Ruling 1131

Chapter 1131

Jackson was inwardly skeptical. He did not think there could be a purely platonic relationship between a man and a woman. Although he knew that Arianne was the one that Will liked, Tiffany was quite friendly with Will as well. Was it possible that Tiffany had like Will at one point? Otherwise, why would she request for leave to meet Will the moment she found Will had returned? In the past, Tiffany would not acquiesce to his request when he begged her to take leave. With these thoughts in mind, he was even more certain of his decision. “Either I go with you or you don’t go at all.”

Tiffany’s temper exploded. “Fine, I won’t go! I’ll tell your mum that you won’t let your pregnant wife take leave. We’ll see if she gives you an earful or not!”

Jackson paid no heed to Tiffany’s threats. He did not expect her to complain to Summer.

As soon as Tiffany walked out, Summer had instantly called Jackson to lecture him. He felt his temper begin to rise as he said, “Don’t listen to her, mom. She’s not taking leave to rest at home. She’s planning to meet an old schoolmate who happens to be a man. Do you think I’d let her walk around with her protruding belly? I offered to accompany her, but she kept refusing me.”

After speaking to Summer, Jackson’s temper did not abate. In fact, it continued to rise. He could not understand why Tiffany would not let him accompany her. Was it abnormal for him to accompany her? Was this the difference in their age gap? Could the ten years between them caused such a huge gap?

During lunch, Tiffany continued to show her displeasure.

Jackson asked again, “Why won’t you let me come with you? Is there something wrong with me meeting your old friends or schoolmates?”

Tiffany rolled her eyes at him. “We might discuss private matters. Naturally, it’ll be inappropriate if you’re around.”

Jackson’s expression soured. “What sort of secrets or private matters do you have with Will? Even if there are any, they probably concern Arianne, right? Don’t tell me you liked him before?”

Upon hearing this, Tiffany was taken aback. “What are you talking about? Do I look like that kind of person?! Can you please have some normal thoughts in your mind? If I had liked him, I wouldn’t have done it with Et…” Tiffany stopped herself right on time before she finished her sentence.

A heavy atmosphere loomed over both of them immediately.

Jackson tried to change the subject. “Fine, I understand. You can go if you want to. Just be careful.”

Tiffany fiddled around with the food in her bowl expressionlessly. “Forget it, I don’t want you to nag at me incessantly. You’re even worse than my mom when it comes to nagging.”

Jackson rubbed his glabella, regretting bringing up a topic that reminded her of Ethan. This was just great. Now he had to coax her again, and he was not confident he would be able to do it.

…

That night, Tiffany said she would have dinner at Lillians' place. Jackson, naturally, tagged along. Not only that, but he even cooked dinner for them since Lillian's cooking skills were nothing to brag about. Thanks to him, Tiffany's taste buds had become more refined.

Left with nothing to do while waiting for dinner to be served, Tiffany walked around the house when she saw the potted plant that was given to her by Alejandro from the corners of her eyes. She was startled when she saw the plant had grown a bud during winter. She could faintly see a hint of white, and the bud was quite big as well. She suddenly recalled Alejandro had said he would tell her secret once the plant bloomed. She was curious but quickly dismissed the thought when she imagined how angry Jackson would be if he found out. She would suppress her curiosity despite how much she wanted to know what the secret was. After all, there was no doubt she and Jackson would get into an argument if he found out she had contacted Alejandro.

During dinner, Lillian unknowingly brought up the potted plant. "Tiffany, see how well I've taken care of your plant. Who knew it would be able to grow a bud during winter? What species would grow during winter? Its growth rate is really slow though. The bud has been out for a few days, but it still hasn't bloomed. I suppose the climate here isn't very suitable for the plant. I put in so much effort to take care of it. It's as though I'm taking care of a child."

Jackson asked, "What flower? What plant?"

Lillian blurted out before Tiffany could stop her, "The one that Tiffany brought back from Eric's company."

Jackson suddenly froze. "Was it given by Alejandro?"

Chapter 1132

Lillian fell silent when she realized the atmosphere had turned heavy.

Tiffany feigned ignorance and said, “It’s just a plant… You’re free to take care of it if you want to. If it’s too much of a bother, you can just throw it away. I don’t have the time to bother with it.”

