Ruling 1021

Chapter 1021

“Back when you were pregnant with me and ate like a glutton, how much did I weigh when I was born? Are you sure that all of that meat grew onto my bones?” Jackson asked with a smile.

Summer curled her lips. “You were a disappointment. You didn’t want to be a fleshy baby. I gained more than 24kg from the time I got pregnant to the moment I delivered you. In the end, you were only 3.9kg when you were born, not even 4.2kg. What a waste of my efforts. I was so afraid of any hiccups during my pregnancy.”

Jackson was crestfallen. “The most frequent word I’ve heard from you, ever since I was a kid, is ‘disappointment’. That I’m a disappointment. I really wonder, where have I failed? I’m the kid that our neighbors compare their kids to, and you keep telling me that I’m a disappointment. You should learn from your mistakes. Your increased food intake doesn’t necessarily translate to the baby. So, stop force-feeding Tiffie. She’s already got a body that fattens up easily, and she’s been looking rather robust lately…”

Tiffany secretly stomped on his foot. Robust? Don’t ever use that word to describe her again!

Jackson’s leg was in pain. He didn’t dare say another word. He continued eating his food, pretending as if nothing had happened. Summer sighed. “Fine, fine fine. From now on, Tiffie can have as much or as little as she wants to eat. I won’t butt in. Can’t I feel sorry for Tiffie? After all, you feel sorry for your own wife.”

After dinner, Tiffany felt sleepy so she went upstairs to get some rest. She had walked around all day today and was feeling an exhaustion like never before. Everything else really did seem different after pregnancy. She didn’t feel too different at first, but as time went on, she did.

Jackson hung around downstairs for a while, then went upstairs. He had just pushed open his room door when Summer stopped him. “What are you doing? You will sleep in the guestroom next door. Don’t disturb Tiffie’s rest.”

He was stunned. “Why? Why would I disturb her rest? Haven’t I been sleeping with her all this time at my place?”

Summer dragged him away, refusing to provide any explanation. “You’d better stop for a while then. She’s pregnant now. You are going to exercise restraint!”

He was now completely annoyed. “What are you thinking? Do you have any idea how long it’s been since I’ve touched her? Forget it. It’s inappropriate for me to talk to you about these things. Can’t you manage your own husband, instead of someone else’s? Go go go!”

Summer stuffed him into the guestroom with a non-negotiable look on her face and warned him a few more times before leaving.

Tiffany couldn’t seem to sleep well, as he hadn’t returned to the room. She drowsily fumbled around for her phone, then called him. “What are you doing? Come to bed.”

He was close to tears. “My mom wants me to sleep in the room next to yours because she’s worried that I might do things to you. You’re the biological child. I’m adopted.”

She eyed the door and whispered, “Then wait until much later, when they’ve both gone to sleep, and sneak in. I’m already not used to sleeping here. It’ll be even more difficult for me to sleep without you around. There’s a big storm outside, and it’s thundering. I’m scared.”

His tone softened. “Okay, I’ll come over later. Try and get some sleep first. Don’t be scared.”

Summer and Atticus finally went to bed at 11PM. Jackson felt relieved. He could not understand how the old folks had managed to stand it. He quietly slipped into Tiffany’s room, then deftly stripped and climbed into bed. Then, he pulled her soft, fragrant figure into his arms. Now, everything felt right.

Tiffany shifted a little in his arms. “Why aren’t you wearing clothes?”

Chapter 1022

He stroked her small bump. “It’s too cold when the air-conditioning is on, and hot when it’s not. Sleep. We’ll go home tomorrow morning.”

She snuggled against his chest. “I can’t sleep. I’ve already slept. I’ve bought all of the jewelry for the wedding, and I’m already exhausted from walking around. You hid away at home instead of coming along. I’m upset.”

He planted a kiss on her cheek. “I wasn’t hiding away at home. I went to the office. Really. How can I relax when you’re not around? I simply can’t.”

