Ruling 1361

Chapter 1361

He was the one who left Tiffany. Why would he regret it when things would never return to the way they were? Such regrets were laughable. It was because he was unable to leave his old relationship behind that Melanie's existence was considered a hindrance. It did not matter if he was Ethan or Alejandro, Melanie had appeared at the wrong time.

It was not known how much time had passed before Alejandro fell into a deep sleep.

Melanie withstood the pain all over her body as she got up and walked into the bathroom to wash off the tear stains on her face. She knew very well that Alejandro had taken her love for him for granted. Was there a point in hoping that he would come to his senses and love her one day? He was never Alejandro Smith. He was Ethan Connor, and he had unrequited feelings for Tiffany. How was he going to love her with another woman in his heart?

After she had showered, Melanie had trouble falling asleep. Her eyes reddened as she looked at her daughter who was sound asleep. She remembered a saying about how one should know when to quit and cut their losses before it was too late. She thought that maybe it was time she gave up hope for a happy family. It would definitely be hard for her to take the first step. However, once she had taken the first step, she would be one step closer to happiness.

The moment the sun rose, Melanie simply packed her belongings in a bag and headed for the airport with her daughter. She did not pack her things in a luggage since that would be too obvious, and she did not want anyone to know about it. Therefore, she opted to pack her things in a small bag. When she arrived at the airport, she waited patiently for the next flight to Ayashe at 11 AM.

Melanie began to hesitate as she waited for her flight. She wondered how Alejandro would react once he found out that she had left. She planned to return to Ayashe not to clear her mind but to get a

divorce from Alejandro. She had decided that she would not take anything Don Smith had given her and would transfer everything to her daughter. That way, there would not be any arguments between her and Alejandro. At that time, would he agree to the divorce without any hesitation?

Meanwhile, as soon as Alejandro woke up, memories of last night flooded into his mind. He felt his frustrations rising when he discovered that Melanie was nowhere to be seen.

Alejandro got out of bed and walked into their daughter's room. He angrily shouted for the nanny when he found no one in sight. "Where are they? Where has Melanie taken the child so early in the morning?"

The nanny hurriedly answered, "Mrs. Smith had brought Melissa out with her the moment the sun rose without saying where she was going. I didn't dare to ask since she did not say…"

They left early in the morning? What did she need that she had to leave the house so early in the morning? Alejandro felt uneasy. "Did she bring anything with her when she left?"

The nanny shook her head. "She took a little bag with her, but there isn't much that she could put in there so I think it's just Melissa's stuff. Should I give her a call?"

Alejandro impatiently waved his hand and took his phone out and called Melanie. He discovered her phone was switched off. It seemed like she had returned to Ayashe and intended to leave him. He knew it was different this time. He knew she was not just throwing a tantrum. He was rather annoyed with what happened last night. He quickly called Jett. "Look for Melanie immediately. She left the house early this morning. She brought Melissa with her, and I believe they're at the airport. Check when's the next flight to Ayashe."

After he hung up, Alejandro changed before he grabbed his keys and sped to the nearest airport. Due to the speed and the fact that he had not driven for a long time since he injured his leg, he almost collided with a few cars. His forehead was drenched in sweat while he drove.

It was a long and hard struggle for him to safely arrive at the airport. When he arrived, his heart sank when he saw the number of people at the airport.

Alejandro did not give Jett proper instructions when he called him. Did Jett come to the airport alone? How long would it take for two of them to find Melanie among the throng of people?

Chapter 1362

Soon, Jett had arrived at the airport as well. Fortunately, Jett had brought a few men with him as well. The men scoured the airport and covered as much ground as they could. They seemed like a drop of water in a sea of people. Would they be able to find Melanie and Melissa?

Jett was on high alert. After he checked when the next flight to Ayashe was, he walked toward the direction of the departure hall. Soon after, he found Melanie carrying Melissa in the waiting area. Melissa was sound asleep in her mother's arms. Melanie looked surprisingly calm. She did not look like she was about to leave Alejandro. He sighed in relief and walked up to them. "Madam."

Melanie was startled. She looked at the person who had called out to her. "Did Alejandro… ask you to come?"

