Ruling 1181

Chapter 1181

After collecting the documents from the office and hailing a cab, Robin hurried to Sylvain's residence. She had been to Sylvain's residence before; although she was not familiar with the place, she was not a complete stranger to it either. As she arrived at Sylvian's doorstep, her heart began to beat rapidly. She took a few deep breaths before mustering up the courage to press the doorbell.

To her knowledge, Sylvain was living alone in a bungalow without any butlers or nannies. Robin had pressed on the doorbell for quite a while but to no avail. She figured that Sylvain might still be asleep, which was normal since it was only around ten in the morning and Sylvain was known to be a person who enjoyed the nightlife. Robin had no choice but to give Sylvain a call on his cell phone, and luckily, he had answered. When he found out that Robin was waiting for him at the door, he actually gave her the password for entering his house in a croaky voice before hanging up.

Robin felt that it was strange. When had she become so close with Sylvain that he would give her the password to enter his house so casually? The guy had actually given it to her without hesitation…

After entering the main entrance, she arrived at another door inside and inserted the same password hesitantly. The password was correct since the door opened up as well.

She took off her shoes and cautiously entered. It was night time when Robin had first been to Sylvain's bungalow and she had been in a daze as she was filled with embarrassment; hence, she did not get to have a good look at what was inside the house. However, she had managed to get a good look this time. The house looked luxurious and was customly renovated so that it looked very special, befitting for a man of Sylvain's style.

As she arrived in front of Sylvain's bedroom door, Robin knocked on the door and said, "Where should I leave the document? Mr. Yaleman instructed me to hand it to you personally…"

Sylvain's croaked voice could be heard from inside. "Come in, then."

Robin raised an eyebrow and hesitated for a moment before entering. The first thing she saw was Sylvain lying in bed. The warm light from the sun shone on him through the window, chroming him with a layer of gold brilliance and making his already handsome face even more charming. From the way his naked shoulders and arms were showing out from beneath his blanket, he was probably completely naked!

She shifted her gaze in a hurry and placed the document by his bedside table. "I"ll leave the document here. I'll be off now, bye!"

A hand suddenly held onto her waist as she turned around, and she was pulled onto the bed with a sudden force!

She spoke frantically as she struggled to wring free from Sylvain's warm body behind her. "Stop! What are you doing?"

Sylvain held onto both her arms to stop her from struggling, his breath landing on the front of her neck. "Don't you know… how dangerous a man can be when he has just woken up? You look quite nice today, your outfit suits you. It's also very… seductive…"

Robin immediately blushed. She was only wearing a skirt along with a pair of stockings. The weather was cold so there was no way she could wear something revealing. Plus, she has always been a very conservative person; what could she have that had attracted Sylvain? Robin panicked as she said, "Stop it please. I really need to go now, so let me go…"

Instead of releasing her, Sylvain turned around and got on top of her. He lowered his head, his nose almost touching hers, and his eyes passionately looked at her. “Why are you being shy? You were so… passionate that night. I feel that I should yearn for more. Why don’t we reenact the scenario again since I’m awake? I don’t think you’re that… defensive of me, are you?”

Robin gulped nervously as she closed her eyes and looked away, not daring to look at his naked body. “You’re despicable! Didn’t we agree to pretend nothing had happened? Let me go! Arianne’s still waiting for me.”

Sylvain slid his finger from her cheeks and stopped at her slender legs. He grabbed her ankles and said, “Whatever happened, happened. Do you dare to change the facts and pretend that nothing happened? Are you using Arianne to threaten me? Ask yourself, do you really have no feelings for me at all? Shall we try dating and find out?”

Chapter 1182

Robin was so confused and upset that her body trembled. She bit her lip without saying a word. She honestly didn't even know what to say. She had lost her capability to think, as she was enshrouded by Sylvain’s breath. However, one thing was very clear to her: how could she resist Sylvain’s seduction when she had literally zero experience in love and relationships?

She was no different from any typical girl. She admired Sylvain, even to the point of loving him. However, these were all just thoughts in her head. She had never thought of turning those feelings into actions, yet she was now in this situation…

Seeing that Robin no longer struggled and was silent, Sylvain boldly moved.