Jackson muttered, “You can keep it if you want to. After all, it’s a gift from someone…”

Tiffany looked at Lillian pointedly.

Lillian only shrugged helplessly. How was she to know the plant was a forbidden topic? She was only striking up a conversation.

At this moment, Tiffany’s phone suddenly rang. The number was not saved on her phone, but it looked familiar to her. She casually answered the call. “Hello?”

Tanya’s voice rang from the other end of the line. “Tiffany! Help me… Help me…”

Tiffany rose to her feet immediately. “What happened?”

Tiffany had deleted Tanya's number a long time ago. Therefore, Tanya's name did not show up when she called. Tanya sounded like she was in great pain, and Tiffany could not stay idle despite their conflict in the past.

Tanya sounded out of breath as she said, "I-I… fell in the shower… Jett isn't answering his phone. Help me please, my stomach hurts…"

Tiffany was shocked. Tanya was pregnant so how was a fall going to affect her? It was not surprising for Tanya to look for Tiffany since she was not able to contact Jett at that crucial moment. Moreover, apart from Jett, Tanya only knew Tiffany and Arianne.

Tiffany grabbed Jackson without a second thought. "Let's go. Tanya's in trouble, take me to her now!"

Jackson raised an eyebrow. "What happened?"

Tiffany briefly explained the situation. Jackson did not dare to ignore the situation and immediately grabbed his keys.

Lillian did not expect them to leave in such a hurry. She looked at the mostly untouched food and asked, "Are both of you still coming back for dinner? Tiffany's pregnant, and she didn't have much to eat. What if she gets shungry?"

Tiffany was in no mood to eat at that moment. "It's fine, mom. We might not return so you should go ahead and eat first. Don't wait for us."

When they arrived at Tanya's rental apartment, Jackson knocked on the door, but no one answered the door. Then, he remembered Tanya was home alone and had fallen in the shower. It was only natural that no one was answering the door. Due to the urgency of the situation, he had no choice but to kick the door down.

When they entered the house, Jackson froze.

Tiffany said anxiously, "What are you standing there for? Get moving."

Jackson's lips twitched. "She fell in the shower. What if she's naked? You should go in first."

Realization dawned on Tiffany. She was inwardly happy at his attention to detail. Still, she was shocked to discover that Tanya was really naked and unconscious when she entered the shower. Fortunately, there were no signs of bleeding. The water in the bathtub continued to flow, and the water had turned cold. Tanya's lips were pale. Things did not look good.

She fumbled for a moment as she turned off the water. She quickly grabbed some clothes and dressed Tanya. After she was done, she called out to Jackson, "Come in! I've already dressed her. She's unconscious so we need to hurry and bring her to the hospital!"

Chapter 1133

The situation was dire and there was no time to think about the propriety between men and women. Jackson carried Tanya in his arms and rushed downstairs.

During the journey to the hospital, Tiffany held Tanya's hands, rubbing them to keep them warm. "Tanya, Tanya, can you hear me?" No matter how many times she called out, Tanya did not respond or react at all. It was as though Tanya had slipped into a coma.

At the hospital, Tanya was rushed to the emergency ward. When the doctor asked who Tanya's family was, Tiffany and Jackson looked at each other; neither of them was Tanya's family. Jett was Tanya's only family member.

Tanya was successfully treated. Both she and her child were safe. She only suffered a slight injury on her ankle and fainted. It was fortunate she managed to reach Tiffany before she fainted.

Soon after, Tanya was transferred to a normal ward and was put on a drip. When she finally regained consciousness, the first thing she did was to touch her belly. She sighed in relief when she discovered her child was safe. She looked at Tiffany and Jackson who stood at the bedside and said, "Thank you…"

Jackson did not reply to Tanya. Instead, he turned around and walked out of the room.

Tiffany knew that Jackson still held a grudge over what happened. She had no intention of forcing him to be nice to Tanya. "I'm glad you're fine. There's no way I'd stay idle since you called me. What's Jett thinking? Why isn't he here when you're already in this situation? Shouldn't you call him again?"

Tanya shook her head. "It's alright, he must be busy if he didn't answer my calls. There's no need to disturb him. I'm sorry for bothering you. It's late now, both of you should go. I'll be fine."

