Ruling 1451

Chapter 1451

Helen definitely did not have any appetite and headed upstairs without saying anything.

Aery was uncharacteristically well-behaved. “It’s fine, big sis, mom’s just in a bad mood. I’ll go and talk to her.”

Arianne acknowledged her words and gently caressed Smore’s cheek.

Smore said in a low voice, “Scare... scare…”

Mark held Smore and placed him in his baby chair. “How can a man be so cowardly? What’s there to be afraid of when someone raises their voice? Hurry up and eat your food. Daddy’ll take you out to play when you’re finished.”

Perhaps, Mark wanted Arianne to clear her mind. He drove Smore and Arianne to the city’s largest shopping center after they were done eating. “Since I’m here with you today, you can buy whatever you want.”

Arianne half-heartedly window-shopped at the apparel and jewelry shops. “Was I too harsh with my words earlier? Was it very hurtful?”

Mark paused for a moment before saying, “I think it’s fine. There were only two ways to go around that situation; one was to coax, the other would be to do what you did. Based on your mom’s temper, I believe your method would work better. However, it might seem like you were speaking in defense of Aery, but… you’re actually talking about yourself, weren’t you? It’s true that we don’t get to choose which family we’re born into…”

Arianne was still annoyed. “I shouldn’t have said those things. I was so frustrated. In the end, I only made myself unhappy. Did you bring enough money? I’m quite a spendthrift when I’m in a bad mood.”

Mark helplessly said, “I… should have enough. As long as you’re happy.”

In the end, Arianne did not buy anything particularly expensive, All she bought was a pair of earrings for herself. However, she did buy a trolley full of toys and summer clothes for Smore.

Mark teased Smore and said, “I intended to buy your mom whatever she wants, who knew you’d end up benefitting from it? I’ll give you a pass since you’re still young. When you’re 18, you’ll have to earn your own money. You’re going to have to learn how to live on your own before you even think about getting my money. Otherwise, I wouldn’t even leave a single cent for you in my will.”

Arianne rolled her eyes at him. “I’m the one who owns your company now, it’s up to me to handle your inheritance. I can’t bear to let my son suffer, how’s he supposed to feed himself when he would still be in school at 18? You shouldn’t be so tough on him. He’s our only son. Naturally, we won’t spoil him until he becomes a good-for-nothing, but there’s no need to be so strict either.”

Mark pursed his lips. “I was already able to manage Tremont Enterprise at 18. Why should it be a problem for him? He’d only lose out if you pamper him, how is it a problem for him? He’d only stand to lose out if you pamper him, understand?”

He had to manage the company at 18 because his parents had passed away. Fortunately, Arianne managed to hold her tongue. There were some words that should not be carelessly said. Arianne managed to stop herself from slipping her tongue and broke a cold sweat. Sometimes words could hurt more than physical pain.

Suddenly, Smore pointed in a direction and said, “Sis, sis!”

‘Sis?’ Arianne thought that Smore had seen someone with their daughter walking around and followed the direction of his gaze. She was surprised to see that Jackson and Tiffany at the shopping mall as well.

Ever since Tiffany had gotten pregnant again, Smore was sure that she was expecting a daughter. Smore would not even address Tiffany like he used to anymore.

Arianne carried Smore in her arms and ran toward them. “Tiffany!”

Tiffany and Jackson stopped in their tracks. “You’re here as well? What a coincidence! Jackson insisted on bringing me here to get some things for my pregnancy. We’re almost done here.”

Mark pushed the trolley and slowly walked up to them. They had bought too many things for two hands to carry. Jackson was no better either with both hands filled with shopping bags.

Chapter 1452

Smore was excited to see Tiffany. “Sis! When sis come play with me?”

Tiffany was over the moon. “It’s still too early, she’ll be here when you turn 3. You’re three years older than her so you need to protect her. Don’t let anyone bully her, okay?”

Smore nodded with a very serious expression on his face. “Okay.”

Arianne’s mood took a turn for the better. “Is it really true that you’re expecting a daughter? Are you sure there’s no issue with your body handling your second pregnancy?”