It wasn't until Sylvain's body moved downwards that Robin came to her senses. "You asshole…!"

Sylvain's passionate movements stopped Robin's rants as she focused on the moment. Sylvain was considered a veteran playboy, hence he was able to get any woman into the mood very quickly and very easily.

When it was over, Robin came around and swiftly put on her clothes and ran off. Sylvain's teasing voice echoed from behind her. "I suppose we're officially dating now?"

Robin's heart was still racing whilst she was on her way to see Arianne. She could not believe that she had just done the unspeakable again with Sylvain. What she found even more absurd was that she did not really detest the feeling…?

Sylvain had actually offered to be in a relationship with her. To be honest, she did not want to refuse his offer. She was completely helpless when faced with an attractive man like Sylvain and was willing to give it a shot despite knowing that she might end up heartbroken. Naturally, her desperation and curiosity about love and relationships played a part in her decision. She was not only like a toddler exploring new things in excitement. She was also like an ignorant teenager being filled with anticipation for the happiness that was to come, yet terrified of the ending of the relationship too.

Robin pretended that nothing had happened when she met up with Arianne and the others.

The group looked for a restaurant to eat and everything seemed normal thus far.

Arianne had always been very attentive to details, so she noticed that Robin's shirt was buttoned up wrongly. Her shirt was just fine before she left; how could it be wrong now, unless it had been removed prior? Arianne thought of the amount of time Robin took to deliver the document and realised that it was actually longer than expected. Arianne, seeming to have deduced something, couldn't help but raise an eyebrow and lightly whisper, "Your shirt is buttoned up wrong."

Robin nervously adjusted the buttons on her shirt with her head lowered, similar to how a child would stay silent when their mistakes had been exposed.

Using the washroom as a cover, Arianne pretended not to know anything as she asked, "So, what happened between you and Sylvain?"

Robin was so weak mentally that she confessed. "He said he wants to be in a relationship with me, but I have no idea how to reject him. I may be slightly… in love with him. I know that we're not compatible with each other, Arianne, but I really want to give it a try."

Arianne did not find it surprising. Sylvain was more than capable of attracting heaps of young ladies' attention just by standing still, so it was no wonder that Robin would have found him attractive.

Arianne paused for a while before saying, "You're a really innocent girl. I would imagine there might be a lot of hardships for you along the way, with Sylvain being your first love. You should be prepared for that. Whatever it is, you're an adult now, so you should be able to take responsibility for your actions; hence, you should just go for it if you want to. All matters aside, Sylvain really is quite the talented designer.

Chapter 1183

Robin thought that Arianne would have thought she was being foolish. "Arianne, don't you think I'm being silly and insensible? You've already told me we're not compatible together, yet I…"

Arianne sighed and said, “How should I put this to you? We’re colleagues and friends, so I’ll give you some honest advice when it comes to your private matters. However, the final decision still lies with you ultimately. When you’ve already decided in your heart that you want to be in a relationship with someone, you won’t be able to listen to any advice no matter who it comes from. Also, I can’t control your actions since you have your own independent thinking, but like I’ve said, you may not seem compatible on the outside, but you may have more in common than you think, am I right? I don’t know Sylvain well, so you should go ahead if you think it’s what you want and ignore my advice. Like I’ve said, you should make your own decisions and take responsibility for it. You’ll be fine as long as you’ve thought about it.”

Robin firmly nodded her head. “I understand, I’ll be able to take responsibility for my own decisions. Even if it doesn’t end well, I’ll accept it no matter what!”

Arianne did not comment further. The pair returned to their table and chatted with Tiffany and Summer. Tiffany was getting even more nervous as she got closer and closer to her due date, which was a common problem for most women’s first childbirth. The same had happened to Arianne as well. Arianne knew that there was nothing she could do to help Tiffany be more at ease. The child was going to be born no matter what; there was no turning back whatsoever.