Tiffany could not quite put her fingers on it, but she felt uneasy. She could not help but ask, “Is Jett treating you well? Are you married because of your pregnancy or are both of you truly in love? I’m not trying to be nosy, but marriage isn’t something you should rush into if you’re not certain your partner is the right one to live with for the rest of your life. Why do I feel like you and Jett know very little about each other…”

A complicated smile appeared on Tanya’s pale face. “He treats me well. It’s just that he’s really busy most of the time.”

Was he so busy that he could not even take care of his wife? Tiffany did not say much in fear of agitating Tanya. In the end, she only said, “Alright. You should rest for now, and call Jett when you wake up. I can’t stay long due to my pregnancy, but you’re free to call me if you need help. Although we have our conflict, your safety is more important. Moreover, I’m not someone who would stay idle if someone I know is in trouble…”

Tanya nodded, her eyes were slightly red. She would feel even more guilty if Tiffany and Jackson let bygones be bygones.

After all that commotion, Tiffany and Jackson finally returned to White Water Bay Villa.

Tiffany was so tired that she lay on the sofa immediately. “I’m hungry, Jackson. Make me something to eat”

Jackson walked toward her and helped her to adjust her posture. He even took a body pillow and placed it against her back. “Your belly’s so big now, you shouldn’t lie flat on your back. You need to take care of yourself. I’ll make you something to eat, don’t fall asleep. You’ll catch a cold if you sleep here.”

Tiffany pouted. “Are you only concerned about the little one in here? I’m already comfortably lying here, isn’t that enough?”

Jackson helplessly said, “I’m not saying you can’t lie here. I just want you to lie properly. You’re going to be a mother soon, and yet, you’re still so unladylike. Even other women who aren’t pregnant wouldn’t behave like this. What kind of behavior is this?”

Chapter 1134

Tiffany had been lectured so much that she had already gotten used to it. She plugged her ears with her fingers and said, “Didn’t you always like my character? Otherwise, why didn’t you find yourself someone who’s well-behaved? Didn’t you say you like me?” Without waiting for Jackson’s reply, she rambled on, “Anyway, do you think Tanya and Jett are only married because of her pregnancy? In this time and age, it’s quite common for accidental pregnancies to end up being aborted. Jett’s not from a wealthy family so it’s not like he’s in need of an heir. I wonder what’s going on with them? I’m slightly worried that Tanya’s alone in the hospital.”

Jackson was not interested in the matter so he made his way into the kitchen after he said, “We’ve already done what we can, the rest has nothing to do with us. You should stay out of their business.”

Tiffany pursed her lips and silently waited for Jackson to finish cooking.

When he was done, she wolfed down her food. Then, she began to yawn. She did waste any time and made her way upstairs to sleep. It seemed like pregnancy really made one get easily exhausted.

At the hospital.

Tanya did not have any of her possessions on her. Since her phone was not with her, she had to borrow a nurse's phone to contact Jett.

It was not until midnight that Jett finally answered his phone.

Tanya wanted to tell him everything that had happened but quickly dismissed that thought after thinking about it. She ended up saying, "I'm out, and I left my phone at home. There's no need to worry if you don't see me when you get home."

Jett asked, "Where are you? It's already so late, why aren't you at home?"

Tanya was close to tears. It did not take long before tears finally streamed down her face, but she tried her best to hide it from Jett. "I… I have some matters to attend to at my friend's place. I was in a hurry so I forgot my phone. I'm just calling you to let you know so you don't worry. Anyway, focus on your work. I'm borrowing someone else's phone so I can't chat for long. Bye." She did not wait for his reply before she hung up. She smiled as she looked at the nurse and said, "I'm sorry for bothering you."

The nurse looked at her sympathetically. A pregnant woman alone in the hospital at that hour with no one by her side. However, the nurse did not ask Tanya any questions. She knew everyone had their own problems. There was no need to poke on someone's wound.

It was cold and quiet in the hospital at midnight. Tanya did not dare to sleep since terrifying images would flash in her mind whenever she closed her eyes. She had tried her best to put on a strong front as she always had since she was young. Alas, she was still just like a little girl.

Suddenly, someone pushed the door of her room. She was slightly shocked and thought it was the doctor making his rounds since the lights were off, and it was dark. She sat up immediately. She realized that she was mistaken as the shadowy figure approached her. “Jett?”

