very moment in White Water Bay Villa, Jackson and Tiffany were in a hostile state again.

Tiffany saw nothing wrong with her actions. “What’s wrong with giving him a painting? I’m just reciprocating his favors. It’s a completely normal relationship. Why are you angry again? Are you mad at me for not paying your dad? Your dad insisted that he doesn’t want me to pay for it. Yes, I promised you that I would never contact Alejandro again. This is the last time. He’s getting married, and I’m giving him a present. This is the best way to draw the line. Stop finding fault with me! I don’t want to look at your sullen expression!”

Jackson leaned against the couch, a furious expression appeared on his face. “He’s getting married, and you give him a present. Aren’t you worried that he might think that you’re reluctant to see him get married? You promised to stay away from him so why the hell are you giving him a present? Don’t give me that crap about this being the ‘last time’. I’m not buying it. You’ve asked me to cut ties with every other woman, and I have. Why can’t you do it? Is it really that difficult?”

Tiffany’s chest heaved up and down from anger. “You had unmentionable relations with all those women. My relationship with him is completely platonic. How is that the same? You’re going to give me a stroke one day. Why can’t things ever be peaceful between us? I’m going back to my mother’s house for two days. I’ll start work once the transfer is complete. Don’t forget to give me a heads up! I’m not asking to be an assistant director at the main office. Any job is fine with me.”

Suddenly, Jackson’s phone rang. He took a deep breath, calmed himself, and answered the phone. Lynn’s voice could be heard very clearly on this quiet night even though he did not put his phone on speaker mode. “Jack, I need to speak to you. Can we meet? Is it convenient?”

Chapter 1006

Tiffany was as angry as a wasp just now. Now, she became quiet all of a sudden.

Jackson never expected it to be a call from Lynn, for it was an unknown number. He said coldly, “It’s inconvenient.” Then he hung up the phone directly.

Tiffany smiled faintly and asked, “Didn’t you say that you’ve ceased contact with every other woman after you broke up with them? Is that how you cease contact with them? You contradict yourself. Does it feel good? She even addressed you as Jack. How intimate! Even I don’t address you like that.”

Jackson was quite helpless. “Don’t mix it up, okay? I never contacted her. She called me all of a sudden. Didn’t I refuse to meet with her? Fine. We’re even now. Don’t talk about those annoying things. After you send Alejandro the wedding gift, I don’t wish to see you having any kind of contact with him again. I won’t be having any kind of contact with the other women. Is that okay? Besides, I think that we should let my mother know about your pregnancy. We need to put our marriage in the agenda now. We need to make early preparations.”

Tiffany said in annoyance, “Who said that I’m going to marry you? You said that you want to get married, so now I’ve got no choice but to listen to you? You want to marry me, but I don’t necessarily want to marry you. I’m afraid that you’ll be perpetually angry with me!”

Jackson did not bother about her chatter. He soon sent Summer a message: ‘Mom, Tiffie is pregnant.’

Tiffany reacted all too late. She rushed toward him to snatch the phone away. “Did you send your mother a message? Did you? Let me take a look! Don’t send it! Wait for a moment more! If they know about it, I won’t be able to enjoy even a moment of peace, being nagged by them all the time!”

Jackson held the phone high up, pressing her shoulder with one of his hands. “I sent it. It’s too late now.”

She did not believe him and wanted to check no matter what. She then sat down on his legs, trying her best to snatch the phone away. Jackson just felt something soft leaning closely against his face. As he was breathing, he was engulfed in her pleasant smell. Soon, his phone was snatched away from him when he was not paying attention.

She read the message, which had been sent carefully. She then started typing a new message nervously. “I’m joking.”

Before she could send the message, she was crushed on the bed all of a sudden. She became shocked as she looked at Jackson, who appeared peculiar. She could not bother to send the message now. “You… What are you doing?”

He said nothing but bent down to kiss her.

Tiffany’s heart skipped a beat. She then put her arms around his neck and deepened the kiss out of her own initiative. Most men did not let their hands be idle while they were kissing. It was the same with Jackson. Just when their breathing became heavy and rapid, Summer gave Jackson a call.

Jackson stopped himself just in time. He got up and answered the phone. “Mom.”

Summer was rather excited. “Is it true? Is Tiffie pregnant? So soon? When is it? Alas! Why didn’t you tell us earlier? I even said that her tummy seemed plumper the last time she came to our house. It turns out that she’s pregnant. Where are you now? Get her to come home to us, so that we can take good care of

her during her pregnancy. Don’t let her continue her work now! It’ll exhaust her! Ask her to move here so that I can take care of her in person! I’’’ be worried if I let you take care of her!”

Chapter 1007

Jackson pursed his lips. He did not know what to say for a moment. Now, only he understood what Tiffany meant when she said that she would not have a moment of peace.