Summer, on the other hand, was very nervous. “Don’t worry, Tiffany. Giving birth is something all women have to go through at some point. Arianne and I have already gone through it, so what’s there for you to be afraid of? Look at how cute Smore turned out to be. Just relax, and don’t give yourself any unnecessary pressure.”

Tiffany was still worried. “I can’t help it. I get nervous and scared every time I think about how I’m approaching my due date. I just can’t calm my fears no matter how much you try to persuade me. It doesn’t matter if it’s a boy or a girl because I don’t want to give birth anymore. It’s too stressful.”

Arianne laughed and said, “Didn’t you say that if this turns out to be a boy, you’d continue to give birth until you have a daughter? Didn’t you go on and on about wanting to be in-laws with me? What’s wrong? You’re chickening out now? It’s not like you to be like this. Didn’t you used to be fearless of everything? Are you really chickening out on giving birth now?”

Tiffany pouted her mouth and debated. “I was just joking about it; don’t take it seriously. Would I treat this as a game? It’s a good thing Jackson said he doesn’t want another one anymore. Ari, do you think I’ll go into premature labor? Recently, I keep feeling some occasional pain in my belly. What if I suddenly go into labor?”

Arianne tried her best to analyze the situation for Tiffany, “It doesn’t normally happen that way unless you’ve been careless and moved around too much. Even under normal circumstances, premature labors are quite rare. You’d have a higher chance of being delayed even. Stop worrying so much. You’ve got Summer here with you, so what’re you being afraid of?”

Summer carried on from where Arianne left off. “She’s right. What’s there to be afraid of when I’m here with you? You should just put all your focus on your baby.”

Robin saw the entire incident as she walked out of the washroom and thought about herself. She would have to have a child someday, but would it be with Sylvain… Were she and Sylvain officially in a relationship? She wasn’t sure of herself, and it all felt like a dream to her…

At night, back at the Tremont estate, Mark stopped Arianne when she was about to breastfeed Smore. He told Arianne about how he had scheduled Smore’s weaning process and how he had arranged for Mary to get some medicine for Smore for it as well.

Arianne had not expected Mark to take the matter so seriously. “Should I breastfeed him for a while longer? I don’t really want him to wean so soon.”

Mark was firm in his decision. “No need, didn’t you say that you’re tired? Either you quit your job and be a full time housewife, or he starts weaning now. He’s got to do it eventually, so what’s the point of going back on our decision now? Listen to me on this, alright?”

Chapter 1184

Arianne was worried that Smore would find it very tough during weaning and would start crying the whole night. She even started to feel a little sorry for him, but she then found out that the little guy actually enjoyed drinking milk powder. Further, he had already gotten used to drinking from a milk bottle and did not even whine at all. Everything had not gone as she imagined. There was not a trace of him weaning at all!

Arianne sighed with relief, although she was a little disheartened as well. Things had turned out for the better for her, thanks to Mark’s planning. The last string that had connected her and Smore had been broken—she no longer had to suffer from the pain of breastfeeding, nor did she need to worry if there was enough reserved milk at home…

As the weekend ended, it was time for Arianne to focus on her work again come Monday. She did not have time to think about Smore’s weaning.

Sylvain only arrived at his office around eleven in the morning as usual. On the surface, he was still just colleagues with Robin, with nothing out of the ordinary. Arianne found it strange and was worried as well, so she secretly asked Robin about it. Robin told Arianne that Sylvain had requested for them to keep it that way and not announce their relationship to anyone else in the office to avoid any unnecessary problems for himself.

Arianne thought that Robin was being very silly. “Does this mean the both of you are in an underground relationship? Do you think it’s appropriate? If he really does like you, shouldn’t he have no qualms about

letting others know about it? Sure, he's a rather well-known designer, but that doesn't make him some sort of celebrity that needs a large crowd of women to help maintain his reputation. What are you thinking? You're doing everything as he says."

Robin shook her head and said, "It's actually not a problem for me… I don't wish for this to become a problem for our relationship since we just started. It's all as long as he treats me well, which seems to be alright so far. We went on a date yesterday; we had dinner and watched a movie together. He's really quite nice…"

Arianne was at a loss for words. Robin was completely engrossed in her relationship at that moment and had literally lost all her intelligence.