Jett said emotionlessly, “Why didn’t you just say you’re in the hospital? I only found out when I called the number you called me from and the nurse told me you’re here…” He had felt something was amiss and had redialled the number she had called from. After all, she had said she was at a friend’s place… He knew she no longer had any friends left.

Tanya lowered her head. “I was worried that you’re busy and didn’t want to bother you. Didn’t you tell me previously that if you’re busy, you won’t be able to answer my calls?”

Jett turned on the night light that shone dimly in the darkness. “Just be honest with me if there’s any problem in the future. What if something happened to you? Are you hungry?”

She could no longer suppress her tears as they streamed down her face. Her visions turned blurry. “You’re not obligated to take care of me. I know very well we’re only married because of the child. That’s why I try not to be a bother to you. I thought I’d be able to take care of myself, I didn’t expect this to happen. I was terrified when I fell in the shower. I was afraid I would die along with my child. This child is the only family I have left in this world.”

Chapter 1135

Jett raised his slightly stiff hand and gently patted Tanya’s back. “Other than the child, you still have me. It doesn’t matter why we got married, we’re already married anyway. There’s no need for you to put on a strong front. You can call me anytime you have a problem. I’ll answer your calls from now on. I’ll get you something to eat. Stay in the hospital and have a good rest. I’ll be back tomorrow morning.”

Tanya nodded and watched Jett leave. Suddenly, all her fears seemed to have vanished. She felt much more relaxed knowing he would be by her side.

After taking care of Tanya, Jett rushed back to the Smith's estate. It was late at night, and he did not expect anyone to be awake. Contrary to his expectation, Alejandro was awake.

"Where did you go?" Alejandro asked.

Jett knew lying would be futile so he decided to be honest. "Tanya fell and is currently in the hospital. I went to see her when I heard the news. I might have to take care of her for the next few days."

Alejandro asked expressionlessly, "Who sent her to the hospital?"

Jett paused for a moment before replying, "It was Jackson and Tiffany. Tanya doesn't know anyone else. She had called me first, but I didn't answer because I was busy. I was in a hurry when I left, that's why I didn't inform you beforehand."

Alejandro raised his hand.

Jett understood what he meant. He passed Alejandro a stick of cigarette and lit it for him.

After Alejandro exhaled a mouthful of smoke, he said, “A woman’s heart is mostly fragile. Make sure that Tanya doesn’t blurt everything out to them just because she feels that she owes them a favor. Take the time off for the next few days. It’s inconvenient for a pregnant woman to be alone. Inform me before you leave next time.”

Jett felt grateful to Alejandro, regardless of whether Alejandro was truly concerned or if he was only worried Tanya would blurt out things she should not. “Thank you.”

Alejandro said indifferently, “What’s there to thank me for? Aren’t we in this together? Your situation is understandable. If you don’t feel at ease being away, you can get a nanny to look after her. You’ve been living alone all these years so you haven’t been able to secure a house. I’ll arrange a house for you to live in as a gift. Move Tanya there so you can hire someone to take care of her. I’m getting used to the men that I have under my command so it’s inconvenient to change to someone new at this point. It’ll be troublesome if I have to replace you now.”

Jett was torn, he did not know if he should accept Alejandro’s kindness. The more kindness Alejandro showed him, the more Don would be wary of him. Jett was stuck in between two dangerous men and could not afford to offend either of them. In the end, he said, “I… I still have some savings. I’ll be able to get a house on my own, there’s no need for you to give me one. I’ll make the arrangements as soon as possible. I’ll be at the hospital tomorrow morning, I’ll be back as soon as I’m done.”

Alejandro knew what Jett was worried about. “What’s wrong? Are you afraid that Don Smith will not be happy if you accept my gift? It’s fine, just accept it. He wouldn’t dare to touch my men unless he doesn’t want an heir for the Smiths. I’m heading to bed, you make your own arrangements.”

Back in his room, Alejandro’s face remained expressionless. Melanie hugged a pillow and sat by his bedside. They had been sleeping in separate rooms for a while now so he could not understand what she was doing in his room now.