She smiled foolishly, then drew circles around his chest out of boredom. Her teasing piqued his loins. “Don’t touch me, or I won’t be able to stand it. It’s been so long. I don’t even know how I’ve managed to hold myself back…”

She deliberately continued teasing him. “Then don’t. It’s been so long. You must have broken your record, your record of abstinence, ever since you’ve reached adulthood. Haha…”

He really wanted to climb on top of her and do whatever he wanted to her, but he was afraid that Summer would suddenly knock on the door. Hence, he did not dare make too much noise. “That’s enough from you. Go to sleep. I can hold on for a few more months. We won’t have any more kids after this one. It’s too torturous.”

Tiffany remembered that he had snuck off to speak to the doctor in private after her last prenatal examination and smiled wickedly as she asked, “Did you sneakily ask the doctor a question during my last check-up? What did the doctor say?”

Jackson’s resolve slowly waned. “The doctor said… We can do it after three months…”

The air suddenly went silent. Tiffany was just thinking of how clever Arianne was. She could perceive anything. Jackson was now struggling over whether to restrain himself or not. Meanwhile, he listened in on the noises outside the door. Summer wouldn’t come to check on her in the middle of the night, would she?

His heart was like a tiny feather, floating around. He tightened his grip around her in his arms. “How about… just once?”

Tiffany deliberately pushed him away. “No thanks. I was just playing you. I’m going back to bed…”

He was now like an arrow, poised to strike. How could he possibly listen to her now? He flipped her around, held her waist from the back and deftly pulled off her clothes, then stared at her white, now-exposed shoulders underneath the dim light. His breathing grew heavy. Then, he buried his head into her and bit her.

Tiffany’s breath caught in her throat. Her body softened. Her neck tingled from his assault. “Are you serious?”

He didn’t answer, choosing to use his actions as his response instead.

As footsteps drew closer to the door, Summer’s voice rang aloud from behind it. “Tiffie, are you awake? There’s soup in the kitchen. Would you like a bowl? Shall I get you one?”

Jackson quickly gestured at her to reject the offer. They’d be exposed if she opened the door now. She smiled and replied, “No thank you. I’m not hungry. I’m going back to bed. I’ll drink it tomorrow morning. Don’t worry about me. Please go to sleep.”

Summer grunted a reply. Jackson heaved a sigh of relief. “I’m going to take a shower. I’ll leave when you fall asleep and sleep in the next room. Otherwise, my mom will nag me again if she finds me here tomorrow morning. My ears are going to be chewed off.”

Chapter 1023

Tiffany patted him on the leg, mimicking one of his habits. “Go ahead.”

He felt slightly depressed. In this state, he looked a lot like a boy toy…

The next morning, Arianne brought Aristotle and Mark out of the house. It was time for Aristotle’s injection. The weather had grown unstable lately, and it was easy to catch a cold. It drizzled last night. She had given Aristotle an extra layer in the form of a long-sleeved shirt, covering his fair and tender arms and legs altogether. He looked even plumper, like a round ball, even cuter.

After getting into the car, Mark checked the time on his watch then said to Brian, who was in the driver’s seat, “Take them to the hospital first. You go with them. I’ll drive to the office. Tell Henry to pick them up when they’re done.”

Arianne frowned. “Do you have something urgent? Aren’t you coming to the hospital with us?”

He nodded. “Mm. I have a meeting.”

She couldn’t help feeling disappointed. He used to do his best to be a part of everything concerning Aristotle. When did that change? She never felt threatened when it came to him before. Ever since Janice’s appearance, she began to feel strangely worried. Truthfully, she didn’t think that her looks were any inferior to Janice’s. Their family backgrounds certainly had no comparison. She was raised in the Tremont household so she was one step ahead of Janice, regardless. However, she couldn’t help but feel that if something was going to happen, it wouldn’t have anything to do with these things.

At the hospital, just as she got down from the car, she asked him again, “You really aren’t coming?”

Mark wasn't even paying her attention. He seemed slightly absent-minded. "Mm, not this time. I'm busy."

She didn't respond and carried Aristotle into the hospital.

At the office, Mark had just walked into his office when he saw Janice, who was carrying a stack of documents and standing in front of his desk. He was taken aback. "What is it?"

Janice handed the documents to him. "I need your signature. There are quite a few here. I came early and saw that you weren't here, so I waited awhile… It's fine, please have a look at these documents. I'll wait for you to finish signing them."

