Ruling 1471

Chapter 1471

It did not matter if he was going to leave her or if their relationship would not end with a happy ending. All she could cling onto was what she had at that moment.

After a long time, Sylvain gently sighed and let go of her. His expression still brimmed with excitement as he held onto her cheek and said with a croaky voice, “Let’s go to my place.”

Robin knew exactly what he meant. For the longest time, they had been treating each other as friends and maintained their distance with each other. Therefore, Robin did not know if she should accept his offer and jump back into being in a relationship so suddenly. After pondering for a few seconds, she gritted her teeth and said, “I can’t. It’s so late now; my mom will be looking for me soon. I should go back now.”

A look of disappointment flashed through his eye. “Would you be my girlfriend? I’m serious, I don’t care how your parents think of me. I won’t run away from you ever again.”

Robin felt inferior as she recalled her conversation with Ursula. “Don’t you think we’re living in two different worlds? You should be marrying a reputable designer like yourself or the daughter of a wealthy family instead of nobody like me who comes from a common family. Even if you don’t regret it now, I’m afraid that the day will come eventually. Didn’t you say that a relationship that doesn’t have others’ blessing wouldn’t fare well in the end? You’re well aware of my parents’ character. Although they aren’t as stubborn as they used to be, your mother… wouldn’t like me anyway. I think that our current friendship is fine enough, truly. I’d rather not hope for too much because the higher the expectation, the greater the disappointment.”

Sylvain took a deep breath and punched the steering wheel. The horn’s loud blare signified his screams from within. “I don’t care about all that! As long as I can be with the one I love, why would it matter if I

didn’t receive the blessings of others? I only used to think that was correct because of my grandfather. My grandfather refused to let my parents marry no matter how hard my dad pleaded with him. However, my mom remarried the moment my dad died. I was so naive, I thought she did that without remorse because of how badly my grandfather treated her. I used to think of how their marriage might’ve ended if they were to have received the blessings of others. Now, I understand that my mom would’ve left no matter what. Therefore, it doesn’t matter how hard one tries to make someone else stay; the latter would eventually find a way to leave anyhow.”

Robin took the initiative and went up to give Sylvain a hug. “I know that you’re in a bad mood at the moment. I may not be able to say anything to comfort you since I’ve never experienced what you have, but… I genuinely hope that you won’t be sad. I’ll be here for you no matter what, so you can tell me anything. I’ll always be your listener.”

Sylvain hugged her tightly. After a moment, he let her go to help her fasten her safety belt and began driving without a word.

Robin did not reject him this time and did not even ask where he was going. She took out her phone and sent her mom a text message before turning off her phone. Robin decided that she wanted to accompany him that night.

Sylvain directly drove back to his villa. It seemed as though he was spacing off somewhere when he casually parked his car.

He got out of his car and grabbed Robin as they entered the house in a hurry. The moment the doors were closed, Sylvain pressed her against the wall. “Would you dare to marry me?”

Robin’s eyes were wide open as their gazes met, and her cheeks were flushed red. “Do you mean to… register immediately?”

Sylvain nodded. “Yes.”

Robin thought that the idea was absolutely insane. She did not dare to imagine how mad her mom would be if she were to place their marriage certificate in front of her…

Sylvain did not wait for Robin to reply and kissed her on the lips. He whispered, “Are you afraid? Do you dare say that you don’t love me?”

Robin gradually lowered her guard at Sylvain’s advances. Her heart was racing as all that she could see in front of her was Sylvain. She reminisced the taste of his kiss and clinged onto the odour that he emitted from his body. She wanted to hold him forever without ever letting him go. It was evident that she loved him, so was it a sin to marry her lover?

Chapter 1472

“I’m not afraid. Let’s get registered tomorrow.”

After saying that, she wrapped her arms around his neck and returned his kiss. Just as they were half undressed, the doorbell suddenly rang and it ruined the mood.

Robin immediately returned to her senses. “Who could that be? Why don’t you go find out first…”

Sylvain ignored the ringing doorbell. “I’ve been living alone for so long, no one would usually look for me. It could be that they’ve gotten the wrong house. Let’s ignore them.”