Jett nodded. "Yes, sir's here as well, but I managed to find you first. Why are you leaving? If you intend to visit your hometown, you should've informed him beforehand. He seems to be… in a bad mood this morning so please don't argue with him when you see him later."

Melanie smiled wryly before she said, “So what if I argue with him? What’s the worst he can do to me? Jett, I treat you as a friend. Please don’t tell Alejandro that you found me. Not only am I leaving this place, but I’m planning to take Melissa with me and divorce him. I’m only being secretive because I’m afraid he won’t let me take Melissa. Melissa’s my everything, I can’t leave her behind. It’s hard to explain the situation between me and so can you help me please?”

In truth, Jett knew how Alejandro had treated Melanie, hence, he was in a dilemma at that moment. He knew in his heart that he was Alejandro’s subordinate and it would not do him good to offend Alejandro. In the end, he helplessly said, “I’m sorry.”

Melanie lowered her head and softly sighed. “It’s fine… I understand. I know you’re loyal to Alejandro and would never betray him.”

Jett did not reply to her and took his phone out to call Alejandro.

Shortly after, Alejandro met up with Jett and Melanie. His expression was fierce as he asked breathlessly, “What the f*ck are you playing at?! Have you gotten addicted to running away from home?!” He was not aware of how fierce he looked at that moment. His legs were hurting since they were not completely healed.

Melanie ignored the gaze from the onlookers. She looked at him calmly. “How am I running away from home when this isn’t even my home? I’m going back to my real home, and I’m bringing Melissa with me. I don’t wish to explain myself to you, I’ll speak to you after I return to Ayashe. I’m going to board the plane in 30 minutes, do you have anything else to say?”

Alejandro’s expression turned frosty as he said, “You’re coming home with me now.”

Melanie stood by words and firmly said, “No, I’ve already made my intentions clear. Are you planning to raise your hand at me?!”

Alejandro would never hit a woman who was carrying a child. However, he could no longer contain his anger. “Don’t make me repeat myself again. Come home with me now.”

Melanie looked at him with reddened eyes, she was on the brink of breaking down. “What do you want from me? I can’t take it anymore. I don’t love you anymore! I don’t want to live with a man who’s so cold-hearted for the rest of my life. I don’t want my daughter to grow up in a loveless family. I’m thoroughly disappointed in you!”

Alejandro did not waste any more words with her. He raised a hand, motioning Jett to take action.

Jett looked at Melanie apologetically. “I’m sorry, Madam.”

Chapter 1363

Jett grabbed Melissa and handed her to Alejandro before forcefully taking Melanie with him and left the airport.

When they got into the car, Melanie’s face was stained with tears. “I’m divorcing you!”

Alejandro remained silent with a darkened expression as Jett drove them home. Jett broke out in cold sweat. What was happening with the couple? He knew the couple would break one day, but he always thought Alejandro would be the one to leave Melanie. He did not expect the 180-degree turn. Logically, Alejandro should easily agree to the divorce since he had another woman in his heart. Alejandro had unwillingly gotten married after all. Why was there a need for them to argue about getting a divorce? Could be that Don Smith had allocated money for Melanie to inherit after he passed away? That was the only logical explanation he could come up with.

Melanie broke down in tears and repeated her words when faced with Alejandro's silence, "Did you hear me? I want a divorce!"

Jett grew tense when he saw Alejandro's darkening expression. Who was he supposed to help if a fight broke out?

Suddenly, Alejandro said coldly, "I heard you. I'm not deaf so there's no need for you to shout."

Jett was stunned. He did not expect that answer from Alejandro.

Melanie calmly said, "As long as you heard me. We'll draft up the divorce agreement when we get back. Melissa stays with me. Everything that I've inherited will be transferred to her. I don't want anything!"

Jett was surprised. Now that Melanie declared that she planned to transfer everything she inherited to the child, she would probably be granted a divorce. After all, it solved one of Alejandro's main concerns. He really could not endure the freezing atmosphere in the car. In the end, he mustered up his courage and said, "Please calm down, Madam. Why don't both of you sit down and have a proper discussion!"