Janice started a conversation as Mark examined the documents. "Mr. Tremont, why did you stop your charities? You used to smile a lot in all of the news reports about you. You looked so warm and gentle. Later on, it stopped. I'm just curious. Did something change you?"

"Sometimes I feel like doing certain things, sometimes I don't. There's no reason," Mark replied indifferently.

"Was it because of Mrs. Tremont?" Janice boldly guessed.

Mark lifted his gaze at her. "You should put more focus on your job."

Janice didn’t feel embarrassed. “I’m very serious with my work. The director says that I can apply for a permanent position in advance. It’s just as well that I ask you now. Would that be okay?”

He finished looking through the documents, signed them, then gave them back to her. “That is not under my jurisdiction. The people downstairs will do whatever is necessary. You may go.”

Janice felt slightly disappointed. “Okay, please excuse me.”

Chapter 1024

She returned to her office desk. “Did you touch the documents on my desk?” the manager asked as she stormed towards her.

“Mr. Tremont already arrived at the office, but you didn’t get his signature.” Janice calmly replied. “I sent these over for you while you were away. Mr. Tremont has already signed these. No need to thank me.”

The manager was upset. “You’re an intern. Why are you butting into affairs that don’t concern you? Do not touch these things again! You haven’t earned the right to enter the CEO’s office!”

“You’re the one neglecting your job, so why won’t you let other people do it?” Janice asked. “We all work in the same company; we have the same goals to make the company flourish. These documents are important. You don’t have to get angry with me. If you’re not happy, you’re perfectly welcome to speak to Mr. Tremont. See what he says.”

The manager was so enraged that she turned both green and white. “You… You’re an intern. Are you planning on stepping on me? Challenge me again when you’re in my position. Touch my things again, and you’re fired!”

After the manager had left, the person next to her consoled her. “The manager is getting old. Ignore her. She can’t even handle her own job well and she’s blaming you for helping out.”

Janice chuckled. “It’s fine. I’m used to it. It’s fine as long as it doesn’t get in the way of work. Work has been busy lately and everyone’s been doing overtime during the weekends. Maybe the manager is just feeling upset. I don’t see anything wrong. It’s all for the sake of the company. Mr. Tremont hasn’t been able to rest, has he? He’s had to come back to the office during the weekend.”

“You may be just an intern, but you’ve got quite a lot of awareness. Your future is going to be very bright. Actually, it’s pretty good to do overtime. Otherwise, we’d be spending money, having fun during vacation. The company pays us three times more for doing overtime. It’s not too bad,” the person next to her exclaimed, praising her.

Mark left the office after his meeting around noon. He headed straight back to the Tremont Estate.

Once he entered the house, he found Arianne playing with Aristotle in his stroller while looking through the dessert shop accounts. She was dressed in house clothes, her hair was a mess, and she had no makeup on. She looked a little pale.

He felt slightly emotional when he saw this. She didn’t need to stay in this “prison” all day and force herself into becoming a full time housewife. Although she only needed to take care of the baby, she did

not need to do household chores. However, she was like a bird with clipped wings. She had lost her freedom, and he was the main cause of it all. He had refused to let her go back to work.

He stepped forward and took Aristotle into his arms. “Ari, Smore is getting older. If you’d like to go back to work, you can.”

Arianne was surprised. He had actually changed his mind. He used to come up with all sorts of ways to stop her. “What changed your mind?”

He paused. “You’re not happy with this kind of life. Life is short. I don’t have the right to dictate how you want to live. Do whatever you want, as long as it makes you happy.”

He was still mourning over Eric’s death. Arianne knew this, but did not point it out. “Okay. I’ll gradually let Mary take care of Smore on her own. I’ll start looking for a job once Smore no longer needs me. By the way, that intern in that company of yours, has she been promoted to permanent staff yet?” For some reason, she was suddenly reminded of Janice.

“Not yet,” Mark casually replied. “That’s not under my jurisdiction. She’ll stay if she’s capable enough and leave if she’s not. Where will you work? Are you still going to work in fashion design? I won’t force you into working in my company. You wouldn’t be interested in nepotism anyway. But I think… You can probably work for Jackson. Your best friend is there anyway. I’d feel more relaxed if you worked in Jackson’s company.”