Tiffany heard what Summer said. Seeing that he made no response, she raised her leg to kick the side of his waist and asked him to make an immediate response. She was reluctant to move to the West family residence and stay there until the baby was delivered. She would be extremely plump by then. Besides, she did not want to give her job up, and she wanted to continue with her work.

Jackson thought for a short while and said, “Mom, there’s no need for that. I’ll take good care of Tiffie. I’m just telling you about her pregnancy. And I need your help to plan and hold the wedding since I don’t have much time for that. Besides, she wants to continue with her work, and I’ve gained her approval to transfer her back to the headquarters. We’ll get to and get off work together every day. There’s nothing much to worry about. You can be rest assured. We’re staying at White Water Bay Villa now. We came home just yesterday. We’ll go home to meet you when we’re free.”

As soon as he said that, the phone was hung up directly. He appeared rather helpless. “It seems like my mom will be here shortly. I’ll go and tidy up the house first. If not, she’ll certainly nag about it later.”

Tiffany became uneasy all of a sudden. “I feel rather awkward… Now the entire world will know that I’m pregnant. I don’t want to be taken care of by your mother and gain weight until I’m 300 pounds.”

Jackson smiled and patted her head. “That’s enough. You’re certainly not a shy girl. Why should you feel awkward? You won’t gain weight until you’re 300 pounds. But it’s possible that you’ll weigh 150 pounds by then. It’s fine. You can always slim yourself down after you give birth to the baby. I won’t have a problem with it. I’ll go and tidy up the house first. When I’m done, I’ll cook for you. What do you want to eat?”

She thought for a while. “Grilled steak? Black pepper steak? I just want to have some beef. I’ve been craving meat recently.”

Not long after, Summer came with Atticus and Lillian. Jackson was still busy in the kitchen. The moment he left the kitchen, he saw a trio of people in the living room. There were all kinds of health supplements and ingredients on the coffee table. He became slightly upset. “I’ve got everything we need here. Why did you bring along so many things with you? The fridge is full now.”

Summer rolled her eyes at him. “These are for Tiffie. If you can’t put them in the fridge, just finish them up quickly.”

Lillian was so excited that her hands were trembling now. “Tiffie, how long have you been pregnant? Why didn’t you tell me about it? I’m your mom. How could you hide it from me?”

Tiffany touched her belly slightly. “More than two months now. I feel like it’s nothing much being pregnant. I feel great, except that I’ve gotten a bigger appetite now. I don’t feel anything else, so you don’t have to worry about it. You even rushed here so late into the night.”

Summer did not think so. “What do you mean by ‘we don’t have to worry about it’? Do you know how long I’ve been waiting for this? Jackson was not being sensible in the past. Now that my wish is finally granted, of course, I’m happy. You’re now the key person who needs the protection of our entire family.

Why don’t you stop working temporarily? After you give birth to the baby, you can resume your work if you want.”

Tiffany found it impudent to reject her directly, so she turned to look at Jackson, asking for his help. Jackson was wearing an apron and standing at the door of the kitchen. He rubbed the place between his eyebrows, as he was put in a difficult position. “Mom, I told you about this on the phone. Tiffie wants to continue her work. She can’t afford to be idle, and she might even get sick because of it.”

Tiffany nodded immediately and supported what he said. “Yes, it’s true. I can’t be idle without doing anything. Therefore, please don’t bother about it.”

Summer hesitated for a short while before she agreed to it. “Fine. Since you insist, I won’t bother about it now. What’s important now is that we need to hold a wedding ceremony for you before your pregnancy becomes too obvious as the baby grows. Otherwise, it won’t be so beautiful or convenient if you wear a wedding gown then. But we’ll carry out all the proper procedures for you. We won’t treat you unfairly. Tiffie, since your mother is here today, let’s discuss everything which we need to settle upon face-to-face.”

Chapter 1008

The moment Tiffany thought about those trivial things, she became quite annoyed. “You can just discuss it among yourselves. I don’t know much about it anyway. I’m hungry now. I’ll go and see whether dinner is ready. Have you eaten? If not, let’s eat together.”

Summer stared at Jackson, blaming him. “What time is it now? Why haven’t you had your dinner? Things have changed now. Tiffie is pregnant. You need to cook and eat earlier. We’ve eaten.”

Jackson was helpless. He began to regret telling Summer about Tiffany's pregnancy. Now, Tiffany was very adored and cherished, but he was forced to endure the complaints and blames.

In order to provide a better sleep for Tiffany, Summer did not linger there for long with Atticus and Lillian. Before they left, they gave them more advice.

After they left, both Tiffany and Jackson breathed a sigh of relief in tacit understanding of each other. Then, Tiffany broke into laughter. "Didn't I ask you not to tell them about it so soon? Now, do you know why I prohibited you from doing so?"