Melanie wiped off her tears. “I have nothing to say to him!”

Alejandro turned his head and looked out of the window. “Well, shut up then.”

Melanie cried even harder. “I refuse to shut up! I’ve been listening to everything you said in the past because I love you and thought we might have a future together. Now that I don’t love you any longer, you’re free to do as you please!”

Alejandro reached out and massaged his glabella. “You’re going to wake Melissa up if you continue. Can I please have some peace and quiet?”

Melanie said angrily, “Give me back my daughter!”

Alejandro held onto Melissa even tighter. “Would you have been able to give birth to her alone? She’s my daughter as well. What do you mean by giving her back to you? I’m not snatching her away from you. Didn’t you say you want a divorce? I have a condition. I’ll agree to the divorce, but Melissa stays with me. Anything else, we can discuss.”

Melissa was all Melanie wanted. Upon hearing his words, she erupted in anger. “Why do you get to keep her?! How much did you think you’ve done for me since I’ve gotten pregnant? You weren’t around from the moment I was pregnant until she was born. If grandpa didn’t force you to visit me, I believe you wouldn’t have even spent a single day with me. Therefore, why should you fight with me over the custody of our daughter? I don’t need anything else, and I don’t want anything else apart from her!”

Jett sighed in relief. He did not think Alejandro would easily agree to the divorce. It seemed like things were not as it seemed.

When they returned to the manor, Alejandro passed Melissa to the nanny. He refused to let Melanie have contact with their daughter.

Melanie was on the brink of going mad. “What are you trying to do?!”

Alejandro calmly walked to the sofa and sat down. He lit up a cigarette and said, “Nothing.”

Chapter 1364

Alejandro’s calm demeanor was the exact opposite of Melanie’s stormy rage. The calmer he was, the angrier she became. “I told you I’m divorcing you. End of discussion!”

His expression was calm as he looked at her from the corners of his eyes. “Reason?”

Melanie clenched her fists and said through gritted her teeth, “I’ve had enough of this life. It's that simple.”

Alejandro scoffed. “In the past, no one heard my pleas when I said I didn’t want this marriage. Now, I’m supposed to accept that you’re tired and let you go? Give me a better reason. Make it more believable. I’ll grant you the divorce if you’re able to give me a convincing reason.”

Melanie trembled as she said, “First, you’re still thinking about Tiffany. Second, you don’t treat me well enough. You’re always ignoring my feelings, and I’m thoroughly disappointed in you. Lastly, I refuse to

let my daughter grow up in a loveless family. The two of us will never be able to provide her with the family she deserves. I don't see any future for her if we're together. Is that enough?"

Melanie's words were accusatory and pierced his ears. Alejandro would not know how badly he had treated her if she did not tell him those things. He began to realize that she had been silently suffering all this while and had finally snapped. He had mixed feelings as he looked at her reddened eyes.

The cigarette continued to burn in between his fingers. In truth, he did not want a divorce. He did not have a reason why he did not want a divorce, or rather, he refused to think of the reason. If he had to come up with a reason, it would be because he felt somewhat content with the marriage at the moment, including the lovely daughter he had. All in all, he found no reason for a divorce. It was true that Tiffany was still in his head, but it was a fact that would not change even if he divorced Melanie. He no longer had anything to do with that woman who accompanied him for three years. After a long while, he finally said, "Why don't we talk again when you've calmed down."

Melanie could not wait any longer. She wanted to put a stop to this as quickly as she could while she was still brave and determined. She was afraid she would hesitate if she was given time to stew in her thoughts. "I'm very calm at the moment. I'm thinking very clearly, at least. We'll put an end to it now!"

Alejandro took a deep puff of his cigarette. The smoke wafted out of his mouth as he said, "If you were calm, you wouldn't be standing here and shouting. You should avoid making decisions in the heat of the moment. You might regret them later."

Melanie paused briefly. She took a deep breath before sitting on the sofa and said, "I won't regret my decision, I'm tired."

