Ruling 1251

Chapter 1251

The elevator arrived on the ground floor with a ‘ding’.

Arianne was the first to step out of the elevator, and Tiffany ran to catch up to her. She discreetly gave Arianne a thumbs-up and said, “Ari, that was f*cking awesome. So cool!”

A hint of exhaustion could be seen on Arianne’s face when they entered the car. “Today’s sketching session failed again. Tiffie, when are you going back to work?”

Tiffany strapped on her seatbelt. “Tomorrow, I think. My baby isn’t with me anyway, and I’m getting bored. I should make sure my schedule is packed so I don’t get lazy. Where are you going? Wanna go shopping?”

Arianne shook her head. “I’m a little tired. Let’s call it a day. We’ll meet up again when you have the time. Drop me off at the office. I have something to deal with.”

Tiffany was concerned when she saw the absent-minded expression on Arianne’s face. “You’ve already fired Janice, maybe you should drop the matter? Or… Are you planning to confront Mark again tonight? It doesn’t seem like Jackson’s lying. It probably has nothing to do with Mark. I think you did well firing her. Otherwise, she’d only cause trouble sooner or later. You said it yourself, Mark is usually very cold and distant. It’s strange that he even had a drink with Janice.”

Arianne remained silent for a few moments before she replied, “Yes, it’s strange. But that’s not the only abnormal thing here. Back when Mark brought Smore to the office, he let Janice babysit him. Smore is a very quiet baby, but he waves his arms and legs around in delight when Janice is around. This makes me

most uncomfortable. Now, it's all over. I won't pick a fight with Mark. There's no need to overturn the house over an unimportant person. Now, we can have a fresh start. Tiffie, sometimes you really should use your brain. If anyone sends you these kinds of pictures with an anonymous number again, stay calm instead of flying off the handle. Think about who that person is and why they're trying to sow discord between you and Jackson."

Tiffany fell into a daze. "Who could it be? I can't figure it out. You're so smart, can you think of anyone? You're right, though. Who could that anonymous number belong to? Why would they send me such a thing?"

The first person Arianne thought of was Alejandro. Alejandro was the only suspicious one. However, she could not tell Tiffany that. "I'm not as smart as you think. I can't figure it out either. Forget it. There are too many people who have been secretly trying to screw you over."

During the journey back to the office, Arianne suddenly received a message from Sylvain, inviting her to meet up with him and discuss designs. Since she was fretting over her lack of inspiration, she said to Tiffany, "Wait, I'm not going back to the office. I'm meeting someone instead. Take me to that café downtown."

"You should have said something earlier," Tiffany pouted as she grumbled, "Now I have to turn around again. Dropping you off is easy, but I'll be stuck in a jam when I go home. I might die in that jam."

Arianne smiled. "Okay, I'll buy you a meal next time. You can have whatever you want. You decide. Will that do?"

A smile crept onto Tiffany's face. "That's much better. I'll clean out your pockets next time. You can afford it anyway."

Arianne surveyed her surroundings when she arrived at the café. She walked toward Sylvain when she spotted him. “What’s up? Did you get inspired?”

Sylvain showed her his sketchbook. “Look at my sketch. Hopefully, your criticism won’t give me a creative block.”

Arianne took the sketchbook and studied it carefully. Honestly, every single design from Sylvain was dazzling. They suited Arianne’s aesthetics. They were inspiring. Some people were just naturally gifted. “Not bad. Looks like leaving Jessica has reignited your fighting spirit. What do you plan on doing with this? You didn’t just sketch this for fun, right? You can use these as an entry to a competition. But your current situation…”

Chapter 1252

Sylvain smiled. “I know. Regardless of how great my designs are, no one would dare to accept them. There’s another reason why I asked to see you. Can you sell my sketches on my behalf? Money is a little tight right now.”