Jackson pursed his lips and smiled faintly. He then took off the apron and put it aside. "Come and have your dinner now. Rest early after the meal. I'll bring you to the hospital to do a pregnancy check up tomorrow morning. I'll go to work after the check up. Although you can resume your work anytime you want in the headquarters, I still want to let you rest for two days. I'll ask Amy to help you to cancel the rent for the apartment in South Park. The things there will be packed up and delivered here. As to the car… I'll ask Amy to drive it and bring it over the next time she comes to attend a meeting here in the headquarters."

Tiffany finally understood how it felt like to not have to worry about anything. She was engulfed in an utter bliss. "Fine. I'll listen to you and follow suit with your arrangement. My man is just so capable. I don't have to worry about anything. Wait till I eat my meal and clean myself up, then I'll reward you with a kiss."

Although Jackson sounded like he disliked that, his body was quite honest. He took a bath soon and waited in bed for her. He did not dare to think about having more fun with her for the moment, but he was still quite eager to enjoy going to first base with her.

The next morning, Jackson asked Arianne to go with them to the hospital for the pregnancy check up since he did not know much about Tiffany's pregnancy and he did not have much experience with it.

When the series of pregnancy check ups were over, Jackson said something alone to the doctor secretly. Tiffany was rather curious. "What did you say to the doctor?"

His facial expression was weird. "Nothing. I just asked the doctor about your condition casually… I'll get to work now. You can go and enjoy yourself with Arianne. Be careful. If there's anything else, call me up then."

Tiffany failed to get to the bottom of it. She felt quite curious. Looking at him as he disappeared from her sight, she whispered softly to Arianne, "What did he say to the doctor? Why didn't he tell me about it? Does he still suspect that this baby is not his? I looked it up before. If we do a paternity test during the pregnancy, it's rather risky. It's not one hundred percent…"

Arianne hugged Smore and smiled rather coyly. "I guess that he might have asked the doctor when he could sleep with you. How could he say it in front of me? He's not as calm and reserved as Mark. You should know that…"

Tiffany did not quite believe it. "Is it true? I actually planned to ask the doctor about it just now during the check up, but I didn't because I was too embarrassed to. I couldn't bring myself to ask the doctor about it. I didn't expect to see him ask the doctor about it. It's embarrassing. He asked me to rest for two days, and I don't have anything to do. Why don't we go shopping? The weather is good today. It's suitable for us to go shopping…"

Chapter 1009

Arianne looked at the time and realized that it was around ten in the morning. They could go shopping and have lunch together. It was just about right, so she nodded and agreed to go with her. “Fine, let’s go and have lunch at White Water Bay Café after we’re done shopping. After having different meals at so many restaurants, I still feel that the restaurant Jackson founded is the best. It’s so delicious.”

When they reached the shopping mall, Tiffany got caught up in her bad habit again. She could not leave whenever she saw bags. She was still slightly hesitant the first time she used the credit card. After that first instance, she started to lose her control. Arianne was forced to drag her away. “That’s more than enough now. You won’t be able to take so many things with you if you buy so much. I think that it was a mistake for Jackson to give you a credit card. He’ll regret it sooner or later!”

Tiffany looked at the things she bought in her hands. It seemed like she had not had enough. “I didn’t spend much, did I? He sounded quite generous when he gave me the credit card last night. He said that I can buy anything I want. Don’t worry, I know what I’m doing. I won’t exceed its limit. I do know that it’s not easy earning money. But it's been such a long time since I bought anything like this. Let me enjoy myself. When my baby grows bigger, I won’t have a chance to go shopping like this anymore.”

Arianne smiled helplessly. “Fine, do whatever you want. I can’t do anything to you. I’ll go and take a look at the men’s watches. I want to buy one for Mark. He promised to help me refurbish Wynn Mansion, so I should do something to thank him.”

Tiffany was slightly puzzled. “What did you mean when you said he helped you? Aren’t you tired of making everything so clear like this? Jackson and I are much more at ease. You should learn from me, enjoying myself and living a simple life happily. You won’t be so tired then.”

Arianne did not retort to that since everyone had their different characteristics and ways to deal with people.

Suddenly, she saw a familiar figure in front of her, standing near the women's jewelry counter. 'Mark, why is he here? Shouldn't he be in the company now?'

She watched the scene closely and then discovered that there was a young woman with him. The young woman appeared like how Arianne used to be. She looked young and innocent. She seemed rather shy from the way she talked, behaved, and smiled. Soon, Arianne's heart skipped a beat. 'How could it be? Is Mark cheating on me?' Having never thought about that possibility, she was absolutely unprepared...