However, the doorbell kept on ringing, so much so that Sylvain could no longer ignore it. He frustratedly went out to check who it was and saw that it was a woman dressed in a white knee-length dress. The woman looked extremely attractive with her tall stature and robust body. Additionally, her mixed-race face made her look even more attractive.

Sylvain could not recall ever meeting the woman before and politely asked her, “May I know who you’re looking for?”

The woman cheekily winked at him and pushed her luggage forward. “You’re Sylvain, aren’t you? I’m your stepsister, Camilla. Did mom not tell you? I’ll be here on a trip for a few days and will be staying at your place in the meantime. Mom was the one who gave me your address as well. I’m about to die from this heat, so hurry up and let me in.”

Sylvain felt contempt—this was most definitely Ursula’s doing. He was wondering what Ursula had planned when she asked this stepsister of his to appear in front of him, a person who was completely unrelated to him. Was this one of her strategies to make him obey her and go overseas?

Sylvain said unhappily, “Can’t you stay at a hotel? Excuse me, but my girlfriend’s around, so it’s inconvenient for you to live here.”

Camilla pouted her lips and cajoled. “I don’t mind that your girlfriend’s around. What’s the inconvenience when your house is so big? I’m calling mom if you still won’t let me in. You’re free to decide what you want to do then!”

Sylvain did not want Ursula to show up and lecture him. Helpless, he could only open the door and let her in.

Camilla didn't act like a stranger to him at all. She joyfully ran into the house and flung her high heels aside before sitting on the sofa. "This feels so refreshing. I feel alive again. It was really hot before."

Robin was startled as she stood in a corner, watching Camilla. She could not help but feel angry at the sight of an attractive woman showing up in her boyfriend's house. Robin muttered uncomfortably, "I should get going now."

Sylvain grabbed her immediately. "Don't, she's the one who should leave! She's my mom's stepdaughter and we've never met. My mom was the one who asked her to stay here temporarily, not me."

Camilla scanned Robin for a moment and said, "What's with your tastes, Sylvain? Your girlfriend looks truly ordinary. Aren't you a designer? How could you let your girlfriend dress so blandly? She looks so ordinary that she doesn't look any different from a commoner on the streets."

Robin was slightly angry but did not know how to retaliate. Sylvain's expression turned cold. "Camilla, is it? Are we very close? Who are you to come running into my home and do as you please? Hmm? Go back to wherever you came from. We aren't close and we never will be since there isn't a need for it. Now, piss off!"

Chapter 1473

Instead of being mad at Sylvain's rudeness, Camilla raised her leg and arrogantly said, "You shouldn't try to chase me off so hastily. Plus, I wasn't the one who wanted to live here—your mom was the one who begged me to. I've been calling her mom because of how pitiful she is. She's been pretty conscientious

at home all these years. While she may not have done anything for the family, she does try her best to put in her best efforts and has been treating me quite well. Frankly, my dad's going to divorce her if you refuse to leave with us and she'll be left with nothing. My dad has never really loved her all that much and only ever married her because she looked rather similar in appearance to my real mom. There's no point in keeping her if she's no longer of any use to him.

"Also, she doesn't intend on letting you return to the family as her son; you'll be returning as Sylvain Trudeau, a designer who's Ursula's son-in-law. Do you understand? Ursula has shown me your personal details, including your photo before and I find you quite attractive. While we're at it, let's talk about that incident thing between you and that old hag—Jessica, was it? Did that actually happen? If it did, I do mind it quite a bit… You should just dump your girlfriend; it'd be best for everyone. I'll forget about her being in your house tonight since I'm a generous person."

Sylvain's face turned pale. If what Camilla said was true, then that was just disgusting. He was Ursula's own flesh and blood, yet he couldn't appear in public as such. Instead, he had to become Ursula's son-in-law by marrying Camilla. It wasn't just absurd, but also a complete joke.

Obviously, Ursula's husband was unwilling to let her bring to light about the fact that Sylvain was her son, yet she would still sacrifice him willingly and agreed to those disgusting terms just so that she could keep her pride and her so-called family. What did Sylvain mean to her actually?

"Tell Ursula that I will neither marry you nor leave with her. Also, my incident with Jessica is true, so you have every reason to be concerned! Now, are you going to leave on your own accord, or shall I throw you out myself?"