Arianne was surprised. Sylvain had actually asked for her help. This was equivalent to baring his naked soul before her. Sylvain was willing to beg her, and yet, he would not show his vulnerable side to Robin. In all honesty, his decision was right. No one would suspect a thing if she sold the sketches. After all, the buyers would think they bought it from Mrs. Tremont. They would not think that it was Sylvain’s designs. After considering it, she agreed. “I’ll give it a try. How much do you want to sell them for? Only established companies would buy these designs, and big companies would be able to pay the right price. However, it won’t be much. If it weren’t for Jessica’s scandal, there’d be plenty of people trying to hire you…”

Sylvain shrugged. “I can accept facts. I’m not going to pine over my days of glory. Humans have tens of thousands of ways to survive. You can decide on the price. I’m fine with anything. I’ll give you a 30% commission so don’t undersell it.”

Arianne put the sketches away in her bag. “I don’t want a commission. Mark can afford paying for me. I’m helping you because Robin likes you.”

Sylvain lowered his gaze at the mention of Robin, concealing the despair in his eyes. “I know… Sorry for making you do this.”

…

When Arianne returned home that night, she showed Sylvain’s designs to Mark. “How much would you pay for these designs?”

Mark stared at the sketches for a few seconds and replied, “These are Sylvain’s designs, aren’t they? He has a very unique style. I’ve seen it before.”

Arianne nodded. “That’s right. He’s short on money recently and asked me to help him sell these. He has no one else to turn to.”

Mark cocked an eyebrow. “If he had succeeded in his plan to drug you, this would have been an entirely different situation. Taking into consideration that Jessica had instigated it, nothing happened to you, his help with overthrowing Jessica, and my appreciation for true talent, I won’t mind the past. I’ll pay five-figure for this design. Ask him for consent.”

Arianne asked tentatively, “Are you sure you don’t mind the past? Don’t you think the price is a little too low? He used to be a world-renown fashion designer before the scandal.”

Mark stared at her with narrowed eyes. “Are you helping an outsider to swindle your husband’s money? No one would dare accept his designs apart from me. This price is his current net worth. It’s entirely up to him to accept this or not. No other companies would buy his designs. His designs aren’t worth a single cent now.”

Arianne sighed. “Fine. I’ll ask him later.”

Mark was feeling apprehensive. She had only mentioned Sylvain and did not mention Janice at all. Should she not be interrogating him? Was it all over just because Janice was fired?

Arianne looked up and saw the pensive expression on Mark’s face. She asked, “What’s on your mind? Your son has been calling for you. Shouldn’t you give him some attention?”

Chapter 1253

After that, Mark finally returned to his senses. He turned around to discover Aristotle standing next to him, tugging on his shirt. He called out in faintly discernible pronunciations, “Papa! Papa!” Upon seeing this, the frosty expression on Mark’s face melted away and was replaced with a gentle expression. He scooped Aristotle into his arms. “Why are you looking for me? Dinner will be ready soon. Are you hungry?”

Aristotle suddenly wrapped his arms around Mark’s neck and kissed him on the cheek, leaving trails of saliva on his face. Mark was surprised. “You’re rarely so affectionate to me. Did you drink spoiled milk today? You’re acting out of character.”

The corners of Arianne's lips twitched. "It's not that. He just drank milk, and his mouth hasn't been wiped clean. He couldn't stand it so he wiped his mouth on your face. There's a stain on your shirt as well."

Mark's expression darkened immediately. "And I was wondering what's wrong with him. Forget it. You're my son so I'll forgive you just this once."

After dinner, Mark took Aristotle to play in the courtyard. He had built a small playground to entertain Aristotle. Slides, swings, it had everything. The courtyard was previously empty. They finally put it to good use.

Meanwhile, Arianne informed Sylvain about the price of his designs. She thought he would refuse to sell his work for such a low price. To her surprise, he agreed without any hesitation. Based on this, she believed he was truly short of money. She could not help but feel like Mark was profiting off his misfortune. However, she knew Mark had his reasons for doing things. Moreover, ultimately, Sylvain had the last say. It was a reasonable and fair deal.

Mark gave the money to Arianne immediately and told her to transfer it to Sylvain. He did not follow the company's procedure. Otherwise, they would have to wait until the next day.