Jackson became slightly angry. “That’s what I thought. However, we’ve been to a few hospitals, and all the doctors said that she’s as strong as an ox so there’s no need for an abortion if she wants to keep the baby. I’d be beaten to death if I try to bring the matter up.”

Mark said disdainfully, “You know that you’d be able to deal with her with just a punch. You only have yourself to blame if you don’t want to retaliate.”

Tiffany scowled at Mark and said, “Can you bear to raise your hand against Ari? Isn’t it the same? She’d most definitely hit you if you make her angry.”

Mark looked at Arianne very curiously and asked, “Is that true?”

Arianne grinned. “You’re welcome to try.”

Mark looked at her nails and noticed that her nails were very clean and neatly trimmed, she did not wear any nail polish. However, her nails were not as short as they usually were. She would definitely leave marks on him if she scratched him. “There’s no need to try, I cherish my life too much to even risk it. We’re almost done shopping, why don’t we have a drink somewhere?”

When they arrived in a nearby cafe, Jackson ordered a glass of juice for Tiffany.

Tiffany gleefully raised her glass and toasted Smore. The two of them looked like close friends.

Arianne took a sip of her coffee. Although she found it bitter, adding sugar would only make the coffee lose its natural fragrance. “Are you still working, Tiffany?”

Tiffany shook her head. “Everyone thinks that I got pregnant too soon after my first pregnancy. They think I should rest since my body’s not completely recovered. I’m like a couch potato now. I’m either sleeping or eating every day. It’s not a bad feeling, to be honest. I’m planning to help Jackson’s mom take care of the baby after I give birth since it’d be too tiring for one person to take care of two kids. I’m worried that she’d fall sick from the exhaustion.”

Arianne smiled and said, “Congratulations, you’ve finally gotten your wish of becoming a full-time housewife. It’s actually not that bad to have someone to cover your living expenses and not have any worries.”

Mark frowned. “You make it sound as if I’m not willing to cover all of your expenses. You could be the same as her if you want to.”

Arianne nudged him on the arm. “I don’t mean it like that. Of course, I would do the same and stop working if I had two kids. However, we only have one, right? Smore will be attending preschool next year so there’s nothing for me to be worried about. Why would I stay at home when I have nothing to do? I’m merely stating my opinion. Must you take it as a slight toward you?”

Smore had a serious expression on his face as he held his glass of juice in front of Tiffany’s belly. “Drink, sis.”

Tiffany thought Smore was very cute. “You’re really sweet with your words, little guy. I would really be letting you down if I don’t accept you as my son-in-law. She can’t drink it now, why don’t you give it to her when she comes out later?”

Smore replied instantly, “Okay.” Then, he gulped down the glass of juice.

Chapter 1453

Arianne felt proud of her son as a mother. She thought she would have fallen in love with Mark earlier if he was half as decent as his son at his son’s age.

…

Tremont Estate.

When they returned home, Smore had already fallen asleep. Mark carried him upstairs immediately.

Arianne asked Mary to unload the shopping bags from the trunk.

Aery stepped forward to help as well when she saw them. “Let me help.”

At that moment, Arianne discovered Aery was wearing her clothes. She was slightly displeased. She did not like anyone else wearing her clothes apart from Tiffany. “Why are you wearing my clothes?”

Aery looked as though she just remembered this as she tried to explain herself. “Oh, I forgot to bring my pajamas here. You don’t mind, do you? I didn’t enter your room. Mary got them for me. If you mind, I’ll buy you a new one later.”

Mary stepped in and said, “It’s true. I was the one who took it for her.”

Arianne did not wish to cause a scene so she said, “It’s fine, you can wear it. I’ll ask Mary to get you something else later. You should avoid going out for a while to avoid trouble.”

Aery agreed with Arianne and helped move the stuff upstairs. She placed the stuff by Arianne’s bedroom door without attempting to enter the room. “I should sleep now. You should get some rest as well, big sis.”

Arianne was having a hard time getting used to Aery being so well-behaved. She casually acknowledged Aery and closed her bedroom door.