The arrogance on Camilla's face waned when she realized that Sylvain was not joking. However, she remained seated without budging an inch. "Why are you being mad at me? You should be mad at your mom instead… If something were to happen to me after walking out of the door today, wouldn't you need to bear the responsibility? Keep in mind that this is my first time being in this country and I am literally a stranger."

Sylvain was just about to flip, but Robin grabbed onto him. “Leave her be. It’s getting late now, so you should just let her stay here. I’ll be heading back now. You should have a proper discussion with your mom tomorrow.”

Sylvain was definitely not going to let Camilla stay just like that. “No, I’m a man of principle, so why do you have to leave while she stays? Either you stay, or I’m leaving with you. She can stay here all she wants!”

Robin did not know what to say. She most definitely was not willing to let Sylvain live with Camilla in the house. However, she felt somewhat helpless after understanding what Ursula intended to do. It was at that moment that Robin understood—he was in the same situation as she was when mother had forbidden her from meeting him.

The three of them were in a standoff, with none of them willing to leave, hence all three ended up staying at the house. Sylvain found Camilla to be a nuisance just by looking at her, so he brought Robin back to his room and locked the door to get some peace and quiet.

That night, Sylvain and Robin cuddled in bed, and she asked, “About the registration… does it still hold true?”

Sylvain replied without hesitation. “Of course, it does. We’ve already decided to get it done tomorrow. I’ll take the day off tomorrow, and we can go on a date after we’re done with the registration.”

Robin paused for a moment and asked again. “But… What about Camilla? She’s still here and you already know what your mom wants… Are you truly not even attracted to her in the slightest? She is quite pretty.

Sylvain nibbled on Robin’s lips as a form of punishment. “What do you mean by that? Do I have to be attracted to someone just by their looks? I’ve seen plenty of pretty women; if I had to be attracted to each and every one of them, I’d be completely knackered. Plus, don’t you think that it’s disgusting since she’s my stepsister? My mom and her dad are legally married, so this is all absolutely ridiculous. I’m amazed that they could actually come up with this.”

Chapter 1474

Robin disagreed. She thought that Sylvain was actually disgusted by the fact that he had unknowingly been made a pawn in their schemes. Robin murmured, “But… Aren’t Arianne and Mark… like that too? They used to be a family, yet now, they’re together.”

Sylvain laughed hysterically. “Are you really trying to contradict yourself? How could it be the same? Arianne’s mom isn’t married to Mark’s dad. Plus, Arianne was only eight-years-old when she moved into the Tremont Estate while Mark was 18. How could he adopt an orphan when he had just become an adult? It’s highly likely that the adoption was not even done legally and it was simply just Mark taking care of Arianne; anything can be done with money. Therefore, of course, they can be together, since they aren’t related by blood or even bound by the law.”

Robin still could not put her mind at ease. “Why don’t we… put the registration on hold first? We’ll come back to this when you’ve settled your matter. I can’t imagine how this issue will turn out since… this is your mom’s wish.”

Sylvain suddenly turned silent and did not say anything for a moment. Robin immediately tensed up. “I was only giving a suggestion… Are you mad?”

Sylvain held onto her tightly and rested his forehead against hers. “Are you regretting it?”

Just as she was about to reply, Sylvain shut her mouth with his lips. Naturally, he did not just want to end it with a kiss but gradually moved downwards.

Robin panicked and grabbed his hand. “Stop… Camilla’s still here…”

Sylvain couldn't care less. “I wouldn’t be any happier if she hears us!”

Robin could not argue with him and gradually lost the will to fight him. Obviously, Sylvain was doing it on purpose by making her moan. Sylvain deliberately made everything seem louder just so that he could let Camilla hear everything. True enough, Camilla had heard them and was slamming on the door in a frenzy. “Can you guys keep it down? Are you not going to let others sleep?”

Robin began to panic; she tried to reach out and push him away, but he merely grabbed onto her hands and pinned them down behind her head before continuing with what he was doing. Not forgetting to reply to Camilla, he said, “You’re free to move out if you don’t like to hear this. If you insist on staying here, you’ll be listening to this every night!”

Camilla spat out a swear word, and the sound of her footsteps gradually faded.

Robin thought that Sylvain was being way too wild, but she could not stop him. A lifetime’s worth of shyness had been exhausted that one night. Was he really ignoring how she felt?