When Arianne returned to her desk, Sylvain said half jokingly, "Do you have a problem with me, Mrs. Tremont?"

Arianne replied tonelessly, "No, what sort of problem would I have with you? However, I would like to remind you that Robin is my best friend in the office and also my protégé. I know that the two of you are currently in a relationship, and I hope that your reluctance to announce your relationship is not for your own selfish reasons. If I find out that you hurt her, I won't be able to sit aside and do nothing. Of course, I won't interrupt your business, nor will I bother if it's a normal breakup. However, if you happen to be a cheating asshole, I will end you."

Sylvain still had his cynical attitude as he replied, "I'm so sorry that you need to be so worried about our relationship, but rest assured, I'll be good to her. Do you want to join us for dinner tonight?"

Arianne rejected without hesitation, "If you want to have dinner, you should just do it with Robin. Why would you drag me in as well? I'm busy."

Sylvain did not say anything about the matter and returned to playing on his phone. Suddenly, Arianne found it hard to understand why the company had hired Sylvain. She had never seen him perform in the company before.

After work, Arianne noticed that Brian was picking her up as soon as she left the office. It seemed that Brian finally managed to make his blind date work out in his favour; he had spent a lot of effort on it. As Arianne got into the car, she suddenly noticed Sylvain driving off alone in his car, leaving Robin alone and disappointed by the roadside.

Chapter 1185

Arianne lowered the car window and called out to her. “Robin, come on. I’ll send you home.”

Robin put on a smile on her face, although it was forced.

In the car, Arianne casually asked, “Did Sylvain not ask you out? Why did he drive off himself?”

Robin smiled and said, “We were going to have dinner together and then he would send me home, but he got a phone call right at the last minute. When he got off the phone, he said he had something to do and went off. I can’t disturb him since it’s his work matter, right?”

Arianne did not comment. She hoped that Sylvain was really going off to work.

After she dropped Robin off at her home, Arianne asked Brian to head towards the Tremont estate. While she was at it, she asked him about his blind date. “How was your blind date? You spent quite a lot of time on this, so I suppose there should be some good news, right?”

Brian’s face was filled with happiness. “It’s alright… We’re going out at the moment, and we’ll keep going out for a while first. If we're really compatible, we’ll go to my hometown and get married. Otherwise, I’ll just continue searching for someone else. I’m usually busy with work, so I don’t have many opportunities to communicate with women. Hence, I’ve got no choice but to rely on blind dating. I might have to move out of the Tremont estate soon, as my partner has said that she will come over to our area to travel around. That way, it’ll be easier for us to meet up.”

Arianne thought that it was a good thing. “That’s fine. In fact, it’s quite appropriate actually. You should be making plans for your marriage now. Are you planning to stay here permanently? If so, you should buy a house here and build up your family instead of renting a place, am I right?”

Brian had not thought that far yet. “Let’s see as we move along. I do have enough money for the down payment, but I’m just waiting to see what she thinks about it. I won’t bother you with the details, as a commoner’s wedding is usually quite annoying. There are a lot of details that need to be sorted out, and I don’t want to bother you.”

Arianne helplessly smiled. She thought of Brian as a friend, yet he only saw her as Mrs. Tremont.

Upon reaching home, the moment she entered, Arianne realised that Mark was home. She had thought that Mark was busy at the office, hence why Brian was tasked to pick her up at her office.

Without waiting for her to greet him, Mark asked her to follow him to their room, a serious expression on his face. “Follow me, there’s something I need to tell you.”

Arianne thought that it was somewhat surprising and went to their room. Mark handed her a document and said, “There’s something wrong with Sylvain. I believe he’s the one responsible for the drugging.

Arianne’s expression turned serious as she skimmed through the document. She then realised how grave the situation was. Sylvain had actually been Jessica’s personal designer for a very long time; plus, that woman had been pestering and pressuring Mark because of the cancelled partnership brought about by the misunderstanding. Syvain’s background check clearly stated that he was under Jessica’s employment before entering Arianne’s company. Therefore, it was clear that Sylvain had a motive for joining Arianne’s company, when he had been working in a much larger company for such a long time.