When Arianne gave Sylvain the money, he gave her a 30% commission just as he had said. She did not want it so she sent him a message. "Keep the money. The payment isn't that great anyway. I don't need the money."

Sylvain did not reply, and Arianne did not care.

The next day, Arianne received a shock when she arrived at the office. Sylvain had passed the money to Robin and asked Robin to pass it to her. It seemed like Sylvain was quite stubborn.

Robin was overflowing with gratitude when she heard that Arianne had helped Sylvain. “Thank you for helping him out, Arianne. He wouldn’t have sold his designs if it weren’t for you. Since he insists on paying you, you should just accept it. It would make him feel better at least.”

Arianne sighed. “Fine, I’ll accept it then. Since he even asked you to pass the money to me, I’m sure he’d only come up with other ways to make me accept it if I refuse. Do you know why he’s so short on cash? He didn’t tell me.”

Robin shook her head. “I don’t know either. He won’t tell me these things. He’s quite stubborn. Maybe it’s an ego thing. Arianne, I’d like to buy you dinner tonight. Are you free?”

Arianne had nothing going on that night so she agreed. “Sure. I said that I’d buy you a meal previously so it’ll be my treat.”

“No, no, no,” Robin quickly said, “I’m paying this time. First of all, I’d like to thank you for helping him. He’s been through a lot. You’re not close to him, but you helped him anyway.”

Arianne was at a loss for words. How could she let Robin pay for dinner? Sylvain did not even confirm their relationship. She was afraid that Robin’s sincerity would only amount to nothing in the end.

After work, Arianne called Mark to inform him that he did not need to pick her up from work since she would be eating out. She went to a nearby restaurant with Robin.

Once they found a seat, Robin received a call. Her expression brightened immediately. “Arianne, my mom isn’t mad at me anymore. She said that I’m old enough that she shouldn’t be controlling me all the time. She actually admitted her mistake and said she would change! This is the first time something like that has ever happened. I can finally move back home.”

Chapter 1254

“That’s great,” Arianne replied, “Your mom finally admits that you’re not a kid anymore.”

Robin smiled like an innocent child. Even her eyes were shining. “Arianne, you can have whatever you want. I just received my salary so there’s no need to hold back.”

Regardless, Arianne only picked two dishes. The two of them could not possibly eat that much anyway.

In the midst of their casual conversation, Arianne suddenly asked, “About Sylvain, did he clarify things with you when he contacted you?”

Robin shook her head. “He only contacted me to give you the money. He didn’t mention it at all. It’s his first time contacting me since that night. It’s fine. He didn’t force me to help him. I still think he’s an amazing person even though everything had blown up in his face. I don’t think I deserve him anyway. It’s good as long as we can stay friends. I’m doing my best to become as amazing as he is! If he ends up with someone else, I’ll give up and stay away from him.”

Arianne sighed. “You silly goose. There’s no such thing as who deserves whom when it comes to love. It all boils down to feelings. People with feelings for each other will always find a way to be together. Those that don’t will only try to see things through rose-tinted glasses.”

Robin’s face shone with admiration. “Wow, Arianne, you’re really wise. Have you been in many relationships before? I mean, you seem really knowledgeable about relationships.”

“No, I haven’t,” Arianne replied sheepishly, “I didn’t really date much. Moreover, Mark and I bypassed the dating phase and went straight to marriage. There used to be a guy whom I liked, but he separated us.”

Robin was confused. “Huh? Th-then… then, are you happy with Mr. Tremont?”

After some thought, Arianne replied, “We do have feelings for each other, and they seem pretty deep. We have a foundation of more than ten years, is that strong enough? I don’t know if we’re happy or not, but it feels fine. At least, he’s good to me.”

Both women went their separate ways after dinner.

Arianne realized that Mark was not at home when she returned to Tremont Estate. Thankfully, she told him not to pick her up. He was probably still working at the office right now.