Alejandro stubbed the cigarette out in the ashtray as he felt the heat approaching his fingertips. "About last night… I'm sorry. I've had too much to drink. It wasn't my intention to treat you that way. I have

some urgent matters to attend to at the office, we'll continue our discussion when I return. The nanny will take care of Melissa for the time being. You're to have no contact with her until I return." He left the manor without looking back as soon as he finished speaking.

Melanie laid on the sofa as she felt energy leaving her body. She silently cried. After she had steeled herself and decided to get a divorce, why was he being so difficult? What was the reason for that? Was he not unwilling to get married in the first place? He even apologized for his actions last night. If he was capable of apologizing, why did he have to hurt her so deeply before doing so? She felt as though she had been stuck in a vicious cycle of being filled with hope before she was disappointed. She wanted to break out of the cycle.

She felt helpless that she was not allowed to see Melissa and had no choice but to call TIffany, the only friend she had in the city. The moment the call connected, Melanie sobbed uncontrollably as soon as she heard Tiffany's voice. "Tiffany, I want to divorce Alejandro…"

Tiffany jumped in surprise. "Divorce? Why? What did he do to you? Weren't the two of you just fine at the gala? What's changed? Why don't you calm down, and stop crying first…"

Chapter 1365

Melanie chuckled through her tears. "It's… nothing. I'm just disappointed in him. He doesn't love me and never will. I'm exhausted and have lost all will to keep going. I'm not going to change my mind, all I want is my daughter. However, Alejandro refuses to let me have her and says he wants to keep Melissa with him. I will never agree to that."

Tiffany was slightly furious. "Relax, I know how you feel. I understand how important your child is to you since I'm a mother as well. Why don't you talk to me to clear your head? You'll feel better. I'm here to listen."

The women continued chatting until Tiffany had to hang up because she had some business to attend to. Tiffany was still in the office after all.

While Tiffany was working, she kept thinking about Melanie wanting to divorce Alejandro. After she was done with her work, she mulled over it for a moment before she called Alejandro. “Are you free in the afternoon? Let’s meet up. I have something to tell you.”

On the other end, Alejandro remained silent for a few seconds before saying, “I’m available. Tell me where and when.”

When they arrived at the cafe, Tiffany sat down and ordered a cup of coffee for both of them. She knew what he wanted so there was no need to ask him.

Alejandro lowered his eyes when he saw Tiffany’s actions. He asked, “Why did you look for me?”

She looked at him and bluntly said, “Melanie told me about the divorce.”

Alejandro’s lips twitched, but he remained silent. He did not want a divorce, it was Melanie who insisted on getting a divorce. However, he had no intention of telling Tiffany that.

Tiffany did not care if Alejandro replied to her or not, she calmly said, “I won’t think of you as Alejandro today. I’ll just act as though I’m talking to Ethan now. Don’t you think Melanie is in the same position as I was in the past? Blindly rushing into a relationship regardless of the outcome. However, I did not marry you. I guess, I’m luckier than Melanie in that sense. She has it much tougher than I did, she has already given birth to your child, and yet, you still mistreat her. She’s finally asking for a divorce. I shouldn’t

meddle in your affairs, and I don't want to. It's just that you've wronged me once… You shouldn't make the same mistake and wrong her as well. Ethan, can you please not be so cold for once?"

Both of them were having mixed feelings as the past was brought up. However, Tiffany appeared to be calm and collected. That was something she was not capable of doing in the past. Alejandro knew that she had completely moved on. Despite her traumatic past with him, she had truly moved on. Ironically, he was the one who was still shackled by the chains of his past.

In Alejandro's eyes, Tiffany in the past was a clumsy woman, naive to the point of being foolish. Therefore, he was able to make her dance in his palm. He did not even have to coax her. Now, she was the complete opposite. It made sense. She had gone through so much in her life, all the way from college to the present where she had a son. Tiffany was no longer the naive and foolish woman he knew anymore.

When the waiter served their coffee, Alejandro held the cup and took a sip. He began to reminisce about the past as the aroma of the coffee wafted in the air.

With the cup of coffee in his hand and Tiffany seated opposite him, he felt like he was in a dream. He imagined that they were still together and nothing had changed. However, it did not last long. He felt heartbroken when he realized he had no choice but to face the truth. With the realization, a bitter feeling welled in his heart, causing tears to well up in his eyes.