The next morning, Robin woke up late thanks to the conundrum last night. Sylvain was still deep asleep when she woke up. She helplessly blushed again as she recalled the events of last night. Her family must be going mental, since she had not returned home last night; she knew that she had to go home immediately. She had told Sylvain that the registration was to be put on hold since there were too many uncertainties, so both of them needed to reconsider the situation.

Chapter 1475

When Robin arrived downstairs, she saw that Camilla was lying on the sofa in her pajamas while watching TV. Although her hair was quite messy, she still looked very attractive. Camilla looked naturally beautiful thanks to her mixed blood; with her bright and healthy-looking hair, she didn't even need to put on makeup and was already flawlessly beautiful. Robin could not muster up enough strength to even greet her. However, just as she was about to walk out the door, Camilla called out to her and stopped her. “Are you leaving just like that? Aren’t you afraid that something might happen between me and your boyfriend after you’ve left?”

Robin flinched in anger. “Y-you…! He’s not that kind of person! I trust him.”

Camilla teased her and said, “Are you really that naive to believe that men are able to control themselves and restrain the lower part of their bodies? There isn’t a man who is able to restrain himself in front of a pretty woman, so you’d best be careful.”

Robin bit her lip and slammed the door angrily after she walked out. She did trust Sylvain, but she could not help but feel uncomfortable every time she imagined Sylvain being left alone with Camilla after she’d left. However, she had no choice, as she needed to go home.

After Camilla saw that Robin had left, she tidied up her hair before rushing towards Sylvain’s room.

The faint scent of last night's commotion lingered in his room. Judging by Sylvain's bare arms and shoulders, which were out of the blanket, Camilla was sure that he was completely naked.

Camilla began to have some thoughts as she gently opened up the blanket and crawled inside. Without opening his eyes, Sylvain felt someone creeping up to him and subconsciously cuddled the person, thinking that it was Robin. "You're awake?"

Camilla did not say anything but instead ran her fingers along Sylvain's chest.

That kind of seduction would successfully make any half-awakened man horny. Just when Sylvain was about to take it to the next step, he opened his eyes and was shocked to find that Camilla was under him. Sylvain immediately flipped Camilla over the bed. "Are you out of your f*cking mind! Where is she?"

Camilla was hurt by Sylvain's actions and angrily got up from the floor. "Are you crazy? Were you trying to kill me? She's gone already, so can't I play a joke with you? We weren't actually going to… Did you have to give such a big reaction?"

Sylvain almost blew his top. He felt as though he had done something worse than eating a fly and even felt terrified. If he were to do everything while he was in a daze and had not opened his eyes, what would he have done? His face darkened as he walked into the bathroom and locked the door behind him before taking a shower. It was a good thing that he was wearing his boxers, or otherwise, things would have turned even more awkward.

After he was done, he put on his clothes and left the house immediately. Staying with Camilla for one more second made him feel uncomfortable.

Ursula's phone was set to silent mode, as if she had expected Sylvain to contact her; she was cutting off all chances of him escaping the situation. Sylvain had no choice but to go back to his office. Robin was also ignoring his text message.

When he arrived at the office, Arianne noticed that he looked even worse than before and could not help but ask, "What's going on with you? What has your mom done to you? Why do you look gloomier with each passing day?"

Sylvain sat on his chair and took a deep breath. He seemed to look as though he had just come back to life. "She has asked her stepdaughter to come live with me in order to force me to leave with her. Furthermore, she has even asked me to marry her stepdaughter. Don't you think she's sick? I can neither chase her out of my house nor get in touch with my mom. I was supposed to get registered with Robin today, but all of that has gone down the drain. I feel so disgusted!"

Arianne did not expect for Sylvain's mom to be so ruthless. She jokingly said, "Well… her tactics do seem to be quite clever. Why don't you just go along with what she wants?"

Chapter 1476

Sylvain rolled his eyes at Arianne. "Will you stop teasing me? My reaction to this can't be any clearer. I'm not leaving, and I'm certainly not getting into an absurd marriage with that shameless bimbo. The very sight of her pisses me off! Come up with a plan for me, if you have so much time. I'm gonna go crazy if this goes on."