Mark was in the baby's room putting Smore to bed.

Arianne was too tired to pay him any attention and took a shower.

Mark ran into Aery when he emerged from the baby's room. He saw her through the corners of his eyes and found her sleeping gown to be rather familiar. He stopped in his tracks and said, "Her sleeping gown doesn't suit you."

Aery explained. "I have told big sis that I have to borrow her sleeping gown since I didn't bring mine. Are you… displeased with me wearing her clothes?"

Mark did not reply. Instead, he brushed past her and returned to his room.

Aery froze on the spot for a moment, feeling gloomy. She recalled how he had embraced her so gently in the past, and yet, he could not even bear to look at her for a moment now.

…

When Arianne came out from the shower, she was Mark sitting on the chair by the window, seemingly in a daze. She could not understand what he was thinking. Although she had forbidden him from smoking, he still liked to sit there. With only a towel wrapped around her body, she called out, "You should shower and go to bed. It's late. There are still matters to attend to at the office tomorrow."

Mark slowly got up and headed to the bathroom. “I don’t like it when others wear your clothes.”

Arianne sighed. “What am I supposed to do? She’s even wearing my favorite sleeping gown.”

He turned around and looked at her. With a slightly displeased voice, he said, “That’s also my favorite one.”

Arianne chuckled. “I suppose you like the lace of the sleeping gown? Apart from having a little lace, I don’t suppose there’s anything else that piques your interest?” In fact, that sleeping gown was actually quite conservative. It had short sleeves and the hem fell right above her knees. Even the neckline is a round-neck.

Mark raised an eyebrow and said, “No, that sleeping gown has the shortest hem among all the others.”

Arianne frowned. So, that was the reason why he preferred that nightgown. It seemed like men all liked provocative clothing.

After taking a shower to wash away all the fatigue, the couple cuddled in bed.

Arianne was slowly drifting off to sleep, but someone was not going to let her sleep just yet. “Didn’t someone say we have all the time to ourselves at night? Are you really going to sleep now? I haven’t even done anything yet.”

Chapter 1454

She rubbed her cheek against his chest. “But I’m really tired.”

There was nothing that could easily stop a man once their primal instincts kicked in. Mark’s fingers carefully ran down her robe and removed it. “Don’t worry, you’ll feel energetic soon. I refuse to believe that you’d still be able to sleep after this.”

Arianne half-heartedly pushed him away.

However, Mark was proven right. Arianne was soon filled with energy. The tired brain cells in her head were attacked by a rush of emotions and became active again.

Just as she was about to climax, Mark stopped and raised his head to look at her pleasure-filled expression with his fiery eyes.

Feeling embarrassed with Mark staring at her, she quickly covered her chest with her hands. “What are you looking at?”

He pressed his body against her and said in a hoarse voice, “You have no idea how seductive you look at this moment. So much so that I feel like I’m about to lose control. I don’t think I can’t hold back...”

Arianne was confused… He was still holding back? She thought this was good enough, but it was evident that it was not enough for him. She shyly bit her lips and said, “F-fine… You… you can lose control if you want. You don’t have to hold back…”

After obtaining her approval, Mark completely let loose.

Arianne felt as though she was a lonely boat traveling on the vast sea that was being rocked by the violent waves. She felt as though she was going to be swallowed by the waves. However, she felt exhilarated.

The next morning.

Mark stretched his body a few times while he was showering as though there was some discomfort somewhere.

Arianne helped massage his shoulders with her toothbrush in her mouth. “Are your shoulders feeling sore from fatigue?”

He looked at her affectionately. “I’ll have to trim your kitty claws sooner or later. My back stings. You dug your nails in so deeply.”

Arianne blushed and slapped his back without holding back her strength. “Damn you, you were the one who…” He was the one who could not hold back and lost control last night. She was only responding to him. Moreover, it was not like he would be injured by a few scratches.

However, Arianne inhaled sharply when she saw his back. Why was his skin as delicate as a sheet of paper? She had only scratched him a few times but she could see terrifying bloody marks as though he

had been violently punished. Although the scratches were just surface injuries, it looked extremely terrifying.