Before she could catch her breath, Aristotle dragged her to play with him on the slide in the courtyard. He was babbling away. She felt helpless. Mark was good at catering to Aristotle’s interests. He had built so many fun things. Aristotle’s favorite seemed to be the slide. He would insist on playing on it a few times every day before he was satisfied.

As she carried him to the slide, Aristotle pouted and continuously mumbled, “Papa!” She felt slightly jealous. “Hey, you refused to kiss mommy, but you remember playing on the slide with papa? Papa’s busy. He doesn’t have time for you right now.”

Suddenly, they heard the sound of a car from outside. Aristotle abandoned the slide and tottered over to the direction of the sound. “Papa! Papa!”

Mark alighted from the car, bent down, and opened his arms wide.

Aristotle threw himself into Mark’s arms, his expression was one of glee.

Unbeknownst to Arianne, the corners of her lips curved upward when she witnessed that heart-warming scene.

Chapter 1255

Brian parked the car and walked forward. He sincerely praised Aristotle. “Aristotle is so cute! He’s going to be a heartbreaker when he grows up!”

“Do you like kids? Hurry up and get one,” Arianne said teasingly, “When’s your wedding? You’ve moved out for so long now, any new developments?”

Brian, a fully-grown man, blushed. “Don’t tease me, madam. It’s still too early for me. There’s no rush to get married so I’ll take my time. You’ll be the first to know if anything good happens. I’ll be on my way now. I’ll come over tomorrow morning.”

After entertaining Aristotle for a while, Mark said, “I’m going to shower. You play with him. I didn’t intend on working overtime, but I changed my mind when you told me you didn’t need me to pick you up.”

Arianne took Aristotle and mumbled, “Even if you’re busier than me, Smore still likes you better. I spend more time with him. Is he attracted to members of the same sex?”

Mark raised his eyebrows and wryly said, “Probably. Unfortunately, you’ll never be able to change that. Come upstairs later. I need to talk to you.”

Strangely, she would always feel nervous whenever he told her that he needed to talk to her. Perhaps, it was because they usually meant bad news.

She waited until he was nearly done with his shower before she carried Aristotle upstairs.

Mark happened to emerge from the bathroom at the same time. His hair was still dripping water. The water droplets slid off the tip of his nose. It was an indescribably attractive sight.

Arianne quickly averted her gaze and cleared her throat before she asked, “What do you want to talk about? If it’s bad news, you can forget it. I don’t feel like hearing it.”

Mark did not know if he should laugh or cry. “Do I look like the harbinger of bad news to you? Sylvain’s designs became the highlight of this year’s fall collection. He has an accurate perception with trends. I’ve underestimated his creative talent. I’m eager to hire him.”

Arianne was surprised. “You’ve made one of his designs the highlight of a collection? Wow… Sylvain is really talented. You can hire him right now if you’re so eager.”

Mark shook his head. “There’s no rush. Jessica’s scandal has only just happened. It’s still a critical time. If I hire him now, I’d have to shoulder quite a lot of pressure. Wait for the scandal to pass, then I’ll have public relations reinvent his image. No fashion designer under my company can have a smudge of taint in their histories. At the very least, it has to seem that way on the surface. He’s worth my patronage.”

It seemed like Mark had everything planned out. Arianne could only hope Sylvain was telling the truth and that he had only been delaying to confirm things with Robin because of his awkward circumstances. He had better give Robin a good explanation once Mark helped him.

After a while, she recalled the picture and asked, “Who do you think sent Tiffie and me that picture?”

Mark stared at her for a long time before he finally replied, “I thought you’d never ask. It’s quite obvious, do I have to say it? Only Alejandro would do such a thing. I’ve investigated the matter, his men followed Jackson and me into the bar. These are all small issues. No need to worry.”

“Then, you have no problems with me dismissing Janice?” Arianne asked with a tinge of sulkiness in her voice.

He narrowed his eyes, lifted his hand, and cupped her chin. “Why would I have a problem with that? Do you want me to have a problem with that? I did say that I’d dismiss her if you’re unhappy. Didn’t you disagree at that time, saying there’s no reason to dismiss her? In the end, you did it anyway. My Ari’s all grown up now. She knows how to get jealous as well.”