He fought back his tears to save himself from an awkward situation and forced a smile on his face. He calmly said, "Ethan Connor is dead. There's only Alejandro Smith left in this world. Farewell, Tiffany."

Upon saying that, Alejandro took out his wallet and left the money for the coffee before walking off. He walked off in such a hurry that he did not even look back.

Chapter 1366

Jett noticed the tears in his eyes when he returned to the car. His jaw dropped. Only Tiffany could reduce him to this.

“Drive,” Alejandro ordered, “Back to the office.”

Jett quickly turned the car around, too afraid to say another word. At that moment, anything he said would put him on the chopping block.

Tiffany watched as Alejandro’s car drove off and heaved a sigh of relief. She hoped that he would listen to her. She was not sure if she made the right decision by meeting him. However, it seemed like she had developed the courage to face her past. It was a great feeling. All of her sadness had turned into a heavy weight, and she would have to let it go at some point. Letting go would be the sign of a new turn for her.

She slowly walked away after finishing her cup of coffee. However, when she arrived at the café entrance, she panicked. Jackson’s car was parked at the side of the road near the café! Did he catch her in the act? She was sure he was not there just a few minutes ago. Did he just arrive? She mustered up her courage and walked up to his car.

Jackson leaned forward and opened the door to the co-driver’s seat for her before she could react. “Get in. Did you have to come this far just for a cup of coffee? It’s going to rain soon, I was worried that you’d get wet.”

The more considerate he was, the more guilty she felt even though she did not do anything that crossed the line. After getting into the car, she meekly said, “I’m sorry I didn’t tell you about meeting him, It’s Melanie, she...”

“It’s fine, no need to explain.” Jackson cut her off before she could finish. “I trust you.” Then, he turned to the side and helped her put on her seatbelt. “Next time you leave the office during working hours, I’ll consider it as you skipping work and dock your pay.”

Tiffany did not know how to react. All she could do was smile to conceal her mixed feelings. With a man who trusted her explicitly, indulged her, and cherished her, what more could she want? If only she was with him and him alone from the very beginning, it would have been wonderful. However, life was almost filled with twists and turns.

…

Alejandro did not do anything else when he returned to the office except smoke one cigarette after another until the entire ashtray was full.

Jett could no longer bear to watch it so he said, “Sir, please stop smoking. Your throat and lungs won’t be able to stand any more of this.”

Alejandro did not reply to Jett. He waited until the cigarette in between his fingers was finished and no longer lit another one. His suddenly empty hand felt unnatural and a little insecure.

Jett was not sure if Alejandro was in that state because of Tiffany or because Melanie wanted a divorce. He wanted to console Alejandro, but he did not know how.

At the end of the working day, Alejandro did not leave and neither did Jett.

It took Alejandro a long time before he realized that Jett was keeping him company. “Why aren’t you leaving?” he asked. “It’s late. Go home. Don’t bother about me.”

“But your legs haven’t fully healed,” Jett explained with a frown, “The doctor says that it’s best to avoid driving to avoid aggravating the injury. It can result in you being lame for the rest of your life. Are you going home, sir? I’ll send you home before I go home.”

The thought of what he had to face when he arrived home made Alejandro very reluctant. “No need. You go home. I have work to do. I won’t be going home yet.”

Jet opened his lips, his words hung on the tip of his tongue.

Alejandro had been absent-mindedly staring into space the entire afternoon. If he really had any work to do, he would have finished it by now. He was clearly avoiding Melanie and did not want to go home. He did not point that out and only sighed. “It’s fine. I’ll wait for you. I won’t feel at ease until I send you home.”

Chapter 1367

Alejandro stared at Jett for a few seconds. “If only you were a woman. Perhaps, I’d feel some sort of comfort. Stop dawdling here. I don’t need you to watch over me.”

Jett was firm in his decision and did not leave.

“I’m not that nice to you. Don’t you hold a grudge against?” Alejandro remarked in a self-mocking tone, “Don Smith is gone now. You probably want to leave as well, don’t you? If you really want to leave, I’ll set you free.”