Chapter 1186

Piecing the puzzle together, Arianne asked, “Are you saying that Jessica sent Sylvain after me, just to have her revenge against you?”

Mark nodded. “Do you have any other explanation? Everything was fine at the company, wasn’t it? Then Sylvain arrives and you end up being drugged.”

Arianne’s heart sank. “Then that makes sense. Only Robin and I drank Sylvain’s champagne on the night I was drugged. Robin got into trouble too. I didn’t have any evidence to prove that Sylvain was behind it at first. I asked him about it too, but he denied it. Now, it seems that Jessica goaded him into it. I may have been his target, but by pure coincidence, I left without telling him that night. In the end, he took advantage of Robin… The funniest thing is that he’s dating Robin now, probably with an ulterior motive. He’s only toying with her.”

Previously, she believed that she didn’t have the right to meddle in Sylvain and Robin’s relationship. Now, it was different. She had a responsibility for whatever happened between Robin and Sylvain. What if Robin ended up deceived? She would be to blame too. Since Sylvain had arrived with an ulterior motive, he was going to return to Jessica one day and run off to a distant country. He was never going to have a future with Robin.

She calmed down at the thought of this. “I think I’d better tell Robin as soon as possible. It has all blown up in her face because of a freakish combination of factors involving me… I can’t make the same mistake!” Then, she called Robin on the phone. Before she could speak, she heard Sylvain’s voice, “Hello? She’s in the shower. Do you need something? Perhaps she can call you back later?”

Arianne’s breath caught in her throat. She never thought that Sylvain would swoop Robin away, just as she sent her home. She forced her anger down. “That’s enough, Sylvain. I know everything.”

Sylvain fell momentarily silent, smiled and asked, “How did you find out?”

“How many things did Jessica promise you to make you agree to come all the way here, just to do her dirty work?” she growled. “I can destroy you, Sylvain. Would you believe that? Do you really think that Jessica can protect you? You’re too naive!”

Sylvain showed no signs of fear, but he confessed the truth. “Don’t get all testy. I’m just doing a job. There’s no use in throwing a tantrum at me. Isn’t it lucky that you didn’t end up falling for my trick? If you’re standing up for Robin, you can’t blame me for whatever happened either. Perhaps nothing between Robin and I would have happened if I didn’t take her home that night, but she might have gotten into something even worse. I was doing it out of kindness. What’s wrong with dating her now? If you look at it from a different point of view, I’m taking responsibility.”

“Don’t you think that you’re being extremely shameless? Aren’t you taking advantage of her by using a relationship? You’re obviously going to leave this place soon and go back to Jessica. So why act like the good guy? You never had any intention of staying with Robin anyway; you’re just using her as a tool to distract you from your loneliness. I admire you for holding on till this stage. You’re clearly rotten to the core, yet you’re still acting like you’re some sort of good guy. Birds of a feather do flock together, don’t they? You and Jessica are exactly alike! Robin is different from you. You’ve dragged the sun down from

the sky into the filthy mud. Are you happy now? A man like you will only ever look good on the surface. You don't deserve a pure-hearted girl like Robin!"

Sylvain fell silent for a few seconds on the other end of the call. "Robin will be out soon. I'm hanging up," he replied, adding a stern tone to his voice. "If you have something to say, talk it out with Jessica. It has got nothing to do with me. If I didn't do it, someone else would have done it in my place. I'll settle things between me and Robin on my own."

Arianne was still fuming when the call ended. "Why do people like him exist?"

Mark curled the corners of his lips into a small smile. "You look really special when you're angry."

She shot him an indignant yet coquettish glare. "How can you smile at a time like this? What the heck does Jessica want? Thank goodness you decided against working with her. A vengeful woman like her is terrifying. Robin is with Sylvain now, so I'll have to wait until tomorrow before explaining things to Robin. She has the right to know, regardless. Sylvain is a jerk! I wish I knew about this sooner. And I was naive enough to think that Robin should give him a try!"