Arianne shook her head. “I haven’t decided yet. I’ll think about it when the time comes. Smore didn’t cry at all during the injection. He’s growing into a real macho man…”

Mark kissed Aristotle on the cheek. “Macho man. He’ll have to grow up sooner or later. It’s not good to cry all the time. I’ll take him for his afternoon nap after lunch. You’ve been looking through accounts. You should rest.”

Chapter 1025

Arianne nodded. “Okay.” Even though she did not show it, she was still feeling a little frustrated. Her life may seem peaceful, but it was too peaceful, like stagnant water, lifeless. Mark had no parents, relatives, or siblings. Jackson and Eric mean a lot to him. The trauma of losing Eric would probably be with him for a long while.

Honestly, she wasn’t happy. She was upset at him for neglecting her and the baby during his sorrow. She and Aristotle were important to him too, and they were his closest relatives, now and forever.

Once the storm had passed, the weather in the capital grew chilly. They were entering autumn.

Aristotle was beginning to learn to sit down on his own, albeit in a wobbly manner. He would lose balance from time to time and topple over, but he still loved sitting back down and playing on his own. He could now fiddle with his favorite toys too.

Arianne was now free to get away. She brought her job hunt earlier than scheduled. She did not intend on joining Mark’s company. Everyone knew her as Mrs. Tremont. However, after some consideration, Jackson’s place wasn’t too different from Mark’s. Hence, she chose neither.

Having been away from work for a long time, she chose a mid-sized company to try and get back into the swing of things. Of course, it would be even better to get a permanent position. Even though they

were from the same world and the same social circles, she wanted to make a name for herself on her own, instead of relying on Mark all the time.

Once she had found a job, the first thing she did was go home and tell Mark about it. “I’ve found a job. Mary will take care of Smore during the day from now on. I’ll put him to bed and everything else when I come home.”

Mark showed no signs of emotion. “Sounds good. Just do whatever you think is best.”

She felt helpless. Although there was nothing to say, he had reverted back to his ice-cold and taciturn state. Having seen a warmer side to him, she found it difficult to get used to his aloofness. “What’s with you? It’s only been a short while since we’ve made peace. Do you get bored of affection so easily? Or did my opposition seem more interesting to you? Have you lost interest, now that I’ve become docile?”

He was mystified. “What are you saying? Stop imagining things. How could I possibly get bored of you? I’m fine with everything you’ve arranged. You’re not joining my company anyway, and I’m not exactly happy that you’ve found a job. Do whatever you want.”

He was telling the truth. He wasn’t happy about her going back to work, but he just wasn’t objecting to it.

Arianne had been feeling miserable over this for a long time. She had made several attempts to talk to him about it, but couldn’t in the end. Today, she lost it. “Are you sad about Eric’s death? And I thought that Alejandro’s return to the capital would stir up your fighting spirit. After all, your old rival has returned to provoke you. Now it seems that you’re still distracted. You make me feel as if our lives aren’t all that perfect anymore. I’m sad about Eric’s death too, but the living must continue living their lives. I’ve given you too much time to digest the matter. You shouldn’t make things difficult for me. Stop treating me so coldly. I hate your frigidness!”

She exploded into hysteria in the end. By the time she was done, the atmosphere went into silence for a very long time.

Mark stared at her in astonishment. “I thought that you never really cared about my attitude. Haven’t you always been nonchalant about these things? You’ve never argued with me, even if I had other women next to me or when I didn’t come home.”

Arianne moaned, “That’s because you knew when to toe the line, and you knew when to come home. I hoped that you would always give me that sense of security. It’s not that I don’t care. But now, you’d better brace yourself. I’ll be starting work from now on. We’ll take care of Smore together when we both come home at night. You can’t leave everything to me. You’re his father. We’re a family.”

Chapter 1026

Suddenly, he pulled her into his embrace. “Ari… I love the fact that you’ll tell me about it when you’re unhappy about anything. We’ll let Smore sleep in the nursery. We’ll refurbish that room in the future to make it his bedroom. We’ll then let him get used to it earlier. We’ve got Mary to take care of him, so we don’t have to worry about it.”