“I’ve considered it before,” Jett replied seriously, “But, I’ve changed my mind. You’re not exactly nice to me, but you’re not bad either. Who’s to say that I won’t end up in an even worse predicament if I switch bosses? Why would I want to go through that? Besides, I’m used to staying with you.”

Alejandro stroked his chin and stared at him calmly. “I never would have thought that you’d have such steadfast loyalty to me.” Then, a sense of loss welled up in his heart. “Hey Jett, tell me, am I destined to have bad luck with women? Did my sins sever my luck with the ladies? My life has been a tragedy from the start. I keep trying to turn things around, but I’d always go right back to the beginning. I just want someone to be with me all the time… Don’t people always say that you can have anything you want as long as I have money? I have more than enough money, why don’t I have what I want? It makes sense… Melanie doesn’t need money. She wants love. But I don’t know how to love. Now that I think about it, I’ve never really loved anyone, aside from myself. Even Tiffany… I was probably just used to relying on her. She was with me for three years, and I took it for granted, thinking that she belonged to me. I only went mad with jealousy when she left and found someone else. I guess I just don’t like being alone. That’s why I was so persistent with her. I can’t give Melanie what she wants.”

Jet paused thoughtfully before he said, “Actually, sir, you’re perfectly capable of giving Mrs. Smith what she wants. Even if you don’t love her, you can still be gentle and considerate to her. A woman needs a man who treats her right, most of all. That's the basic foundation, and it’s not hard to do. I can tell that you don’t want to divorce Mrs. Smith, regardless of the reason. Aren’t you refusing to go home because you’re avoiding her? If she wants to kick up a fuss, let her. Don’t get mad. You have to treat Mrs. Smith with patience. You’ve been living together for so long, it’s impossible for you not to have feelings for her. Deep down, Mrs. Smith can’t bear to leave either.”

Alejandro seemed unconvinced. “Does she seem reluctant to leave? She would be in Ayashe by now if I didn’t find her earlier. Honestly… I panicked a little when I realized that she was leaving… But I know that forcing her to stay would be wrong. I don’t know what I’m thinking. Do I want her to stay because I’m afraid of loneliness or do I really want her to stay… The former is too selfish.”

“Then treat it as the latter,” Jett advised, “Should I send home, sir? You’re going to have to face it sooner or later. You can’t hide in the office forever. You’ve prohibited Mrs. Smith from seeing Miss Melissa and from contacting the Larks. If you don’t go home, she’ll go crazy.”

Alejandro let out a long sigh, got up, and grabbed his coat. “Let’s go. You’re right, I can’t hide forever.”

“Would you like me to go in with you, sir?” Jett asked as Alejandro alighted from the car after they arrived.

Alejandro waved his hand. “It’s fine. Go home. I can go in on my own. This is my home, not a den of wolves. I can handle it.”

Jett nodded and watched him enter the house before he drove away.

Chapter 1368

Melanie instinctively bolted downstairs when she heard the car. She lunged at Alejandro when she saw him and grabbed his shirt. “Give my baby back to me! She’s not used to powdered milk, and she cries whenever she’s away from me! Where did you take her?”

Alejandro took a breath. “Why are you always so… emotional? Can you calm down? She’s my daughter too. What can I possibly do to her? Go back to the room, calm down, and I’ll tell the nanny to bring Melissa to you. At this rate… You’ll scare the baby.”

Melanie did not notice the gentleness in his tone. She was going crazy. She was afraid that he would imprison her. In fact, he was doing it right now. He would not let her leave, be near her baby, or contact anyone. “Who’s the frightening one? You’re the most frightening one of all!”

Alejandro’s body stiffened imperceptibly. “Is that what you think of me? Fine… Since you won’t listen when I’m talking to you nicely, I don’t have to be civil. If you don’t go back into the room and wait like a normal person, then, you won’t ever see your daughter again. Your choice!” Then, he walked past her and stormed upstairs.

Melanie hurried after him. “What the hell do you want?”