Chapter 1187

Mark pulled out some data and showed it to her. "Do you really think that Sylvain managed to enjoy such a smooth-sailing career, all on his own? He's talented, it's true, but his methods in gaining his promotion weren't exactly glorious. I don't know everything, but he and Jessica have a shady relationship. Jessica's personal life is horrifyingly messy. She's well-known for her fondness of… Well, you know."

Only then did Arianne come to a realization. "So, she's taking revenge because she's in love with you?"

Mark didn't answer, but based on the revulsion in his eyes, her guess was probably correct. Arianne shivered. Jessica didn't seem pretty to her at first glance. In fact, she came off as more of a slippery character. Despite her stylish outfits, she definitely wasn't Mark's type. It was a bad sign for a woman like that to have her eye on him.

Arianne couldn't sleep well that night. She was plagued with guilt. Previously, Tiffany had been traumatized because of her. Now, Robin was experiencing something similar. She may seem fortunate, but it felt like the people around her were sapping out misfortunes in her place.

She rushed to the office first thing in the morning. Robin and Sylvain were both late, once again. Robin still hadn't replied to her message.

She had initially thought that Robin and Sylvain would arrive later, but today, it was different. The pair still didn't even show up by noon.

She realized that something was amiss when she saw the dejected look on Mr. Yaleman's face, like a shrivelled up eggplant. After some questioning, she found out that Sylvain had resigned. The man was sly enough to weasel out of signing a one year contract when he arrived so that he could leave at any time and wouldn't need to compensate for it.

Had Sylvain come clean to Robin? Did he run away, afraid that Mark would cause trouble for him?

Mark had no intentions of dealing with Sylvain. He was too busy to deal with a small fry like him. He planned on solving the root of the problem, Jessica, head-on.

Arianne called Robin a few times, but the call wouldn't connect. She planned on going to Robin's house after work and try her luck. She couldn't help worrying.

Robin finally returned her call before the end of the work day. "Arianne, I'm so sorry. My phone ran out of battery, and I haven't had the chance to charge it. I know everything. Sylvain explained it all. He did spike our drinks that night. He didn't think that he'd accidentally drag me into this… He joined our company because someone goaded him into it. I know everything… He has apologized to me. He's leaving on a plane tonight. I've forgiven him. These things happen, it's life. I'm fine, don't worry. Arianne, you have to be careful. They're targeting you."

Arianne still felt slightly upset. "I'm sorry. If only I hadn't given you that glass of champagne, then this wouldn't have happened to you in the first place."

Robin chuckled. "It's fine. I don't blame you, really. I was still quite sober when I got into Sylvain's car. I was still sober when he… kissed me too. Actually, it was consensual on my end too. I agreed to date him willingly as well. Now that he's leaving, everything will be peaceful again. I can pretend as if nothing happened. I'm going to listen to my mom and dad from now on and try my best to be a good daughter. I won't start dating so arbitrarily. I suddenly feel as if I've gotten my freedom back. Hehe…"

Robin was using her words to console both Arianne and herself. Her first relationship was so sudden, yet full of hope and promise when it began, but it ended in the blink of an eye. Anyone would be upset. Arianne wasn't sure of how to console her. She didn't know what else to say except for apologies.

After the end of the call, Arianne decided to go home early. It was a waste of time for her to stay in the office with a bad state of mind.

She waited for Mark to come home at night and asked, "What's your plan?"

Chapter 1188

Mark knew what she was asking about. “I’ve already arranged to go overseas the day after tomorrow. I will handle this. Jessica is well connected outside the country. Honestly, it won’t be easy. I’ll try my best to solve this as fairly as possible. If not, you wouldn’t mind if I resort to more… ruthless measures, would you?”

Arianne knew how malicious he could be. “I don’t. Do whatever you think is best. I’m feeling extra frustrated now. Robin had nothing to do with this in the first place, yet she ended up becoming a sacrificial lamb for no good reason. If only I had known this sooner. I wouldn’t have been so nice to Jessica when I met her!”

Mark reached up and held her shoulders. “Alright, calm down. I’ll take care of this. It’s not entirely your fault. There’s no need to blame yourself.”