Mark saw the horrified expression on Arianne's face, he asked, "How's it? Is it bad? It's fine, it's not very painful. It'll heal within 2 days."

Arianne took advantage of the situation and did not tell him the truth. "It's not that serious…" She was just shocked. A frown could be seen on her face as she watched him change into his clothes. She felt that she had gone too far. It was not intentional. How was she to know he had such delicate skin? Then, she asked, "Why don't I put some ointment on your back?"

Mark refused instinctively and said, "Why would you put ointment on it? The smell of the medicine would choke me to death." Then, he realized something was amiss. "Did you lie to me? I can't see my back… Does it look serious? Just tell me the truth, I won't hold it against you."

Arianne grabbed a small mirror and held it up against Mark's back. Mark's face darkened after looking at his back. "I didn't think it hurt that much earlier, but now it does sting quite a bit… I'm going to go out for an inspection today and the weather will be really hot today, I really imagine what it'd be like if I were to sweat. You really put me in a difficult position."

Chapter 1455

Arianne stammered, "H-how… How was I to control my strength in that kind of situation? You just said that you're fine and refused to put on ointment. Why don't you avoid going out over the next two days? You won't sweat if you stay in the office."

Such a small matter was definitely not going to stop someone who was meticulous with work like Mark. For that reason, Arianne was not surprised when Mark insisted on continuing with his schedule as

planned. She pursed her lips when she saw how brightly the sun shone. She knew she was right to say it would have been better if he had stayed in his office.

…

At the largest marina in the capital.

Brian held an umbrella over Mark while they stood in the middle of a bustling area.

The movers were drenched in sweat as they moved the shipments onto the freight ships that were waiting to depart to their destinations. The stench of sweat permeated the air, completely overwhelming the smell of the sea breeze.

Alejandro suddenly appeared next to Mark. “Look at this sissy, why are you under an umbrella? It wouldn’t do you any harm to get a little tan.”

Mark paid no attention to Alejandro and took out his handkerchief to wipe off the bead of sweat on his forehead. Although the umbrella was able to block off the sunlight, it was not enough to block the heat. The heat only eased a little when the cold sea breeze blew at him. He did not have the energy to respond to Alejandro thanks to the stinging pain on his back that was exacerbated by the sweat.

Alejandro immediately lost interest in teasing Mark when he saw Mark frowning. He slapped his back and said, “Relax, there won’t be any accident this time, not when I’ve personally brought my own men to check everything.”

Mark's face immediately paled, Alejandro's slap had hurt so much.

Mark angrily turned around and glared at Alejandro.

Alejandro was startled at Mark's sudden reaction. "What's wrong? What's with the long face? Are you going to hit me just because I touched you?"

Mark did not reply and turned around to look at a house in the distance. All he wanted to do at that time was to rest in a house and get comfortable.

Alejandro rubbed his nose and asked Brian, "What's wrong with him today?"

Brian did not know either. "I'm not sure. It might be the heat. I don't think you should provoke him anymore."

When it was almost afternoon, Arianne received a call from Mary. "Madam, you should hurry up and come to the hospital now. Smore fell from upstairs!"

Arianne's brain went blank instantly. "What happened? How could he have fallen from upstairs? Weren't you looking after him?! Which hospital is he at? I'll be there immediately!"

Mary could not explain the situation over the phone and could only wait for Arianne to arrive at the hospital before she explained herself clearly.

Arianne had been worried every time she went out since Helen and Aery had begun to stay with them. She had given clear and strict instructions to Mary not to leave Smore with Aery unattended. After all, she did not trust Aery at all.

Arianne was panting when she arrived at the hospital.

Helen and Mary were by the corridor of the pediatric ward, waiting for her.

Arianne breathlessly asked, “Where’s Smore? How’s he? Is it a bad fall?”

Mary had an apologetic expression on her face. “He’s still with the doctor. I was only away from him for two minutes. I didn’t expect this to happen.”

Arianne lost control of her emotions. “Who was with Smore while you were away?”