Suddenly, she felt like he was not being serious again, just like his usual self. She was not entirely infuriated just now, so her anger soon subsided. She played around with the button on his coat around his chest and said sweetly, “Do you think that Smore acts like a third wheel, as he’s sleeping between us every night? Fine, he’s almost half a year old now. Let’s sleep early tonight. I need to get to the company early in the morning tomorrow to make a report.”

He stretched his hand out and lifted her chin. He then stared straight into her eyes. “I’m afraid that we can’t sleep early tonight…”

Her face became slightly flushed, but she did not look away from his passionate and intense gaze. She took the initiative and took off his clothes for him.

When they were enjoying themselves in bed, he was so eager to get down to the main business. She was just about to remind him of the thing that he needed to be careful of.

She became inwardly scared. “What are you doing? We need to use that. I don’t want to get pregnant again.” She was indeed frightened. He was not that inattentive before.

He seemed not to care about that. His hoarse voice sounded around her lips. “I won’t be needing that anymore in the future.”

She did not know what he meant. Throughout the process, she was deeply frightened. She only pushed him away after he was done. “Are you out of your mind?”

He then smiled and took a report out of the drawer in the bedside cupboard. “I had a surgery.”

She was utterly stunned. “When did you do it? Why didn’t you tell me about this?”

He pulled her into his arms again. “I don’t have to discuss things like this with you, right? After all, I just wanted to have kids with you, but it’s more than enough to have Smore with us. I did that for the sake of your safety. I was having some side effects a while ago. Did you really think that I’d gotten bored of you? I didn’t even get bored after more than ten years. How could I get bored of you now?”

Arianne's eyes became slightly teary. She was touched. "So, you're not having any side effects now, are you?"

Mark slipped his hand down her thigh. "Didn't you feel it just now?"

She blushed but said nothing. She could feel that. It was no different from the past. Besides, they did not have to worry about it now.

Chapter 1027

An unknown period of time went by. The moon hid behind the clouds, and the noise in the house finally subsided. They hugged each other and fell into a deep sleep. That night, they no longer had the third wheel, Smore, with them.

The next morning, Arianne left for work in a hurry before Mark left the house. It was the first day of work, and she was in a great mood. She certainly could not be late. Smore was held by Mary, who stood at the door as she left. Smore seemed to be unable to part with his mother. He even waved his little hands in the direction where Arianne left. Further, his eyes were teary too.

Seeing him like that, Mark smiled in dissatisfaction. He then said, "You're quite big now. How are you still unable to part with your mom? Aren't you feeling ashamed of yourself? Your mom wants to go out there and make a name for herself. Even if I'm unable to part with her, I didn't dare to do anything. How could you make her stay? If you cry anymore, your mom won't even want you then."

Mary became rather scared and covered up Smore's ears. "Sir, don't mention that madam doesn't want him anymore. The boy can understand some of it more or less. If he burst into tears later, it'll be hard to console him."

Mark did not believe that Smore could understand him. "Just how old is he? How would he be able to understand what I said? If you don't believe me, just look. Smore, you mom doesn't want you anymore."

Smore pouted his lips. His tears rolled down vigorously. He then burst into tears.

Mark became flustered. He quickly held Smore and embraced him. "I was joking with you. Your mom will be home soon. There, there. Please don't cry. I need to get to work now, and I don't have time to pacify you."

Mary ran away to the kitchen. "I'm going to see whether breakfast's ready. You made him cry, so you need to pacify him yourself!"

At last, Smore clung onto Mark, and he was forced to take care of his son again. He brought Smore along to the company, but Mary was with them, so he would not be worried even though he had to leave him when he got busy.

On the other hand, after Arianne reached the new company, she took out a small mirror and looked at her face. After making sure that her makeup looked fine, and her hair was not messy, she then went to the manager's office confidently.

She knocked and opened the door. A slightly indecent-looking and plump man smiled and approached her. “Mrs. Tremont, here you are. Please take a seat. Let’s discuss your annual income, your job, and the contract. Allow me to go and pour you a cup of tea first.”