Melanie looked slightly discomfited as she explained, “Grandpa says we’re still young so we shouldn’t be sleeping separately. Let’s just follow his instructions so he’ll feel at ease.”

Alejandro wheeled himself to the bedside and got into bed. “Aren’t you pregnant? It’s normal for us to sleep in separate rooms. He should be able to understand that. You should return to your room and sleep. I’ll speak to him tomorrow.”

Melanie was slightly disheartened. “Is it really so difficult for us to sleep together? Alejandro Smith, I’m fine with living the rest of my days in solitude, but can you not embarrass me in front of my elders. I’m not married into the Smiths to be humiliated by you!”

Alejandro felt that it had gotten noisy. He cocked an eyebrow as he said, “Do as you please then. I don’t wish to argue with you. I merely feel that it’s appropriate for us to sleep separately, considering the state my legs are in and your pregnancy. However, I’m still a man, I have my urges. That’s why it’s best for us to sleep separately. Stop being unreasonable, I’m in no mood to coax you.”

Melanie’s anger instantly halved. “This is all there is to it? I thought… I thought you only intend on being married on papers. However, I don’t think it’ll be inconvenient. I’ll sleep here so grandpa doesn’t nag me and make me feel awkward later.”

Chapter 1136

Alejandro no longer said anything. He reached out and switched the light in the room off. He turned to the side as he lay on the bed, his back facing Melanie.

Melanie pulled the covers and got into bed as well. The bed smelled of him, arousing her. As a result, she had difficulties falling asleep. She knew he only tolerated her because of the marriage alliance

between their families. Sometimes it felt like he was sincerely nice to her even if he had no feelings for her. She tentatively reached out and wrapped her arms around his waist. At least, she now had permission to get close to him.

“Don’t touch me,” Alejandro suddenly snapped icily.

Melanie stiffened. She turned her back on him, annoyed. She really did not know how long her feelings for him would last if he continued acting that way. Perhaps, it would disappear one day, and she would finally give up and leave him. All of a sudden, she felt movements from behind her. He pulled her into his arms, and before she could react, he roughly cupped her face and kissed her passionately. She widened her eyes in shock. She had only intended on cuddling, nothing else. She felt him stripping her of her nightgown and hastily grabbed his hand. “N-no…”

Alejandro’s voice was tinged with darkness, and it was hoarse as he said, “Isn’t this what you wanted?”

She was speechless. She wanted to get intimate with him, but it was physically prohibited. It was bad for the recuperation of his legs.

The next morning.

Tiffany could not stop worrying about Tanya so she decided to visit her in the hospital. Jackson accompanied her, but he waited for her in the car instead.

Tiffany opened the door and found Jett already there. She saw Tanya eating breakfast and heaved a sigh of relief. “You’re here. If I didn’t pick up the phone last night, it would’ve been a disaster.”

Jett paused for a moment before he replied, “Thank you.”

Tiffany smiled wryly. “I’m not here to receive your thanks. Pregnant women require care. You should show some concern. She’s your wife, and that’s your baby. Don’t be so careless.”

Tanya could not bear seeing Jett chastised so she hurriedly said, “It’s fine. It’s not like he intentionally ignored my calls. He was busy. Anyway, thank you to you and Jackson. If it weren’t for both of you, I don’t know what would’ve happened. I really don’t know how to thank you.”

Tiffany placed the fruits that she had brought on the cabinet. “There’s no need for thanks. I’m just here to check on you. Since Jett is here, I’ll take my leave. Jackson is waiting for me outside.”

Tanya lowered her eyes and nodded. Jackson probably did not want to see her. She was left with no choice yesterday. Jackson would probably ignore her if it were not for Tiffany.

Chapter 1137

“Are you… still in love with Jackson?”

Tanya lifted her eyes and looked at Jett in astonishment. “Huh?”

“Nothing,” Jett replied, thinking that she did not hear him.

She was just about to speak when Jett got up to clean the lunchbox that she had just eaten from. Honestly, she was not entirely sure if she was ever in love with Jackson. When one was looking through a veil of jealousy, everything was covered in falsehood. All she wanted now was to have a smooth delivery and live out the rest of her life in peace. Life was good now. She did not need anything else.

Tiffany was not the kind of person who could keep a secret. It did not take long before Arianne found out about Tanya’s condition as well.