Mary glanced at Helen before lowering her head and said, “Aery…”

Arianne immediately lost her temper. “If something were to happen to Smore, I will never forgive her!”

Chapter 1456

Her greatest fear happened in the end. She should not have let Helen and Aery into Tremont Estate. Why did she give in? Helen was capable of heartlessly abandoning her so why could she not be heartless to Helen? If Aery was to blame for Aristotle's fall, she would never let Aery get away scot-free!

Helen opened and closed her mouth, wanting to explain herself but did not know what to say.

Arianne bit her lips and no longer spoke. She had a dark expression on her face.

More than half an hour later, a nurse carried Aristotle out of the examination room. "We've taken an x-ray. You can collect it later. The preliminary examination doesn't show any issues. We'll have to wait for the x-ray for further details."

Arianne took Aristotle into her arms. Despite his shock, he did not seem to be in too much pain. However, his eyes were red and swollen. He must have cried very hard. The Tremont Estate's staircase was so high, of course, he would be in pain after falling down from it.

Helen knew Arianne was fuming mad now so she volunteered to collect the x-ray for her. Arianne probably could not stand the sight of Aery right now.

When Helen returned with the x-ray, Mary handed it over to the doctor.

Arianne noticed another x-ray report in Helen's hands but did not think too much of it. She was not in the mood to ponder over whose it was.

The doctor looked over Aristotle's x-ray and said, "He's fine. It's just a scraped elbow. His bones are fine. He must be in shock. Just take him home and calm him down."

Arianne let out a sigh of relief when she saw the results. "Mary, let's return to Tremont Estate. I won't be going into the office this afternoon. I'll stay home with Smore."

Mary nodded. She looked at Helen and asked, "Would you like to come home with us, ma'am? Is Aery alright?"

Helen paused and replied, "It's nothing too serious. There's a slight fracture in her right ankle. You go ahead. I'll leave after she's treated."

Aery was in the hospital as well? Moreover, she had a broken ankle? Arianne felt apprehensive. "What happened to Aery? Smore's the one who fell. How did she end up with broken bones?"

"I heard a noise and ran out from the kitchen. I found Aery, holding Smore, and rolling down the stairs. Smore was bawling. I didn't have the time to ask too many questions. I had Henry take us to the hospital immediately. Aery was sent to orthopedics, Smore was sent to pediatrics. I was panicking so I didn't deal with Aery. Your mother was with us the entire time, keeping Smore company."

They both fell down the stairs? Aristotle only had light wounds, but Aery broke her ankle? If Aery deliberately hurt Aristotle, why did she end up heavily injured? She calmed down when she thought of this and said, "Come on, let's check on Aery. I want to ask her what happened."

The group strode into the orthopedic department and could hear Aery's agonized screams from far away. Helen quickened her pace. The doctor was putting Aery's leg in a cast. This meant it would take her a while to recuperate.

By the time they left the hospital after the tedious affair, it was almost 3 PM.

Aery limped around with Helen's support. She looked like she was in horrible pain. Her face was deathly pale.

Henry was waiting in the car for them. Helen helped Aery into the front seat. She could only sit in the front seat due to her leg. It could not be cramped or touched.

When they got into the car, Arianne asked, "Aery, what happened? How did you and Smore end up falling down the stairs?"

Aery looked very guilty. "I'm sorry… Sis, it's my fault. I should've taken better care of Smore. Mary left for a little while, and I didn't know that Smore knew how to climb the stairs on his own. I ran straight after him when I noticed. Unfortunately, he slipped and fell. I wanted to catch him, but I fell as well. That's how both of us fell. The floor was wet, I think… Is Smore okay?"

Chapter 1457

Did that mean Aery saved Aristotle? At least, based on her account, she did not deliberately hurt Aristotle. Arianne nodded. "He's fine. You don't know how to take care of babies. Next time, stay away from him. There are plenty of servants in the Tremont Estate. Someone will look after him."