She was slightly stunned. Now, it seemed like she could not hide her identity no matter where she went. How could the manager in the new company be so polite and cordial toward her? It was really frustrating!

She sat down rather uneasily. She took the cup of tea that was handed to her by Mr. Yaleman. She then thanked him. “This… I would like to sign a one-year contract. When the time is up, I can always renew the contract with you if there’s a need for that. Don’t you need to ask me to work here for a few days and supervise my work? May I know if you have probation here? Do you always sign the contract with a new employee directly?

Mr. Yaleman smiled and said, “Alas! What’s your identity? It’s our great fortune to have you here with us. Why do we need to supervise your work? It’s not merely because you’re Mrs. Tremont. Your past experiences are quite good too. I’ve got high expectations about you. Besides, we can sign the contract directly. Let’s just sign a one-year contract first. Do you have any request as to your yearly income?”

‘Yearly income?’ Arianne did not have much of an idea about that. “How much do you think is appropriate? I didn’t work for some time now, and I don’t know how the situation is like now.”

Mr. Yaleman held up one of his fingers. “I know that. You were on maternity leave at home, right? You were taking care of your kid. Do you think this amount is appropriate?”

He held up a finger. It was impossible for it to signify only $1000. However, it seemed quite exaggerated if it was $1 million. So it could only mean $100,000. It never occurred to Arianne that she could gain such a high salary. She thought that a resident special designer in a company like that would only gain

$50,000 at most since it was not an extremely large company. It seemed like she was able to get that much because she was Mrs. Tremont. She then accepted it with ease. “Alright. Then let’s hope that we can get along well with each other in the future.”

Mr. Yaleman raised his plump hand. “I’ll get the contract ready as soon as possible. Let me show you to your working desk first.”

Chapter 1028

There was nothing special with her working desk. It was just separated from the other ordinary designers, and the space was slightly spacious. Her working desk was slightly bigger too.

After less than ten minutes, Mr. Yaleman sent the contract to her in person. “Please take a look at it. If there’s no problem, you can sign it now.”

She held the contract and read it carefully. After a short while, she said, “No problem. By the way, I need to explain myself on something. I’ll try my best to complete my work in the daytime. I must never be asked to work overtime during weekends. During weekdays, I hope that I don’t have to work overtime either. If you have any objection, you can decrease the amount of my yearly income. Is that okay?”

Mr. Yaleman said in a flattering tone, “What are you talking about? How could I ask you to work overtime? Don’t mention working overtime at night either. Even if you complete your work in the daytime, you’re welcome to clock off early if you want. We can understand you since you need to get home early to take care of your child. That’s not a problem.”

‘How easily he complied with my wishes!’ She once doubted that Mark had contacted the superior of that company. ‘It’s not meaningful like this anymore…’

After signing the contract, she sent a message to Mark. “Do you know which company I’m working for?”

She received a reply from Mark soon. “No, I didn’t ask, and you didn’t tell me about it either. What’s wrong? Did you face any problem?”

It seemed like he did not do anything. She became slightly relieved, so she sent him a reply. “I just hope that you won’t meddle with my job. I hate living like a parasite, leeching off others.”

After that, Mark sent her a short video, showing her that Smore and Mary were playing with toys on the sofa of his office. She became worried again. Seeing that no one around was paying attention to her, she gave Mark a call. “Why did you bring him to the office again? I don’t like my son being held by other women!”

He clearly understood her underlying meaning. “Don’t worry, I won’t let him. Mary is with him, is she not? Later, I’ll send them home. It surprises me to see you getting jealous for real. You always hide it well. It turns out that you’re just pretending.”

She admitted. “Yes, I’m jealous. Just do your work properly. If you dare to fool around with any female employee, I’ll make you pay for it. Alright, that’s it. I’ll hang up now. I’m working.” After that, she hung up the phone directly.

Arianne was happy, so she asked Tiffany out for a meal after work. They would head home directly after the meal, so it would not take up a lot of their time. If she reached home before eight o’clock at night, it would not affect her task of taking care of Smore.

The office hour ended around half past five in that company. Arianne clocked off right on time. When she left, she realized that the others were still sitting in their places without any intention to move. They just stared at her. Although she found it weird, she did not care much about it. When it was time, certainly she could clock off.