After mulling it over, Arianne suggested, "Why don't... you tell your mom about that extremely high penalty fee you'll have to pay if you leave Tremont Enterprises right now. Ask her to pay it off for you, see if she'll do it. After all, she hasn't mentioned anything about paying for you to leave. It's obvious that she doesn't want to spend any money on you. Even if she agrees, her husband might not. Name a price that your mom can't afford, one that'll leave a hole in her husband's wallet as well. Since you can't leave without paying the penalty, they'll, naturally, back down."

Sylvain's eyes lit up. "That's right, why didn't I think of that? I've gotta go. I took the day off today. I wouldn't have come into the office if I didn't have anywhere else to go. I'm going home right now. I can't contact my mom, but I can definitely contact her stepdaughter!"

Arianne clicked her tongue. "Have you and Robin really decided to register? You don't have any other plans? I was looking forward to your wedding party."

"Stop adding to the mess." Sylvain groaned helplessly. "I'll buy you a meal later."

Sylvain returned to his villa as soon as he left the office. Camilla was probably still around.

Just as he had expected, not only was Camilla still around, but she was treating his house like her own. Lounging on the couch, and binge-watching shows. She did not wear anything under her translucent nightgown.

Sylvain could not bring himself to look at her. He tossed her a thin blanket and said, "Put on some clothes. I need to talk to you."

Camilla glanced at him. "Then, talk. Why do I have to put on clothes? Am I not dressed?"

He took two deep breaths to restrain his anger before he said, "I'm not going to marry you. As for my mother's plan of whisking me off to another country? I've never considered it either. However, I do have a ten-year contract with Tremont Enterprises. If I resign now, I'll have to pay a huge penalty fee. I can't

afford that. Your family's going to have to pay for it. If you're willing to pay, I'll leave with you immediately. If not, forget it."

Camilla stared at him for a long time. After she was certain that he was not toying with her, she sat up and said, "I'll call your mom. You have to discuss this with her."

"She has switched off her phone." Sylvain reminded her. "I can't get through."

Camilla gave him a profound stare. "She just doesn't want you to find her. She has another number."

The call connected. Camilla ended the call after speaking a few words. "She's on her way. Just wait. Actually, I don't want to marry you either. I'm still young, and I haven't had my fun. We don't know each other either. It'd be horrible to marry someone you don't know. My parents covet your talent and abilities. It doesn't matter if we get married as long as you leave with them."

Sylvain had expected this. Camilla was just a 'honey trap'. "You know about Jessica and me so my mom must know too, right?"

Camilla had always been candid. She did not mince her words either. "Of course, she does. There was a huge buzz about it overseas. How could we not know? My dad had just found out that you're her son not too long ago. At first, he was furious, but he swallowed his anger once he found out you could be useful. He had asked your mother to return to the country and bring you away. That's his condition. However, you had a scandal soon after. From that moment on, their relationship waned. They nearly got a divorce. My dad kept asking for a divorce, but your mom wouldn't agree to it. She insisted on staying with him. Later on, we discovered that you're working for Tremont Enterprises, and your name has been cleared. Your mom is using you as a means to save her marriage. If you don't leave with her, my dad will certainly divorce her."

Chapter 1477

Sylvain did not respond to her. His expression was blank.

It did not take long before Ursula arrived at the villa. Her delight was apparent when she found Sylvain had finally relented. “Syl, you’re finally willing to leave with me?”

“He needs to pay a penalty fee to leave Tremont Enterprises,” Camilla interjected before Sylvain could reply, “Let me make it clear to you… If you’re going to pay this sum of money, you’ll have to come up with the money on your own. My father won’t do it. You shouldn’t humiliate yourself by asking my dad for money. He’ll only despise you even more. I’m reminding you for your own good.”

Camilla’s tone toward Ursula greatly annoyed Sylvain. He shot Camilla a look, and she only rolled her eyes at him.

Ursula tried to smooth things over. “Syl, don’t argue with your sister. She’s always talked like that. She’s not a bad person, she’s nice to me. Tell me, how much is Tremont Enterprises’ penalty fee?”