Arianne lifted her face slightly. Her eyes ended up on his Adam’s apple. Her cheeks flushed red immediately. She swatted his hand away and said, “Smore is here. I’m going to play with him a little longer. He should be sleeping soon.”

Chapter 1256

He looked at Aristotle who was in her arms and paused for two seconds before he called out to Mary who was downstairs, “Mary, take Smore downstairs for a while!”

Arianne knew what Mark was thinking. However, she still let Mary take Aristotle away for some strange reason.

Once the door was closed, he reached out and pulled her into his arms. He looked into her eyes passionately. “What? It’s already come to this, and you’re still so aloof. Try to take the initiative sometimes… Okay?”

His scent enveloped her, and her breathing quickened. “Mary can’t coax Smore at night. He’ll be looking for me soon…”

Mark lifted his hand and gently brushed her lips with his thumb. “Based on your tone, you see this as an obligatory chore. Haven’t you thought of it before?”

Her arms and legs refused to listen to her. Her mind was in a haze. Her heart pounded against her chest as she looked into his eyes. “I… No…”

He gently curled his lips before he lowered his head and caught her lips. He liked the helpless and nervous expressions on her face whenever she was faced with the prospect of sex. He liked the way she blushed and averted her eyes like a teenage girl. He liked slowly tearing down her calm and indifferent exterior. It gave him a sense of achievement.

He was completely prepared, and Arianne lost in the end.

She mumbled in a small voice, “I think I hear Smore crying…”

Mark gently kissed her lips. “I can hear him whenever he cries. Are you rushing me?”

She bit her lips and pounded her fists against his chest. “Can you… not be so mischievous? Is teasing me so fun?”

“Yes, it is,” he replied without skipping a beat.

She refused to yield no matter what. She pushed him away and moved to put on her clothes to leave.

He pulled her back before she could even touch the clothes on the floor. This time, he no longer continued teasing her, and finally extinguished the long-ignited flames. Those things took time. He would wait for her to let go of her own volition.

The next morning.

Arriane arrived in the office early in the morning. The weather was gloomy, and it seemed like it was going to rain so she did not go out to sketch.

Robin arrived much later. She looked as though she had been up all night. She had eyebags and dark circles. She looked haggard.

Arianne was confused. Did Robin not move back home? Mrs. Cox had compromised. Logically, they should not have gotten into a fight so soon. Moreover, based on her observations, Robin had always had very orderly habits. She was not the type to stay up all night like young people her age. She asked, “What’s wrong? Didn’t you sleep well last night?”

Chapter 1257

It was clear that Robin had something on her mind. She said through gritted teeth, “My mom was lying when she said she’ll compromise. She was just trying to get me to go home so she can find out about Sylvain. She even went as far as looking through my phone when I wasn’t looking. She looked him up online and even found a picture of him. When she found out about the incident with Jessica, she actually called him up and scolded him! She called him a disgusting womanizer and warned him to stay away from me… We argued until midnight. The entire family had little to no sleep. If my dad didn’t step in and help me because he thought my mom was going too far, I doubt I would’ve been able to leave the house.”

Arianne could not imagine the amount of hurt Robin's mom had inflicted on her. Moreover, Robin's mom's actions also hurt Sylvain. The already-weak ties between Robin and Sylvain had probably weakened even more because of this. It might even be completely broken at this point. "If that's the case, then, your mom has really gone too far. There's no need for her to take things so seriously because of her actions."

Robin's eyes reddened. "Well, I hope she's happy now. When I tried calling Sylvain to explain the situation, he completely ignored my call. He only sent me a text message telling me not to contact him again. I know what kind of person Sylvain is, but my mom doesn't… She has always controlled everything I do since I was a child. She has always compared me to other children, and I'm not allowed to be even slightly different from what she thinks is right. As soon as I do something that's out of her expectations, she would think I've humiliated her and nag me for days. One time, I was so afraid of going home because I placed third in class. She, naturally, expected me to place first. After all these years, this is the first time I managed to muster up my courage to go against her. However, she blames it all on Sylvain. She thinks he's a bad influence on me and changed me into a bad person. She's blaming someone else and refuses to believe that I'm doing this out of my own will."