It was a meal between the best friends, so Tiffany did not bring Jackson along. They found a nice and average Chinese restaurant. Tiffany felt like eating spicy food, so she ordered a plate of spicy chicken as the first dish. She even made a special request to make the dish much more spicy.

Arianne smiled and said, “Your baby should be a girl. Usually a pregnant lady likes sour food if she’s pregnant with a son. On the other hand, if she’s pregnant with a baby girl, she’ll love spicy food.”

Tiffany was confident. “That’s for sure. We can still let our children marry each other, so we can become in-laws. If I get a son, it’ll be quite awkward. You found a new job so soon. How was it? Was everything smooth the first day you went to work?

Arianne nodded. “Yes, it was smooth. My yearly income is $100,000. I never thought that I’d be able to get so much. In the past, I just managed to get my salary monthly. Now, I’m getting a yearly income directly, so I need to work harder. That way, I’ll be able to deserve being paid that much money by the company.”

Chapter 1029

Tiffany was filled with jealousy. “I’m still only getting a monthly salary. Your yearly income is already $100,000. You’re indeed excellent! You need to treat me then.”

Arianne could not help but sneer at her. “That’s enough. Jackson’s money still belongs to you every month, doesn’t it? What’s there to be dissatisfied about? The little money you earn isn’t even enough for your cosmetics. Don’t act smug here. Do you feel any fetal movements yet? You should, given how long you’ve been pregnant.”

Tiffany pursed her lips. “No. Maybe he’s too lazy to move. After all, the pregnancy check up shows that everything is fine. So, I don’t have to bother about it. Maybe the skin of my stomach is just so thick that I can’t feel any fetal movement. By the way, Tanya should be pregnant for a few months now too. I don’t know how she’s been doing recently.”

Talking about Tanya, it became awkward. They did not hate Tanya deeply. But now, it could not go back to how it used to be. They could only cease contact with each other and hope that the other was living just fine.

After dinner, Arianne went home directly. It was not far, so she hailed a taxi to go home, and she did not let Tiffany give her a ride home. Besides, she missed Smore inwardly since she rarely left Smore’s side for such a long time.

Tiffany drove home. Now, she had become serious and moved to Jackson’s White Water Bay Villa. That would be her home in the future. If nothing went wrong, there would not be any drastic changes then.

When she reached the entrance of the villa, the security guard lifted the traffic barrier for her. Suddenly, he asked her, “Miss Lane, there’s a guest here today. She’s been here for a short while now. Why did you come home only now?”

She was slightly confused. “What kind of guest?”

The security guard was puzzled too. “A girl. She said that she’s Mr. West’s friend, so I let her in.”

Hearing that, Tiffany pressed the gas pedal and drove the car into the villa. If she was right, it must be Lynn. She certainly did not mean well, coming and looking for Jackson.

When she reached the door of the villa, she took the key in a rush and got out of the car. She just wanted to enter the villa immediately to take a look. She was afraid that there might be something going on, and it could unsettle her again. When she opened the door, she saw Jackson sitting on the sofa, reading the magazine. There was no one else in the villa. She was stunned on the spot.

Jackson said, “Here you are. Come in. Why are you standing at the door?”

She did not believe it, as she still remembered what the security guard said to her. She searched through the entire villa, including the washrooms, various different rooms, behind the drapes, and under the beds. She even looked at every little sign in the villa closely. After she ensured that there was indeed nothing, only then did she ask Jackson, “Did someone come to our house today?”

Jackson was following closely behind her. Seeing her crawling on the ground and looking under the bed, he was afraid that she might hurt her belly. He thought that she had lost something important and was searching for it. Hearing her question, he recovered his wits all too late. “Did you doubt that I'd brought someone over while you were out? Could you please stop thinking about such things? No one came over! Now that you’ve looked everywhere, are you reassured?”

She was still worried. “But the security guard told me that there was a girl here, claiming that she’s your friend. He let her into the villa. He even asked me why I came home so late since we’re having a guest over. Who’s the one telling lies now? The security guard doesn’t have to lie to me!”