Tiffany sounded confused on the phone. “Things were so great between the three of us. Now, just looking at each other feels awkward. If I really did hold a grudge against her, I would’ve hung up when I received her call. At that time, it would’ve been a disaster. Thank goodness I didn’t hang up. Thank goodness both Jackson and I didn’t hesitate to rush over and send her to the hospital.”

Arianne remained neutral. “We know each other, after all. Moreover, it was a serious matter. We’ll help out if we can, it’s not like she has any other relatives. She called you because she trusts you. Although you hated her for what she had done, you still helped her. Doesn’t this mean you miss the past as well?”

Tiffany did not deny this. Their friendship in the past was real, but the scheme and their quarrel were real as well.

…

After ending the call, Arianne rose to her feet and got herself a glass of water from the water cooler.

Someone suddenly called out to her. “Arianne, someone’s here to see you in the lobby downstairs.”

Due to the momentary distractions, she accidentally scalded her hand with the hot water. She shrank back in pain as she replied, “Okay. I’m on my way.”

She thought that it was a client so she moved quickly. When she arrived downstairs, she discovered her visitor was Will. She was at a loss for words since she did not expect to see him. “Uh… You…”

Will smiled. “I know you’re working here so I thought I’d visit you. We were in a hurry when we ran into each other previously so we didn’t have to chat. I’ve changed my number, and I’ve lost Tiffie’s number as well. Can you please give me her number? She’s pregnant, and it’s probably inconvenient for her to meet me, but I’d like to call her and speak to her. Also, are you free at noon? Would you like to have lunch? I’m leaving in two days. I’m not home too often, perhaps, we can catch up.”

Arianne could not refuse him. It was only to catch up, she had no reason to reject him. Hence, she agreed. “Okay. Call me during lunch. I’ll give you Tiffie’s number now. I told her that you’ve returned, and she has been complaining that you didn’t contact her. She’s probably going to nag at you.”

Will quickly left soon after.

There was still some time before the end of the first half of the day. Arianne was distracted. The burn on the back of her hand stung, reminding her of Will’s visit. She considered the fact that Mark would probably be upset if he found out about her lunch with Will. However, she could not help but feel hopeful. Previously, all hopes of friendship with Will were destroyed due to Mark. However, she harbored no ill intention so she did not need to feel guilty.

During lunch, she packed up her things and met up with Will. Will was already waiting in his car at the office building's entrance. She deliberately avoided her colleagues, afraid they would gossip about her. If that happened, it would be difficult for her to explain herself.

After she entered the car, Will brought her to Tiffany's favorite Chinese restaurant. They inadvertently realized that there were many places that contained memories of the trio. They were carefree and unrestrained during their youth. Unlike now, they were all shouldering the heavy burdens of life.

Chapter 1138

After finding a seat, Will said, "I called Tiffie. As expected, I got a scolding from her. Her temper is still the same. She's married with a baby on the way, and she's still the same. However, that's probably why she's so carefree as well. Life is a lot easier when you have a big heart."

Arianne felt more comfortable now that they had a topic of conversation. "That's right, I agree. Tiffie is very lucky. Jackson loves her very much and obeys her every command. Have you been doing well, living outside the country? Did you consider returning to expand your business?"

Will shook his head. "I wasn't used to it in the beginning, but I was forced to get used to it. I've laid out my foundation there so it won't be easy to return. Look, this restaurant is still the same. Doesn't it feel nostalgic?"

Arianne surveyed her surroundings and nodded. "That's right. It hasn't changed at all. It still looks the same. Hopefully, the dishes still taste the same."

Will suddenly noticed a red swelling at the back of her hand and grabbed it to have a closer look. “What happened to your hand? It looks like you burned it.”

She quickly pulled her hand away. “I accidentally scalded myself. There’s no need to fuss over it. It’ll heal on its own.”

Will seemed to realize something, and his expression stiffened. “Sorry… That was rude of me.”

Arianne smiled as she shook her head. “No, we’ve never been reserved with each other during our college years. It’s just that Mark has gotten petty after we got married, and I don’t want to upset him. I’m fine.”

A hint of despair flashed briefly in the depths of Will’s eyes. “Time is such a funny thing. Even one’s likes and dislikes are changeable.”