Arianne could somewhat empathize with Robin's feelings. At the same time, she could not say she understood Robin completely since she had not experienced anything like that. Helen was not around ever since she was a child so no one tried to control her or lecture her. Arianne's father had always been optimistic and lenient. Even if she placed last in the class, he would only smile and not reprimand her. He had said nothing else mattered as long as she was healthy and happy.

Arianne grabbed a few sheets of tissues and passed it to Robin. "Wipe off your tears, and let's return to work. Cheer up. At the very least, we know that your mom has your best interest in her heart like all mothers do. Try looking at it from another angle. You've always been obedient and have never gone against work all these years. Now that you suddenly changed, it's only normal for her to find it strange and blame it on someone else. Give her some time. Wait for her anger to subside and figure things out. I have a feeling Sylvain would be able to prove your mom wrong so there's no need to rush things. Now, hurry up back to work. Mr. Yaleman is going to lecture you if he finds out you're not working."

Robin took a deep breath and composed herself before returning to her desk.

In the afternoon, Arianne received a text message from Sylvain. “Are you free for lunch later? I’ve been hit with inspiration. We haven’t been able to talk much when I asked for your help previously.”

Arianne glanced at Robin before she replied. “Would you mind if I bring company?”

Sylvain’s reply came almost immediately. “Is it Robin? I don’t think that’s a good idea. Things are quite awkward between us at the moment. I’m sure she has told you about it. I think it’s best if I don’t further agitate the situation. I don’t want her to fight with her family because of me.”

Arianne dismissed the idea that appeared in her mind when she read Sylvain’s reply. She planned to get both of them to talk things out. They should not end their relationship just because of Robin’s mom’s misguided views.

When it was almost lunchtime, Arianne prepared to head out to meet Sylvain.

At that moment, Robin walked up to her and asked, “Arianne, are you going out for lunch? Do you want to have lunch together? I have to talk to you about something. It’s been stuck in my chest, and I feel really bad. I won’t be able to work without getting it off my chest.”

Arianne took a deep breath before she replied, “About that… I have a lunch date. I’m really sorry, but is it okay if we talk after lunch?"

Chapter 1258

Robin was slightly disappointed. “Alright, then... Arianne, you… you’re not avoiding me because of what my mom said about you, right? I didn’t mean for that to happen, I really couldn’t stop her from saying those things.”

Arianne hastily said, “It’s nothing like that. I’m not trying to avoid you. You’re overthinking things. Go for lunch, I’ll be back as soon as I can.”

Robin nodded, and both of them left the office together.

Arianne truly did not expect Sylvain to drive to the office and wait for her at the entrance. She looked around and sighed in relief when she saw Robin was nowhere to be seen. “Hurry up, let’s go. Robin’s right behind me. It won’t be good if she sees us here. She invited me to lunch, but I had no choice but to refuse since you don’t want to see her.”

Sylvain nodded and drove off with Arianne.

Unbeknownst to both of them, Robin had seen everything. She had quickly hidden herself when Arianne turned back to see if she was around. She did not understand why Arianne hid the fact that she was having lunch with Sylvain. That dealt a huge blow to her, causing her to feel even lonelier during her weakest moments.

After ordering their food at the cafe, Sylvain began to discuss the latest fashion trends with Arianne. His opinions and ideas were truly a cut above the rest.

Arianne listened to him attentively and had nothing but praise for him. “Mark thinks that your designs are quite decent.”

Sylvain said with a sigh, “What’s the use of that? In the end, I still need to rely on you to sell my designs. I feel bad having to always ask for your help, but I think I’m about to become a ghost designer.”

A ghost designer was someone who publicized their designs under someone else’s name.