Alejandro stopped abruptly. This was not her first time asking him this question. Every time she did, he would feel extremely annoyed. What did he want? He did not want anything. Or maybe, he did not know what he wanted. After a few seconds of silence, he icily replied, “I’m not planning anything nor do I want anything, Melanie. I’m not a cruel man. You don’t have to treat me like some terrifying monster. I… I just don’t want a f*cking divorce. Do you understand? It was my fault. Can’t we get along like we used to? If there’s anything you don’t like about me, I’ll change. Okay? I’m tired… I don’t have the energy to fight with you. If you can’t calm down, you will not be allowed to see your daughter. Think about it.”

Melanie widened her eyes in shock. She could not figure him out either. She remembered the shares, and her eyes flashed. “Are you upset because of the split shares? If you’re still not happy with my giving my percentage of the shares to our daughter, I can transfer them back to you. I’ll give it all back to you. Will that do?” She could not think of any other reason for him not wanting a divorce apart from that. Her only priority was to take her daughter home— her home. Everything else was secondary.

Her willingness to go this far in order to leave carved a huge hole in Alejandro’s heart. The hole grew bigger and bigger, swallowing all reason. The shares that Don Smith had left for Melanie and the baby were enough to threaten him, and yet, she was willing to give up her trump card just to leave him! He grabbed her shoulders and stared at her. “I will not agree to a divorce, and you’ll never leave this place. Do you understand me?”

“Wh-why?” Melanie stared at him fearfully and apprehensively.

He did not know how to answer this question. He released her and headed back into the room.

Melanie crumpled onto the ground, gasping for air. She grabbed her hair in frustration. Perhaps, she should listen to him and calm down. Maybe they would be able to have a peaceful conversation that way. Anyone would be frightened by the sight of her now. She really wasn’t in a good place to take care of the baby at the moment.

Chapter 1369

It took her a long time to calm down. She bit the back of her hand until it bled in order to do so. By the time she got up and went back into the room, Alejandro had already finished with his shower and was sitting by the window, smoking. The grim expression on his face was not very obvious under the warm light. In fact, it softened his face. She gathered her courage and pulled out the letter of divorce. “I drew this up last night at home. I’ve said it before, I just want the baby. Please, I’m begging you, sign this.”

Alejandro turned to the side and looked at the agreement in her hand. His gaze trailed up her arm. He was shocked when he saw her bloodied hand. “I’m not the one driving you mad here, you’re driving yourself mad. Put down the paper and bandage wound. I need some time to think.”

She let out a sigh of relief when he did not blow up. She placed the paper in a spot nearest to him. Then, she pulled out the first aid kit and sat on the bed, cleaning and bandaging her wound. It was difficult since the wound was on the back of her hand, and she could only use the other hand to do it. She fumbled around and still could not properly bandage her hand after a long while.

Suddenly, Alejandro appeared in front of her. He bent down and carefully bandaged her hand. His movements were not particularly gentle, it even hurt her a little. However, for some reason, he did not seem frightening at that moment.

“Does your hand look like a chicken drumstick to you? You’re welcome to bite me if you can’t take it anymore. I’m not afraid of getting hurt,” he said, staring at her in a half-joking manner.

Melanie sniffed and whispered, “If I bite you, will you kill me?”

He suddenly moved closer to her, his breath inches away. “Haven’t you already bitten me before?” Then, he placed his mouth softly on her lips.

Melanie stiffened. She really should not pin any more of her hopes on this man. She was not sure if his kindness was just another trap. She did not dare to risk it.

Having received zero reaction for her except for her numb submission, Alejandro lost interest and did not continue any further. “Have a good night’s rest. I’ll tell the nanny to bring Melissa to you tomorrow morning. You can live here peacefully while I consider the divorce. If you want to go out… I’ll tell Jett to keep you company.”

Melanie nodded. She quickly went to bed and curled up under the covers. She was afraid that he might get horny again. She was not in the mood to get intimate with him.

Alejandro helplessly pulled the covers to her neck when he saw her reaction. “I’m going to sleep in the guestroom. You can sleep in peace.”