The plan was already set, but in the end, Sylvain was slightly reluctant to speak. He did not want to see Ursula being chased away, but he did not want to give up everything he had. However, Ursula was not liked in her husband’s household. Things that were done for personal benefit were not as reliable sincerity. After a bout of silence, he finally said, “You should know how much the Tremont Enterprises’ penalty is. The price they paid for my signature is high. The penalty fee would be ten times more than that.”

Ursula stiffened. “Ten times?” She clearly did not have any money. She could not contend with Tremont Enterprises’ wealth. Even the family fortune that she had saved over the past few years would not be enough to pay the penalty.

“Oh, dear.” Camilla clicked her tongue. “No one can afford it. Not even my dad can spare the funds for it. It’s futile then. It makes sense. Tremont Enterprises expended a lot of effort to sign Sylvain. It’s only natural that they would try their best to minimize possible risks. If he wants to leave, the penalty should be enough to make up for it.”

Colors drained from Ursula’s face immediately. She stumbled slightly and had to support herself against a couch before finally sitting down. “Syl… I-is there another way? I really need you… I’ll lose everything if you don’t come with me.”

Sylvain turned his head to the side, refusing to look at Ursula. Naturally, Tremont Enterprises’ penalty was not that much, but he could not relent. Both Robin and Tremont Enterprises were reasons for him to stay. He did not want to start over in an unfamiliar place territory as a manipulated tool and work for someone else for the rest of his life for nothing. The Ursula now was similar to how she was in the past when she abandoned him to remarry. She had never considered his life at all. Now that she was facing the threat of a divorce, she was pinning all her hopes on him to save her marriage. In the first place, he had nothing to do with her marriage and divorce. He could not help the wave of disappointment that rose in his heart.

After a long silence, Camilla rose to her feet and headed upstairs. “I’m going to pack my bags. There’s no longer any use in staying here. I even have to listen to a live erotic show at night. I can’t stand it.”

Ursula stiffened and shot Sylvain an inquisitive look.

“I don’t see anything wrong with my girlfriend staying the night at my place, do you?” Sylvain calmly said, “Camilla’s leaving, you should get going as well. I can’t leave if you don’t pay the penalty. Solve your own problems. I’ve been doing that since I was a kid. Forget about begging for your help. I didn’t even know where you were.”

Ursula lowered her head, dejected. It was obvious she had nowhere to turn to for help. Her sorrow felt almost palpable.

Chapter 1478

Sylvain heaved a long sigh of relief after seeing Camilla and Ursula off. The desolate look in Ursula’s eyes filled him with guilt for some reason. A soft heart was a kind of disease. It was like a knife, cutting at his resolve bit by bit and forcing him to do things he did not want to do. In the end, he could only try to harden his heart. He could only think about it and not act.

Ursula did not go with Camilla after leaving the villa.

Camilla asked suspiciously, “Where are you going? Aren’t you taking me to the hotel? What if I run into bad people? I don’t know my way here.”

Ursula paused for a moment before she said, “It’s alright. There won’t be any bad people in the middle of the day. Just tell the cab driver to go to the hotel. At most, you’d be cheated out of a few dollars. I have important matters to attend to. I’ll see you at the hotel soon.”

Camilla frowned. “Actually… I don’t want you and dad to divorce either. But what can I say? You lied to him. You should’ve told him about your son in the first place. You may not be my biological mother, but I know that you’ve been good to me over the past few years. You’ve done much more for me than my dad. I’ll persuade my dad to give you some alimony if you divorce him. I can’t let your years of effort go down the drain.”

Ursula was not certain if she was moved by Camilla's words, but she felt tears in her eyes. "Let's not talk about these things. You go on ahead, I'll leave when you get in the car."

When the cab drove off, Ursula finally burst into tears. Even Camilla, her stepdaughter who had no blood relations with her, thought she was wonderful for fulfilling her duty as a stepmother. However, she had never fulfilled her duties as a mother to Sylvain, her biological son. She felt guilty, but she was more afraid of losing everything she had. She did not want to lose everything again. She had abandoned Sylvain and left the county to escape a life of poverty. It was not easy for her to snag a rich foreigner, she was certainly not going to let herself return to her original state.

Ursula took a cab to Tremont Enterprises. She waited at the ground floor of Tremont Tower for half an hour before Davy escorted up.