Arianne thought Sylvain would probably have to be like that for the next few years if nothing changed. She intended to keep what she knew to herself, but when she saw how dejected he was and how he was doubting himself, she could not help but say, “It’s not as bad as you think. Mark intends to hire you permanently.”

A look of surprise flashed across Sylvain’s face. “What did you say? How’s that possible? Everyone is avoiding me as though I’m a plague. No matter how influential the Tremonts are, it’s impossible for them to completely change everyone’s minds. The bigger the company, the more importance they place on their reputation. Are you trying to console me?”

Arianne looked at him. “Do I seem like the type to care about someone else so much? I won’t say meaningless words just to console another person. It’s up to you to believe me or not. The Mark I know wouldn’t carelessly say things he doesn’t mean. Since he said he’s going to hire you, he would, naturally, have his way to protect his company’s reputation. Mark isn’t the type to watch talent go to waste. If he encounters someone with potential, he would not care about trivialities and the public’s opinion.”

A glimmer of hope appeared on Sylvain’s face. “I thought my life’s over. I didn’t expect to be given a chance like this. Thank you, Arianne. If you didn’t present my designs to Mark, I wouldn’t be given this kind of opportunity.”

Arianne did not take credit for that. “It has nothing to do with me. Mark noticed your designs long before I showed them to him. He likes your style. He just didn’t have a chance to speak to you before this. As for the employment, you’ll probably have to wait until your scandal quiets down. In the meantime, if you’re strapped for cash, you can sell your designs to Mark. I don’t want any commission for it. After all, you’re going to be employed by the Tremonts and become our designer soon.”

Chapter 1259

Sylvain smiled. “Alright, I look forward to working together in the future. Also, I feel that I should really apologize for that matter where I drugged you...”

Arianne shrugged. “You didn’t have a choice, right? It was all due to Jessica’s heavy influence on you in the past. From now on, just do your best. I’m sure your life is going to be better than it was before. However, there’s something I’m curious about… Once you get back on your feet, do you have any plans regarding Robin?”

Sylvain’s smile froze as his expression turned gloomy. After a moment, he said, “What plans can I have? I don’t even know how to face her and her family. In my opinion, relationships are sacred. First, both parties would have to love each other. Second, both parties should date with the goal of getting married in the future. Third, the relationship has to have the blessing of both parties’ parents. All three conditions are important, and none can be left out. After being influenced by Jessica for so many years, I’ve already forgotten what I’m like in the past, but it’s most definitely not who I am now. I remember the first time I met Jessica, I was so scared I couldn’t even open my mouth… If it were in the past, I would definitely not hesitate, do you know what I mean? I want to be in a serious relationship that leads to marriage. I want to be with the girl I love and receive and everyone’s blessing. Unfortunately, I don’t think I’m that lucky. Robin’s a good girl, but she’s not suitable for me. I had only gotten together with her previously because she seems different from other women. She’s innocent and pure. She… became a part of my inspiration. In any case, I don’t want her to fight with her parents and be with me just so I can gain inspiration from her. At this moment, I can’t promise her anything.”

Arianne cocked an eyebrow. “Based on your words, it seems like your intention is noble. However, why do I feel you just don’t love her enough? You were with her because of your career?”

Sylvain laughed mockingly. “Did you see how disappointed I was when I decided to give up on her? It is possible that I don’t love her enough, but it definitely isn’t because I don’t love her. I don’t have the confidence. I’m afraid I’ll mess things up. I know everyone thinks I benefited a lot from Jessica. However, no one knows how much I hate her. She destroyed me.”

Arianne understood what Sylvain was saying and remained silent. She knew Sylvain was not talking about reputation when he said Jessica destroyed him. It was much worse than that. Jessica had corrupted him, and destroyed his life and love life.

After lunch, Sylvain dropped Arianne back at the office entrance since it was drizzling. Before Arianne alighted from the car, Sylvain said, “Please don’t mention anything about me to Robin, she’ll eventually forget about me as time passes. Let’s just consider it as me letting her down.”