Arianne fell silent. That was true. She used to have feelings for Will but fell in love with Mark in the end. Time had changed many things.

After lunch, Will sent her back to her office. She silently wished him well as she watched him drive away. It was likely that they would never meet again. Hopefully, they would both live peaceful lives.

Just as she was about to walk into the office, a figure suddenly stopped in front of her. She looked up and saw Will’s wife. She did not know her name, but they had met at the shopping mall once. Will had just left. Was his wife here to catch them red-handed?

Before she could explain, Will's wife said snappily, "Does life in the Tremont household and Mark Tremont not live up to your expectations? You're married. Why are you still involved with someone else's husband? I've always wondered what's so special about the girl who got away. Now I know that you're nothing but a dishonorable sl*t!"

Arianne was shocked by Will's wife's words. She did not think his wife disliked her so intensely. Based on Will's wife's words, it was clear she had found out that they had lunch. That was probably why his wife was cursing at her. "Mrs. Ottoman-Sivan, this is a misunderstanding. Your husband and I were only catching up as old classmates. That's why we had lunch. Can you please make sure you get your facts right before you start cursing at me?"

Helga Ottoman-Sivan's expression was one of fury. It was clear there was no reasoning with her at this moment. "Do you think I'd believe you? He still keeps your things, the pictures you've drawn, and your photographs… Ever since he ran into you at the shopping mall, he has been constantly distracted. How am I supposed to believe there's nothing going on between both of you? I finally caught both of you red-handed. Who knows what you did besides having lunch? I'd love to speak to Mark and ask him how he feels about being cheated on!"

Chapter 1139

The after-lunch crowd was filing back into the office at this time. Arianne could not and would not tolerate being made into a joke in front of so many people. Her expression darkened as she said, "Mrs. Ottoman-Sivan, please watch your mouth. I'm a woman with moral integrity, and I'm not afraid of your verbal attacks. You, on the other hand, are humiliating yourself by causing a scene. Would I have allowed him to pick me up from my office if there's something going on between us? Please use your brain!"

Helga sneered and said, "The more public it is, the fishier it seems! You shouldn't have met in the first place!"

Arianne really did not want to continue arguing with Will's wife, especially with everyone staring at them in shock. "Whatever. Carry on with your delusion then. I have to return to work. Please excuse me." She marched straight into the building as soon as she finished speaking.

Helga did not run after her nor bar her way. Instead, she ran off in a huff.

When Arianne returned to her desk, Robin scurried over and whispered, "Arianne, who was that lady? Why was she scolding you?"

Arianne felt a headache coming. "Don't ask. Get back to work. I don't feel like talking."

Robin paused before she said, "Everyone in the office is talking about you. They're saying that they can't believe you're cheating on Mark Tremont behind his back when you're usually so aloof. They said there's no smoke without fire, and there must be a reason why that lady was cursing at you. I want you to know I'm on your side, and I don't believe them at all."

Arianne felt as though her head was going to explode. Initially, she did not think a simple lunch would bring so much trouble. It seemed like she was wrong. An innocent lunch had been disgustingly twisted out of context and became a topic of everyone's discussion. Arianne's head was exploding. "I'm not that kind of a person. They can say whatever they want. I can't be bothered."

Unbeknownst to her, Helga had gone straight to Tremont Tower to see Mark.

In the CEO's office.

Mark stared at the woman in front of him expressionlessly. “Mrs. Ottoman-Sivan, how can I help you?”

Helga cast him a measuring gaze. “Mr. Tremont, you’re outstandingly good looking and the Tremonts pretty much rule the capital. I don’t understand how you can endure your wife pining over someone’s husband? I’m sure you’re not unaware of this, right? Your wife and my husband went out for lunch together this afternoon. Oh, right, I only saw my husband leave her office with her, but I don’t know if they only went for lunch or if they had gone somewhere else. Women are all the same. It’s inevitable that we have a special place in our hearts for our first loves. You should be careful, Mr. Tremont. My husband and I will only be here for ten days to half a month. I don’t want to trouble you.”