She regained her composure and suppressed the negative emotions evident on her face as soon as she set foot in Mark's office. She smiled brightly as she said, "Mr. Tremont, we finally meet. Seeing is truly believing. You're so successful despite your young age. How very admirable."

Mark sat in his office chair, looking slightly indolent. He drummed his defined fingers softly on the table. "You're Sylvain's mother? I've never heard him mention you before. By the way, I've received your mail, but I don't see a need to reply to it. You should have some experience in business, these matters can't be settled by just one email," Mark said in an emotionless tone. However, each word seemed cruel.

Ursula's smile froze in place. "Uh… You're right, Mr. Tremont. I've been inconsiderate."

Mark looked at her indifferently. "If you have something to say, just say it. I'm very busy."

Ursula steadied herself and was just about to speak when Arianne pushed the door open and walked into the office.

Arianne had met Ursula before. Ursula had even undermined Arianne. However, under these circumstances, she had no choice but to act as though nothing had happened. “This must be Mrs. Tremont, right? Hello.”

Arianne nodded and smiled, giving Ursula a half-as*ed response. She had heard that Ursula had come to see Mark so she had rushed over. Ursula was obviously here to talk about Sylvain. She had not informed Mark of her and Sylvain’s scheme and was afraid Mark would unknowingly expose them.

Mark’s gaze softened when he saw Arianne. “What are you doing here all of a sudden? Did something happen?”

Chapter 1479

Arianne chuckled sheepishly. “I’m sorry, my… uh… office’s air-conditioning isn’t working properly so I’m here to use yours. I happen to have some free time.”

Mark looked at her skeptically. “How’s that possible? We just had the office’s air-conditioning checked last month. I’ll have someone take a look at it later. I’m in the middle of a discussion. Enjoy the cool air, don’t interrupt.”

Arianne promptly sat on the couch, sneaking a look at Mark and Ursula from time to time. She was not sure what Mark and Ursula had talked about prior to her arrival so she could only play by ear.

Without any warning, Ursula suddenly fell to her knees. “Mr. Tremont, Mrs. Tremont, please let Sylvain go. I really need him, we can’t afford the penalty. I don’t know how I’m going to live if he doesn’t come with me…”

Arianne jumped in fright. Since Ursula was nearer to her, it seemed like she was kneeling to her. “Mrs. Jaark, please get up. What are you doing?”

Mark frowned. “We all have our dignity. Don’t you think you’re being inappropriate for doing this? Are you asking us to release Sylvain without the penalty fees? I haven’t even gotten back the money I invested in him. Businessmen don’t do businesses that make a loss. Please don’t talk about things that will never happen. There’s no need to carry it this far.”

Ursula refused to get up. She looked absolutely miserable as she said pleadingly, “I don’t have a choice. What’s dignity compared to what I’m about to lose? Please, I’m begging you. I’ll repay you the money that you invested in Sylvain, it won’t be a loss for you. I just… can’t pay the penalty. Please, Mr. Tremont, let Sylvain come with me!”

Arianne was in shock. Ursula was willing to go that far? Ursula looked capable and dignified on the surface. It was a stark contrast to her pitiful state now. This caught her off guard. Anyone would know what Ursula was asking for was an impossible feat, and yet, Ursula still tried to change the outcome by kneeling and crying. It seemed like Ursula had been forced into a dead end.

Mark was obviously repulsed by Ursula’s actions. He said icily, “Not happening. You won’t even pay the penalty but you want to take him away? How could an outstanding man like Sylvain have a mother like you? Shouldn’t it be his choice to stay or leave? Arianne, please tell Sylvain to handle this. I have a meeting, and I don’t have time. I’ll let you deal with this. Do whatever you want.”

Arianne had no choice but to agree. Mark was not a sentimental man when it came to business. He could not be bothered with ugly dramas. She waited for Mark to leave before she helped Ursula to her feet. “Don’t do this. It’ll make things very difficult for Sylvain if he finds out.”

Chapter 1480

“Please don’t call Sylvain!” Ursula begged. “I don’t want him to see me like this. You went out for lunch with him previously, I know you’re close. That’s why I made a bad move. Rules are rules, but we have to consider human interest as well, don’t we? I can’t possibly pay Tremont Enterprises’ exorbitant penalty fee. I’ll try my best to reimburse you. Let me take him with me, okay? I’ll be honest... My husband’s going to divorce me if Sylvain doesn’t leave with me. I won’t get a thing, I’ll have to leave without a single cent. After holding up that family for so many years, I’d get nothing in the end. I can’t even imagine it. Please, help me. It’s not like Tremont Enterprises needs the money.”