Mary was consumed with guilt for leaving Aristotle alone for a split second. “It’s all my fault. I shouldn't have left him alone without supervision. Otherwise, this wouldn’t have happened. The house cleaners are seriously a piece of work. They couldn’t have mopped the water off the floor? I’m going to give them a piece of my mind when we get home.”

Helen did not defend Aery at all. She remained silent the entire time when Arianne lost her temper earlier. Actually, she had seen Aery rolling down the stairs with Aristotle in her arms. As for what happened prior to that, she was not sure. However, from her point of view, Aery had saved Aristotle. She did not dare to speak up, afraid that Arianne would accuse her of shielding Aery. No matter what she said, it would be futile. Thank goodness Aristotle was fine. Otherwise, she would not have been able to explain herself.

Mary told the kitchen to prepare a meal when they returned to Tremont Estate. The group had been too busy for lunch. They were tired and hungry.

Aristotle was too hungry to wait for the meal. He drank a bottle of milk before immediately falling asleep. Droplets of tears still clung to his curly eyelashes. It was a truly heartbreaking sight.

Arianne stared at Aristotle’s little face and felt her heart ache. She carefully carried him upstairs. She found water stains upstairs. The floor was still wet. She was annoyed. After putting Aristotle in the nursery, she asked Henry to summon all of the maids in the Tremont Estate to the living room. An angry expression could be seen on her face as she stared at the large number of servants. “Who’s responsible for cleaning indoors?”

Ten seconds later, a thirty-year-old woman stepped forward. “Me…”

Arianne waved her hand. “Henry, pay her her dues, and tell her to leave. She can’t even keep the place clean, why is she here? We have the elderly and a toddler around, and the floor is always wet. We’re lucky that nothing happened today. Who knows what might happen next time? This is her job, her responsibility. She couldn’t even clean properly!”

Henry grunted in reply and took the woman away. The other servants lowered their heads, too afraid to breathe loudly. One half was afraid of infuriating Arianne, the other half was afraid of losing a perfectly good job.

Arianne stared at everyone. An idea appeared in her mind. She did not need too many servants in Tremont Estate. Too many would only mess things up. Finally, she only retained a few necessary servants and dismissed the rest.

As soon as Mark returned and stepped into the house, he heard about what happened during the day. His reaction was not particularly big. He went back to the room, took a shower, and changed into comfortable house clothes before going to the nursery to look for Arianne.

Aristotle had been asleep ever since he arrived home. Arianne had stayed by his side the entire time.

He looked at Aristotle first as he softly asked, “Is everything okay?”

Arianne glanced at him. “Are you asking about me or Smore?”

He reached out and pinched her small nose. “I’m asking about you first, then, about Smore.”

A hint of a smile appeared in her eyes. “Smore’s fine. I was in shock. My mind went blank when I received the call at the office. Thank goodness he’s alright. Aery broke her right ankle, her leg is in a cast now. It seems that she was trying to save Smore. Why do I find it so hard to believe that she has turned over a new leaf? Do you believe it?”

Chapter 1458

Mark paused thoughtfully and replied, “I don’t believe it either. Knowing her, it would more believable to say that she has nothing to do with Aristotle’s fall than to say she has turned over a new leaf and protected Smore. It’s strange. I’ve never believed in humans’ good nature. Especially after everything she’s done… I did consider this when we invited her and Helen to live in Tremont Estate. However, with your mom keeping an eye on Aery, I didn’t think it would be a problem. Your mother has always been meticulous. Besides, Mary hardly ever leaves Smore alone. This temporary lapse today must have been an accident. Don’t overthink it. It’s alright as long as Smore is fine.”

Arianne suddenly tugged on his collar and sniffed. “Mary should have told you about Smore’s fall when you got home, and you still have time to take a shower before seeing your son? Why do you… seem so cold-blooded?”

The corners of Mark’s lips twitched. “Mary already told me that Smore is fine. I don’t think it matters when I check on him. You should consider me too, I’ve been running around all day. I’m sweaty, and my back hurts. I can feel my clothes sticking to my wound. All I wanted to do was take a shower and change into a fresh set of clothes. Are you going to pick a fight with me over that? How long has Smore been asleep? It’s almost dinner time, should we wake him?”