Arianne’s heart ached when she saw the exhaustion in his eyes. “Okay. Get washed up and go to bed. You haven’t had enough rest lately. I’ll stop grumbling now.”

Mark planted a kiss on her forehead then headed into the bathroom while taking off his shirt. “You get an early night too.”

The next day, it was Brian who sent Arianne to the office, as Mark left first thing in the morning.

Robin arrived at the office today, as she used to do. She was like a hardworking little bee, a big change from her previously quiet demeanor. She put on exquisite makeup and had a cheerful smile on her face. Her dress style was different too. She seemed bolder and more stylish than before. She didn’t look like she had just experienced a huge loss at all.

Her current state made Arianne feel uncomfortable instead. “Robin… Are you okay?”

“I’m fine,” Robin replied with a sweet smile. “I’ve told you, Arianne, don’t worry about me. I’m all grown up now, so I can take these things. I’m not a kid anymore. I’ll carry on with my life from now on, and I’ll live it to the fullest too. It’s really alright. Go back to work. Let me know if you need any help.”

Arianne realized something—Robin had given herself a hardened shell, refusing to let anyone else see through her fragility. She decided to keep quiet. Forcing Robin to talk about it might backfire.

During their lunch together at noon, Robin suddenly asked, “Arianne, your husband isn’t going to let Sylvain or the person behind him get away with what they’ve done, is he? I know that the Tremonts are powerful…”

Arianne stopped eating and stared straight at her. “Tell me what’s on your mind. It’s alright. There’s no need for misgivings between us.”

Robin bit her lip. “Would it be possible to spare Sylvain? I know it’s not my place to ask, but you didn’t get hurt, right? Do it for me. Don’t destroy him.”

Arianne took a deep breath. “Did he ask you to beg me, or are you doing it willingly?”

“It’s all me, I want to plead his case,” Robin hurriedly explained. “He never mentioned a thing. Yes, it’s his fault for following those instructions, but it’s in the past. Let it go. After all, isn’t the person that instigated him the main culprit?”

Chapter 1189

Arianne could feel that Robin was serious about Sylvain. “Don’t worry. I know what to do. But do you know who instigated Sylvain? Do you know how they’re connected to Sylvain? Think about it, Sylvain doesn’t need money or fame. What could possibly motivate him into selling himself out? You’re still too naive. I don’t want to sully your ears with such filth, but… it’s the truth.”

Robin’s eyes flashed with a sense of disbelief and curiosity. “What… do you know? Tell me. I can take it.”

After a bout of hesitation, Arianne told her everything that she had found out. “Before he came to work with us, he worked for Jessica’s overseas company. He was also her exclusive designer. She doesn’t know much about fashion design, but she is passionate about the industry. He gained most of his success from her ‘patronage’. That’s how everything went smoothly for him. Jessica has a grudge against Mark, and she’s retaliating. Her personal life is known for its scandals. She has had inappropriate relationships with many of the male employees in her company. You can probably figure out if anything happened between her and Sylvain. The villa that Sylvain stayed in during his stint in this country? That was a gift from Jessica.”

All of this clearly exceeded Robin’s expectations. Her face gradually drained of color. “So you’re saying that… Sylvain and Jessica?”

Arianne nodded. “They’re from the same circles. It’s too easy to find that out. I don’t slander willfully. I won’t make claims without confirming the facts. Actually, Sylvain may seem like he’s infinitely well-off on the surface, but there’s nothing enviable about him. He is worlds away from a pure and innocent girl like you. I would never have let him near you if I had known all of this sooner. Some people cannot be judged from the surface. They may seem beautiful, but deep down, they’re filthy to the core.”

The truth was a huge blow to Robin. She remained speechless for a long time. The dishes on the table lost their warmth and had gone cold. They were now difficult to swallow.

Arianne sighed. “Robin, it’s fine. You’re an amazing girl. You’ll definitely find someone who’s even better, someone who deserves you. This matter is closed. Don’t dwell on it any more.”