Melanie relaxed completely when the room light was switched off, and she heard the door close. She had been on edge the entire day. She had grown exhausted long ago and quickly slipped into her dreams.

Her baby was sleeping safely next to her when she woke up the next day. The baby did not cry or fuss. It seemed like she had been well-taken care of.

She took the little one into her arms and went downstairs. She did not see Alejandro at all after walking around and found out that he had gone out very early in the morning after asking around. He did not even look at the divorce letter. Getting his signature would be more difficult than moving a mountain.

She recalled the events from last night and felt strange. She had this feeling… that he simply did not want a divorce, and it had nothing to do with the shares. However, she could not understand why he did not want a divorce.

…

Tremont Tower.

Alejandro had arrived uninvited.

Mark really could not be bothered to deal with him. Alejandro had tricked him to a club the last time. He showered guiltily when he arrived home. He did not even dare let Arianne touch him after he had

changed his clothes, paranoid that she would smell something strange on him. It was best to stay away from this fellow.

Alejandro did not seem to mind Mark's attitude. He accepted the cup of hot tea from Davy, blew on it, and took a sip. "Mark Tremont, I'm here to learn from you. How did you manage to deal with a woman like Arianne?"

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Mark shot him a look and irritably replied, "What do you mean 'a woman like Arianne'? Watch your words."

Alejandro laughed carelessly. "I don't mean it in a derogatory way. I just mean she's not easy to deal with. She's a woman who'd rather die than give in. How did you convince her to be with you? I'm very curious…"

Mark did not answer his question. Instead, he asked another question of his own. "I've heard that there have been threats of a divorce on your end. Are you at your wit's end? Is that why you came to speak to me? The prerequisite to making a woman devote herself to you is for her to love you."

Alejandro was apprehensive. "Then, what if she's already in love? Why does she suddenly want a divorce? What would one do under these circumstances?" He was confident that Melanie was still in love with him.

Mark displayed hints of annoyance on his face. "That's your problem. Stop bothering me, I'm busy. Don't you have anything better to do? Did you come all the way here just to freeload off a drink? Have you no shame?"

Alejandro put his cup down. “You’re acting like I actually enjoy drinking your tea. I’ve given up on Tiffany, so shouldn’t you be happy? Be happy for your best friend, Jackson. So shouldn’t you hurry up and help me? Who knows if I’d turn around and pursue Tiffany again if I get a divorce? Let’s see who gets hurt then.”

He had annoyed Mark to his wits’ end at this point. “If you treat Melanie well, she won’t think of a divorce. If you really don’t know how to be good to her, reflect on how Tiffany used to treat you. But honestly, someone like you should live alone for the rest of your life, instead of dragging others down with your disasters.”

Alejandro finally understood. A new idea formed in his mind. “Is my sister-in-law free today?”

Mark’s eyes turned cold. “Who are you calling your sister-in-law? Don’t you dare shift your focus on her.”

Alejandro felt mildly speechless. “What I mean is, if she’s free, tell her to invite Melanie on a shopping trip so that she can relax. Melanie doesn’t have many friends here, only… Tiffany. It’s too awkward for me to ask a favor from her. Just do me a favor. I mean, we’re partners now, after all.”

Mark impatiently sent Arianne a message. “There. Now get lost.”

Alejandro had achieved his objective. He got up elegantly and left. “Thanks, bro,” he said, making sure to irritate Mark before he left.

Mark picked up a pen holder and threw it at the door. “Who are you calling ‘bro’?”

Arianne was sketching outside when she received Mark’s message. She did not ask why and immediately invited Melanie out.

Jett tagged along when the pair met. Melanie had brought the baby along, and Jett was pushing the stroller from behind. Anyone who did not know better would have thought that Melanie and Jett were a couple.

Melanie was not particularly close to Arianne so she wondered why Arianne had suddenly invited her out. “Why’d you call me, sis? You don’t mind if I call you that, do you? I’ll address you as Mrs. Tremont if you mind.”

Arianne giggled. “I don’t mind, but I think you should just call me Arianne. I’m more used to it. Actually… I believe that it was Alejandro who asked me to take you out. He probably asked Mark to do it.”