Arianne shook her head. “No need. It was 3 PM when we arrived home. Usually, Smore would be fast asleep by then. His nap was a little late today, let him sleep. He’s suffered a shock. I’ll give him something to eat when he wakes up. Is your back wound that serious? It sounds a little exaggerated, coming from you. I was feeling guilty…”

Mark straightened up and smiled. “It’s fine. I’m sensitive, what can I do? It’ll be fine tomorrow. Let Aristotle sleep. Let’s go downstairs for dinner.”

As the pair left the nursery, they ran into Helen who was helping Aery downstairs.

“Tell someone to send her meals up,” Arianne said, “She has already injured her ankle, she might turn into a cripple if she falls again.”

“It’s alright,” Aery said, “It’s okay, mom is helping me. I can walk, just a little slower. It’s rude of me to eat in the room.”

“When did you ever care about being polite?” Mark muttered under his breath.

Aery’s face drained of colors. “Th-that’s in the past… I was wrong back then and left you with a bad impression. I’ll do my best to change your impression of me.”

“As you wish,” Arianne said briefly.

…

Half a month passed in a blink of an eye.

Jean had sent Helen two parcels over the past half a month. Needless to say, nothing in those parcels was normal. They were both frightening in nature; cockroaches and dead mice one after the other. Those were his tricks.

Helen stopped opening the subsequent parcels and directly threw them into the trash straight.

That seemed to be Jean's modus operandi. He did not show up and would pull those little tricks. After realizing that Jean's tactics were limited to those cheap tricks, Helen grew tired. She no longer wanted to waste any time on him and decided to leave once Aery's leg was better.

Mark had been sending men out to find Jean. Previously, he had received no news. On that night, Henry hurried into the study to see him. "Sir, we've found him. Jean is in Country X."

Chapter 1459

Upon hearing that, Mark was apprehensive. "He's just been released from prison. Eating and living costs would be a problem, how could he possibly have the money to leave the country? Those parcels he sent to Helen came from an address in the country. Even if the parcels could be explained, his goal is Helen. He knows that Helen is in the country. Why did he leave the country? Isn't that strange? Are you certain?"

Henry shook his head. "There's no mistake. I've found records of him leaving the country, just a few days ago."

Mark stroked his chin. "Did he escape overseas because he knows that I'm looking for him? It would be difficult to trace him if he's not in the country. I wonder he found the money to leave the country? Plane tickets to Country X would be too expensive for him at this time. There are tons of people who would hit

a man when he's down. Who would possibly loan him the money after everything that's happened to him? It wouldn't be a small amount if you consider his daily expenses after leaving the country…"

"Unless someone is deliberately helping him," Henry said.

The pair looked at each other as a suspect appeared in their minds. However, none of them verbalize their suspicions.

After a while, Mark told Henry to summon Helen to the study. It would be best to tell Helen everything about Jean's matter.

Henry stepped out when Helen entered the study. Mark lifted his hand. "Please sit. I have something to tell you. it's about Jean Kinsey."

Helen frowned, feeling slightly uneasy. She sat on a chair next to her. "Go ahead."

Mark paused then said, "He left the country a few days ago. He was just released from prison, where could he have found the money to leave the country? He'd need money for daily expenses after leaving the country. Who do you think would give him a loan at this time?"

After some thought, Helen replied, "No one would lend him the money. I was always the one managing interpersonal relationships in the Kinsey family. He couldn't get along with anyone. Besides, he's a little haughty, no one could ever get close to him. Everyone avoided him after our divorce. Once, he knocked on my door for money because he had none. I guess you can say that he's completely broke. Now that he's released from prison, no one would contact him at all."

Helen's reply was clear. No outsider would help Jean Kinsey, let alone lend him money. Only a Kinsey would help him.

Mark threw her another question. "Then, who do you think would help him leave the country?"

Helen stared at Mark for a few seconds, got up, and said, "I'll figure it out. Thank you for your help. Have a good night."