Mark’s eye’s turned cold. He did not want to believe that Arianne had gone behind his back to meet Will. However, it seemed like it was true. He was furious, but he was not foolish enough to show it to Helga. He didn’t want to believe that Arianne had seen Will behind his back. “You must be mistaken, Mrs. Ottoman-Sivan. I know my wife very well. However, based on your background and looks, it seems like you’re undeserving of Will Sivan. It seems like it’s only natural that he’s pining after another woman. I’ll manage my wife so you just concentrate on managing your husband. That’s all I have to say to you.”

Helga was so enraged that she was rendered speechless. She did not expect Mark to react in this manner. Moreover, he even insulted her appearance and her family. Her pride had suffered a huge blow from Mark’s evaluation of her. It took her a while to regain her senses. Finally, she said, “You… Fine! I’m not the one suffering a loss anyway. The Sivans’ business is in a completely different country so any scandal will be limited to this country. You, on the other hand, should watch your back!” Then, she swung the door open and left in a huff.

After Helga left, Mark swept the documents on his office table onto the ground. He barked, “Davy! Cancel all of my afternoon meetings! I have some urgent business to attend to.”

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Davy had overheard the conversation. He carefully picked up the documents on the floor and said, “Alright, I’ll get to it immediately…”

Mark left the office after leaving his instructions and headed straight for Arianne’s office. He sent her a message when he arrived at her office building. “I’m at the entrance. Come down.”

Arianne rushed to the window when she received the message and confirmed that Mark had arrived. She panicked. He found out about it so soon? She was slightly afraid of meeting him at that moment. The thought of his angry face terrified her. However, she knew she could not hide from him forever. When she returned home, they would inevitably fight anyway. She had no choice but to ask Mr. Yaleman for the day off before going downstairs.

Robin cheered her on before she left. “Don’t be scared, Arianne. You didn’t do anything wrong. There’s nothing to be afraid of.”

When she arrived outside Mark’s car, she took a deep breath before she opened the door and climbed into the passenger seat. “I’ve taken the rest of the day off. Let’s talk when we’re home.”

Mark wore a grim expression on his face. He hit the accelerator hard all the way home. The car was speeding so fast that Arianne grabbed onto the door fearfully. He knew. It was just an innocent lunch? Why were the consequences so dire? She would not have gone for lunch if she knew it would be so bad. “Slow down! Smore will become an orphan if anything happens to us!”

Mark regained his senses when he heard her words and slowed the car down. He lifted a hand and tugged on his tie irritably. He said with a frown, “Someone came to the office and told me that my wife’s cheating on me. What am I supposed to think?”

“It’s not true,” Arianne grumbled. “You should have spoken to me first. You have to trust me. You can’t possibly trust a stranger’s words, right? Have I done anything that wronged you? If you really think so, then, I can tell you it’s all your imagination!”

Mark looked at her strangely. “When did you learn to speak in such a ridiculous manner? From Tiffany? You better explain yourself. I don’t want to fight with you in front of Smore. If you don’t, well, don’t blame me for my lack of courtesy.”

Arianne gulped. “Well… Will happened to be passing by my office. I don’t know how he found out I’m working there. He asked me for Tiffie’s number. Then, he asked me to have lunch with him. He told me that he would be leaving the country. I didn’t see anything wrong with catching up over lunch. Who knew his wife was tailing us? She stopped me in front of my office and yelled at me as soon as she saw me. Will had already left at the time so there was no one else to back up my story. I couldn’t explain myself well at the spur of the moment. However, I really didn’t do anything fishy. Yes, I used to have feelings for Will, but that’s in the past. There’s nothing wrong with having a meal with him to catch up when he returns, right? I have nothing against him, are we supposed to ignore each other forever? I’ve been very considerate of your feelings all this time.”

Mark’s expression grew increasingly unsightly as he listened to her explanation. “There was even a huge commotion in front of your office? Arianne Wynn, you’ve really done it this time. You just had to humiliate me. Would it kill you to reject lunch? It’s fine if you want to catch up, but it shouldn’t be a problem for your husband to accompany you, right? That way, you won’t get cursed at. Why the hell did you have to meet him alone? Would Will’s wife have gone to my office to kick up a fuss if she didn’t see an opportunity to do so? ‘Just passing by’? Nonsense. I’m pretty sure he had done his research. That’s how he knew where you’re working. You went for lunch with him, knowing it would upset me. How’s that being considerate of my feelings?”