Robin grew teary-eyed. “Now, I know how small the world I’ve lived in really is. I’ve been living in the light for too long and can’t even recognize darkness. It’s kind of hard to accept this sudden information. I used to hate my parents for controlling and restricting me in every single aspect. Now, I understand that they were just trying to protect me. They’ve protected me so well that I’ve never experienced true hurt. And yet, I’ve been so ungrateful, hating them and accusing them for being annoying.”

Arianne pulled out a piece of tissue paper and gave it to her. “There’s a lot you don’t know. You’ll get through it. Mark will be meeting Jessica tomorrow. He’ll deal with her. He probably won’t trouble Sylvain in any way. He wouldn’t have let Sylvain leave the country so easily if he wanted to. Don’t worry.”

Robin nodded gently. “Arianne, I’m not feeling too well. I don’t want to go to the office like this. Can I take the afternoon off? Mr. Yaleman is in a bad mood because of Sylvain’s resignation. He definitely won’t let me have the day off. Will you ask him for me?”

Arianne agreed without hesitation. It was a good idea for Robin to have some time alone under these circumstances. This messy affair should be at an end now.

The next day, Mark flew overseas as planned.

Once the plane landed, he had his staff arrange his hotel accommodations, then went straight to Jessica's office. He didn't want to waste too much time here.

Jessica had been keeping an eye on him, so she knew his every move very well. She had specifically left instructions for her security guards to stop him.

Chapter 1190

Mark had brought his own bodyguards this time. Just as his bodyguards were about to get into a scuffle with her security, Sylvain stepped out. "Here to make a public denouncement? You move really fast. Jessica has left instructions—we're not allowed to let you in immediately. She holds grudges. Wasn't she barred from entering your office when she went to see you?"

Mark stared at him with contempt. "Does she really think that I won't be able to get in?"

A flippant smile hung on the corners of Sylvain's face. "She's stupid. I'm not." Then, he waved the security guards at the door away. The security guards immediately stood aside.

Mark led his bodyguards inside with a deadpan look on his face. It was clear that Sylvain's relationship with Jessica was more than "inappropriate," as he could do whatever he pleased in her office. It must be very special too.

Sylvain casually followed Mark into the elevator. "What are you planning?"

Mark didn't answer. His expression turned even more grim.

Sylvain clicked his tongue. “You really are a snob. How does Arianne tolerate a big block of ice like you?”

His ridicule failed to garner any of Mark’s attention, so he chose to keep his mouth shut.

When they arrived at Jessica’s office, Mark’s bodyguards crudely burst into the door. Jessica, who was touching up her makeup, was startled. She immediately understood the situation when she saw Sylvain and Mark walking in together. However, she did not reproach. “That was fast. It was particularly difficult for me to get into your office, but you barged into mine so easily.”

Mark strode towards a nearby couch and sat down. His eyes gleamed with a clear cold light. “What do you want?”

Jessica got up and sat on the couch across from his. Her eyes burned with her need for him. “What do you think I want? Don’t you know what it is? This is my first time falling head over heels for a man. The more unobtainable he is, the more captivated I am. I want you. I will do anything, resort to every trick in the book to have you. Besides, you started it. I don’t care if it was a misunderstanding. You’re going to have to pay for your mistake.”

Mark’s face filled with loathing. “You disgust me.”

Jessica didn’t mind his attitude. She pulled out a cigarette and lit it, then deliberately puffed at him. Her eyes filled with need. “Isn’t that a good thing? Your disgust towards me makes you think of me. Isn’t that right? Perhaps you might get fed up one day? Then the world will be at peace again. If you keep hanging my appetite in suspense like that, no one will ever be happy. What should we do then? I’ve met

so many men before. You're the first one who has ever made my eyes light up and drawn me into stubborn pursuit."

Mark tried to breathe in as little as possible. At this very moment, he hated the smell of cigarettes, probably because he was faced with Jessica. He even decided never to touch cigarettes again. "Who gave you the confidence to think that you could stand a chance in a fight against me? I ignored you in the past because I saw no need for it. Now, it seems that I'm forced to deal with a troublesome thing like you."