Jackson became helpless. “I really don’t know anything about it. It’s true that no one came! Why don’t we go to the security room to look up the surveillance video to see who it was? Don’t mess around anymore. Aren’t you tired? Even the baby will get tired too!”

When they reached an impasse, they heard someone knocking on the door downstairs. Tiffany rushed downstairs to open the door immediately. Seeing that, Jackson was extremely nervous. He was afraid that she might slip and fall.

Chapter 1030

When the door opened, Tiffany saw Melanie there. It surprised both Jackson and Tiffany.

Although Jackson had never met Melanie, he had seen her on the news occasionally. That was why he could recognize her at first glance. Tiffany had seen Melanie before, so Tiffany certainly knew who she was. She then asked Melanie, “Why are you here? When did you come?”

Standing at the door, Melanie appeared graceful and elegant. She smiled and said, “I’ve been here for a short while. The security guard at the entrance was quite strict. He doesn’t remember your name, so I had no choice but to tell him your fiancé’s name. I claimed that I’m his friend. Do you mind that? My memory is not good. After searching for a long while, I only managed to find the right house. Miss Lane, I came today just to bring you some health supplements for pregnant ladies. I thought that you might be home at this hour.”

Tiffany noticed now that Melanie was holding things in her hands. She received them from her politely. “I’m so sorry for troubling you like this. You really shouldn’t trouble yourself too much about it.”

Jackson said nothing as he stood at the side. He treated that man as his love rival, but that man's wife gifted his wife some health supplements for pregnant ladies. It was certainly quite strange.

Melanie did not have the intention to leave immediately. So naturally, Tiffany had to invite her into the villa to sit for a short while. It was certainly impudent to ask Melanie to leave there and then. Just when they had taken their seats, Melanie said, "I'm quite thirsty. Do you have fresh orange juice here?"

Jackson turned around to head to the kitchen. "I'll go and make you some. Just chat between yourselves."

The minute Jackson left, Melanie jumped straight to the point. "Miss Lane, how long have you known Alejandro?"

Tiffany counted off her fingers. "Not long. I had only been having meals with him a few times. He's quite nice."

Melanie's eyes fluttered. "Really? Only a few meals?"

Tiffany was afraid that she might misunderstand her. "Yes, it's true. If you don't trust me, you can ask him about it. I'm a straightforward person, but I never said inappropriate things to him. Our relationship with each other is quite simple, you see. You're married to him now, and I'll be married soon. I'm even pregnant now. Could we please stop fixating on this? Besides, it's been such a long time since we last contacted each other. You should know about this. I ceased contact with him after sending you a wedding gift."

Melanie smiled faintly. “I didn’t mean that. You’ve misunderstood me. I just want to know more about him. In fact, what I have with him is an arranged marriage. We met each other for the first time officially two days before our wedding ceremony. We don’t know much about each other… but I like him tremendously. He’s always busy. Although I came with him to the capital, he rarely meets with me, so I can only try to learn about his preferences using other methods. Do you know what he likes to eat?”

Tiffany thought about it for a while and shook her head directly. “I don’t know, but he may like mild food. It’s because he always ate mild food when he had meals with me. Let me tell you something softly. This is very similar to my ex-boyfriend. My ex-boyfriend couldn’t eat spicy food either.”

Of course, her ex-boyfriend was Ethan. She remembered distinctly that Ethan did not eat spicy food.

The topics between women were more or less on things like these. When they got to talking about these things, they became quite friendly with each other. Melanie looked toward the kitchen. She also lowered her voice. “Really? How could you remember so distinctly about your ex-boyfriend’s taste in food? That’s good. I’ll cook him mild food in the future when he’s at home. Luckily, I don’t like spicy food either. His legs… He might be like that for the rest of his life. It’s such a pity.”

Speaking of Alejandro’s legs, Tiffany was stunned. She knew that Alejandro was not truly a handicapped person, but it surprised her to see that he had concealed it from his wife—Melanie. But what she never imagined was that Melanie was just testing her.

Melanie learned a few days before the wedding ceremony that Alejandro was not truly a handicapped person. She just wanted to know whether Alejandro had told Tiffany something that secretive.