Arianne nodded and ran into the office after getting out of the car. Her hair was slightly damp from the rain.

Suddenly, a hand appeared in front of her, holding a few sheets of tissue. She accepted it and looked up to express her gratitude when she discovered that Robin was the one who handed them to her. She felt her heart sink. “Did you… see Sylvain sending me back?”

Robin stared at her. “Yes, why didn’t you just tell me directly? Did he tell you not to? Does he really have to go so far?”

Arianne raised an eyebrow. “It’s not what you think…”

However, before Arianne could finish her words, Robin, clearly agitated, burst into tears. “Then, what is it?! Do you know what’s running through my mind?! It doesn’t matter. Both of you belong in the same world so both of you can go and talk about anything you want. I won’t fool myself any longer!”

Chapter 1260

When Robin finished speaking, Arianne turned around and left. She was frustrated. In the first place, she did not want to get involved in Robin and Sylvain’s matter. She was not a saint and did not want to have anything to do with them, but she was constantly being dragged into their mess. As expected, there was nothing she could do anyway.

Robin did not pay Arianne any attention the entire afternoon. She did not speak to Arianne like how she usually would.

Arianne knew Robin had to be feeling extremely dejected, but she did not intend to explain herself. It was better to let Robin calm down first before she said anything.

However, out of Arianne’s expectation, she received news the next day that Robin had resigned. Robin even left a letter saying she decided to listen to her mother and follow her arrangements for another job. After such a difficult struggle, it seemed like Robin had given up on standing up to her mother and returned to being an obedient child.

Arianne felt guilty. She did not expect things to turn out that way. She knew how much Robin loved her job. Despite being constantly bullied in the beginning, Robin endured and did not leave the company even with all the hardships she had to go through. Robin was always the first to arrive at work, and she had always worked hard.

Arianne tried calling Robin’s cell phone number, but the number was longer in use. After thinking about it for a moment, she sent Sylvain a text message, detailing what had happened. However, Sylvain did not

reply to her message. He probably did not know what to say. After all, both he and Robin had decided to forget about each other and their time together and carry on with their own lives.

…

After a month, Sylvain and Jessica's incident finally died down.

Mark officially hired Sylvain. Mark even asked the Department of Human Resources to draft a clean slate agreement regarding Jessica's matter that included a video of Sylvain.

In the video, Sylvain wore a sad expression as he faced the camera. "I've known Jessica for a long time. I was a shy young boy when I first met her and couldn't even talk to her because I was so nervous. When she said she loved me, I thought she wanted to date seriously with the goal of getting married in the future. I was innocent and naive, at that time, I had all these wonderful imaginations of a happy life. It wasn't until later that I discovered she was the same way to every other man. I was just one of her victims. I was the one who reported her and published the evidence that I'd been gathering. I had wanted to end the relationship a long time ago, but she kept threatening me with a contract that I had signed with her company that stated I needed to remain under her employment for ten years, otherwise I would need to pay a huge sum of money as penalty.

She had planned out everything meticulously. At that point, we no longer had an intimate relationship. I'd also lost all my delusions about our relationship the moment I discovered she treated me like the other men she had toyed with. People might think I'm throwing her under the bus after I benefited from her. However, the truth is that I no longer wanted to be controlled by her. In fact, all those years, she had been taking advantage of me. I received very little in return. For this reason, my conscience is clear. The best thing to happen to me in my life is to be able to escape from that nightmare."

It would probably be insufficient for the public to forgive Sylvain with just those words alone. However, since he had been hired by Tremont Enterprise, no one had any reason to doubt his words.

The public's opinion gradually turned. Many publications put out articles about Sylvain's coming clean and being given a clean slate. Who knew if it was due to Tremont Enterprise pulling strings from behind the scenes? However, one thing was for certain; Sylvain had regained his former glory all thanks to Mark.

On the other hand, during the past month, Robin was nowhere to be seen and heard. Arianne had hoped that Robin had only disappeared on impulse and would somehow reappear again. However, as time passed, she realized Robin was not coming back to the office.