Arianne felt slightly guilty when she saw Ursula in this state. Perhaps, she should not have suggested lying about the penalty? After all, the penalty was not that much. Sylvain was more than capable of paying it off. Tremont Enterprises would never make anyone sign a contract with sky-high penalty fees. It would be too unscrupulous. “Mrs. Jaark… I think it’s better if you ask Sylvain for his opinion. If he’s willing to leave with you, the process will be a lot easier. If not, no one can make him leave.”

Ursula’s eyes seemed to brighten as she said, “Really? Sylvain told me that he’ll leave with me as long as I pay the penalty fees. It’s not that he doesn’t want to leave, he’s tied to the penalty fee. I’d be ever so grateful if you let him go!”

Arianne felt a great urge to bite her tongue off. She and her big mouth, she had spoken thoughtlessly. Sylvain had used the penalty fee as an excuse because he did not want to leave, and she was the one who gave him the idea. Sylvain must have made himself very clear, and she should not have said a thing. “Uh… Maybe Sylvain was only speaking casually. There’s a possibility that he doesn’t want to leave, contract and penalty fee aside. Please leave, okay? As for the penalty, you’ll have to speak to my husband.”

Ursula grabbed Arianne's hand. "But didn't he just say that you have full authority? You can make the decision. I'll give you all of my money and pay for Tremont Enterprises' losses as much as I can, okay?"

Arianne was knee-deep in the situation now. She was completely helpless. Ursula was watching her, and she could not possibly call Sylvain. "Don't do this, Mrs. Jaark. I don't dare to make the decision, the penalty fee isn't a small sum. My husband makes all of the decisions in the company. He didn't really mean it when he asked me to handle this. It's working hours now, and we're all quite busy. Will you please go home? Sylvain has the day off today. I'll discuss this with him tomorrow, and we'll come to a proper decision, okay?"

Ursula was not an idiot. She knew Arianne was just looking for an excuse to send her away. She wept profusely. "Please, I'm begging you. Don't do this to me. My life has been difficult enough as it is, I just want my son to come back to me…"

Arianne's mind was in mess, but she was angry at the same time. How twisted was Ursula? What did Ursula mean by 'I just want my son to come back to me'? Where was Ursula, as a mother, all those years? If Sylvain did not prove himself useful to Ursula, Ursula would probably still be arrogant and carefree, she would not even remember her son!

It was useless being courteous to a whiny little princess. Arianne's expression turned cold immediately. "Mrs. Jaark, will you please leave? I will speak to Sylvain about this. Yes, you're his mother, but Tremont Enterprises will never resolve the penalty fee and the contract via the methods you've mentioned. You have two choices; one, have Sylvain come over right now. Two, wait for him to come in tomorrow for a discussion. He's not going to leave until this is solved. If you want him to quit immediately, we'll take legal action."

Ursula immediately stopped sobbing when she saw Arianne had hardened herself. "I knew it. Humans are all the same, profit is king. Aren't you treating him like a cash cow as well? He has to make the decision, you say? Those are just words to protect your own reputation."

“How appropriate of you to use the word ‘too’,” Arianne calmly replied, “We’re not the only ones who see him as a cash cow, you’re just the same, right? It’s just such a pity that you’re manipulating him with familial sentiments. We, on the other hand, have a contract with him that he willingly and openly signed. We’re far more refined than you. Mrs. Jaark, may I ask, where were you when Sylvain was in trouble? Where were you when he was at his lowest? Sylvain would have been shut out from the fashion industry forever if it weren’t for Tremont Enterprises. His talent would have been buried in the sand too. What gives you the right to demand us to blindly give you the advantages from the bridges we’ve built and the roads we’ve repaired? Humans should be sincere, this is especially true when the other party is your son. Don’t you agree? Your husband can definitely afford the penalty fee. You just want to reap as much profit as possible with minimum effort. This way, please. Take care on your way out, I won’t be sending you off.”