Seeing that Arianne was in a daze, Tiffany looked toward the same direction. She soon widened her eyes. "What is your man doing? Who's that woman? A homewrecker? Wait here. It's inconvenient since you're holding your baby. Let me go and help you ask about their relationship. If I see something strange, I'll definitely ruin that vicious woman's face and teach her a hard lesson on how to behave herself!"

Arianne stopped her. "Tiffie, you're pregnant. How could you go and fight with others? This is not something that Mrs. West is entitled to do. It's indeed something that I should do since I'm Mrs. Tremont. We should… walk over there openly and naturally."

Tiffany took a deep breath. "Fine! I'll listen to you! Let's go and take a look!"

But Arianne was actually quite hesitant. She left the house in a rush that morning, and she did not bother to put on makeup. She dressed up normally and casually. But that woman beside Mark was different. Although she was wearing a working attire, she appeared rather lively and beautiful. However, Arianne was just a plain mother with a kid. Hence, she was slightly unconfident...

As they walked closer, the woman saw them first before Mark did.

Mark's facial expression became stunned. He then put the necklace that he had been holding back into the jewelry box on the counter. "Ari, why are you here?"

Arianne did not look at Mark but at the woman beside him. "Are you choosing jewelry? I don't like these things and I might not be quite insightful, but I was a designer before. I have experiences with designing clothes, jewelry, and other stuff. Would you mind letting me help you pick some jewelry?"

The woman glanced at Mark. "No… It's nothing like this. Mrs. Tremont, you've misunderstood us. Mr. Tremont is choosing a present for you because he wanted to give you a surprise. However, he doesn't know what you like, so he asked me to help him choose one for you. I'm Janice Bell, and I'm a new intern at the company."

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Tiffany approached Janice and looked at the badge around her chest carefully. "Yes, she's called Janice Bell. She's just an intern, and she's not an official employee there just yet. Mark, how capable you are, indeed! You don't even know what kind of jewelry your wife likes. You asked another person to choose one for you. Is that true?"

Arianne looked at Mark, waiting for his reply.

Mark became nervous, being stared at like that by Arianne. His palms became sweaty. "I… That… It's indeed true. Ari, since you're here, why don't you choose the ones you like?"

Arianne was in no mood to choose jewelry at the moment. She then said calmly, "Money is everything. If you don't know what I like, just give me money so that I can buy one myself. You don't have to worry

much about this too. Are you quite free? How could you even have the time to come here and choose jewelry. I'm tired, so I'll let you bring Smore with you back to the company this afternoon, since you did quite a good job taking care of him."

Janice was attracted by Smore. "Sure, why not? When Mr. Tremont is busy, I can help take care of Smore too. Smore… Do you still remember who I am? We played with each other before."

The sudden interruption made the atmosphere became weirder. Mark averted his gaze awkwardly. "Janice, you can return to the company now."

Janice felt puzzled. "Alright, I'll leave now."

Arianne gritted her teeth but said nothing. She handed Smore to Mark, who held the baby in reflexively. The next second, he trembled slightly after being stared at by Arianne. "It's not what you think! Didn't you get angry at me and leave to go to South Park the other day? I took Smore with me to the company. I needed to attend a meeting, so I had no other choice but to ask somebody to take care of him for a while. I indeed came here today to choose jewelry for you. There's nothing between me and her…"

Arianne looked at the girl standing at the counter and smiled. "Come, pack up that row of necklaces and bracelets. And that row too. This man here will pay for the bill."

The employee there was still enjoying the scene just now. Hearing that there was a great deal coming, she soon broke into a smile. "Sure! Please wait for a while!"

Mark appeared rather upset. He held Smore in one hand and took out his debit card with another. “Ari, listen to me. It’s really not how you picture it to be. How is it possible for me to do such a thing like that? Please don’t be like this…”

Arianne smiled faintly. “What did I do? I just bought a few things. Do you have to be like this? You’re so frightened. Do you care so much about money?”

He did not dare to say anything for fear that he might say something wrong. He did not know why. He went here with the purpose of choosing a gift for her, but he somehow bumped into her here instead, and she began to find faults with him. After thinking about it carefully, things might not have been so bad if Janice hadn’t brought up the incident where she helped take care of Smore the other day...

After paying the bills, Arianne checked her appearance in the mirror at the counter. “My skin condition has not been good recently. Tiffie, why don’t we go to the beauty salon this afternoon?”

Tiffany forced back her smile. “Sure, I’ll go with you. Let Mark take care of Smore then.”

They left, talking and laughing with each other. Mark was left there on the spot with Smore in his hands. He became quite desperate. “Son, you need to be obedient and nice this afternoon. Your mom won’t come and pick you up before her facial treatment is over… If you start throwing a tantrum, I won’t be able to do anything…”