Mark lowered his head. He had achieved his objective. There was no need to ask any further questions. It would be easier for Helen to find out where Jean Kinsey had gotten the money to leave the country than him. After all, Helen had been with the Kinseys for a very long time. She knew better than anyone of the Kinseys left in the world.

Helen returned to her room and pulled Aery, who was lying on the bed, up. "Get up, I have a question for you!"

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Aery leaned against the head of the bed and protested. "What are you doing? My leg hurts. Can't you be gentle? Am I your daughter?"

"If you work with an outsider, you're no daughter of mine!" Helen snapped icily, "Answer me, did you give money to your dad?"

Aery averted her gaze. “N-no… Why do you ask? I didn’t speak to him at all. We haven’t seen each other for a long time now, how can I possibly give him money? Will you calm down?”

Helen refused to believe it. She pulled Aery’s wallet out. “You card. All I need to do is check your account, and I’ll know. You better reconsider. Are you going to come clean or do you want to go through your accounts before I deal with you?”

Aery instantly looked like a deflated balloon. “It… It was me. Yes, I gave him money. I pitied him, okay? He just got out of jail and has no money for food. I only gave him the money you usually give me for my daily expenses and allowance. I saved the money, I have a right to spend it the way I want, don’t I? He’s still my dad, at the end of the day. He raised me when I was a kid, I’ll take care of him in his old age. The huge grudge between both of you has nothing to do with me. I can’t abandon him. Do you have to be angry with me because of that?”

Helen’s chest heaved, she was furious. “Didn’t I say you’re not allowed to speak to him? If you want to be with your father, stay far away from me! You knew what your father’s been up to, and you gave him money anyway. What’s the meaning of this? Secretly helping an outsider? Leave, right now. Go to him. I won’t concern myself with you anymore!”

“Mom, please don’t be angry,” Aery said pitifully, “I’ll stop giving him money from now on. I just feel sorry for him for being all alone. It won’t happen again. We’re in Arianne’s home, please don’t quarrel with me. It’ll leave a bad impression on them.”

Helen’s eyes were filled with disappointment when she looked at Aery. “Aery Kinsey, don’t you dare toy with me. You learned all of your tactics from me. Be honest, did you cause Smore’s fall from the stairs? How much more are you hiding from me? Tell me, now!”

Aery's eyes flashed with a complicated emotion before they returned to normal. "I don't know what you're talking about. Didn't you see it yourself? I was protecting Smore, why are you blaming me? Arianne is always the best, and I'm bad at everything. Even when I've done something good, it's still bad! Can't you be fair?"

Helen did not have any proof that Aery caused Aristotle's fall so she could not press the matter. All she could do was get angry over Aery sending money to Jean. "You knew that Mark sent men after your father, you knew that we came all the way back here to find a way to deal with your problematic dad, and yet, you still gave him the money to leave the country. You are… really useless! If Arianne finds out, she'll have you thrown out immediately! Are you even human? Now you've really done it. Since your dad is out of the country, we don't have to care now. He can kick up a fuss however he likes, but from now on, I won't bother. We're leaving tomorrow. I don't want to trouble Arianne anymore."

Aery panicked as soon as she heard Helen's words. "We're leaving so soon? My leg hasn't healed yet. The doctor says that I shouldn't move too much. Sitting on a plane will affect my recovery. What if there are repercussions? I could turn into a cripple! Can't we leave a little later?"

Helen suddenly slapped Aery's face. "Shut up! You just don't want to leave Tremont Estate, isn't that right? We're leaving tomorrow even if you could end up becoming a cripple! From now on, you and I will never set foot in Tremont Estate. You'd do well to remember this."

The slap stunned Aery. It took her a while to regain her senses. She stared at Helen with tears in her eyes. "I don't want to live outside the country, I want to stay here. You never asked for my opinion, you're always so self-righteous!"

Helen tried her best to calm her rage. "You can choose not to live with me. You're an adult anyway. You can take care of yourself now. Since you're of age, it's no longer my responsibility to care for you. You can choose to leave with me or not, but tomorrow, we're leaving Tremont Estate."