Ruling 1861

Chapter 1861

Knowing that Mateo's plan to whisk her away was nigh, Arianne panicked a little. "No, no! I'm not leaving with you!"

Mateo spared her only a brief glance. He did not even give her a word.

News of recent development had hit him: Mark's people had begun watching every airport in the city. He had to move and fast. Even if he could not leave the country, changing the location he housed Arianne was still a must.

Yes, he suspected betrayal from his dear pal Ralt. How else could he explain Mark's obviously-guided focus on airports? The only explanation was if that bastard was somehow tipped into knowing that Mateo was still alive, and that he was the one who'd abducted Arianne!

The old woman finished packing all of Arianne's things. "Everything's in order, sir."

Mateo nodded. "Wait for us outside. I'll be with you in a moment."

She gave a confirmatory hum and went out, Arianne's suitcase lumbering along.

The room was left with just Arianne and Mateo. By this point, all of the favorable, glowing impressions Arianne once harbored for Mateo had long gone extinct; in its place was steeliness that fueled her bristling. “What must I do to make you let me go?! I never wanted to attract a mote of your attention!”

Unperturbed, Mateo produced a small vial and a syringe. “You either get into the car of your own volition, or you get in through this way. What’s your choice? Please let me know; I would like to do what you consent to to the best of my abilities.”

Arianne could not tell what filled the vial, but she hazarded to guess that it was likely similar to the drug that put her to sleep from before. The last thing she wanted was to be anyone’s movement-controlled puppet, especially when she had a better chance at escaping if she was awake. With a frown, she declared, “I can walk on my own, so no, thank you. Wouldn’t want to inconvenience you now, would I?”

Mateo tucked his threat back into his pocket. “Good. Follow me. We’re changing to a new location. Makes it easier for us to make a break to another country.”

The sun outside was a little blinding. Arianne narrowed her eyes and scanned her surroundings as carefully as she could, yet she registered nothing familiar anywhere. Where on Earth was she?

Mateo kept urging her to get into the car, to which she retaliated by dallying for more time. It was then that a new car suddenly hurled toward them.

A small hope blazed in Arianne’s heart, lighting her mind with the prospect of being saved. But as the car drew near, she saw Geralt behind the wheel, and that kindling of hope blew out.

As Geralt pulled his car over, a very slight change crept into Mateo’s expression. He should know—Geralt Bernard of today was no longer the same Geralt who stood behind him in the past.

Seeing them on the verge of leaving, Geralt seemed puzzled. “Where are you bringing her to this time, Teo?”

Mateo tried to preserve their last, paper-thin affectation of camaraderie, so instead of exposing his ex-ally, he simply replied impassively, “Well, we need to be away as soon as possible. You know why. The longer we wait, the more risks we face.”

Geralt was perceptive enough to detect Mateo's elusion-his friend had skirted around telling him where their next destination would be. To You dont Frust me anymore?. do you? I've been on your side supporting you since the outset, and now you're suspecting me?"

A glimmer lurked in Mateo's eyes. "No, I don't suspect you... of course. just don't want to, ah, drag you into this affair anymore. You've helped me buckloads and to the detriment of your career, too. I owe you big time, Ralt. And I'll repay you one day, I promise. For now, go home... And since I'm leaving, goodbye."

Geralt shot a glance at Arianne and understood what had transpired. It was, indeed; Geralt who had carved the implicating inscription on Arianne's earring. A careful, exacting man such as Mark must have immediately noticed that engraving, which led to him pouring his attention to places like airports. Mateo had figured out this much, so the trust between them was broken.

Perhaps his ex-best friend was right—Geralt had no reason to involve himself anymore. Whether Mark found Arianne or not in the end, it was no longer his concern.

Arianne listened in on their conversation with gradual befuddlement. Were these two not brothers-in-arms? Why did it sound as though there was a split between them now? Could it have stemmed from her asking Geralt to pass her earring to Mark?

Before she could mull it over, though, Mateo had ushered her into his car.

Right before he started the engine, Geralt suddenly spoke up. “Teo, Mark’s people have their eyes trained on every entrance and exit on every airport at the moment. You’ll have to be heedful, pal; I won’t be there with you. Farewell.”

Chapter 1862

Mateo casually replied with a “Yeap.”

However, Arianne was in complete shock. She could not help but feel that what Geralt had said was meant for her. ‘How did Mark even think of keeping an eye on every entrance and exit in the airport? If he thought that I was purely being kidnapped, then the kidnappers would either want money or my life. I would definitely not have been taken overseas or to a city that’s far away!’

Arianne suddenly realized why she thought that there was something wrong with Mateo and Geralt. ‘Geralt must have used the return of my earrings as an excuse to leak some information to Mark…’

As Arianne peeked out the car window to look at the expression on Geralt’s face, Mateo suddenly reached out his hand and shut the car window on Arianne’s side. “It’s hot outside, and we’ve got the air conditioner on in here.”

Arianne huddled herself and coldly said, “Stay away from me! My whole being feels sick just by looking at you!”

Mateo’s body unknowingly froze but soon returned to normal.

‘The hatred that Arianne’s showing is inevitable. Although it pains me, I believe that it’s only temporary. Once we leave here, I’ll treat her even better. I believe that feelings for one another can be developed over time, and I believe that I’m not wrong in persisting for this.’

When the car arrived at the urban area, Arianne noticed that she had always been in the Capital, but the location of the villa was slightly secluded.

Coming to this conclusion, she felt saddened. Even though the person she sorely missed was so close to her, she couldn’t meet him.

Mateo’s car window was specially customized, where they would be able to look at the view outside from inside the car, but not the other way around.

In fact, they even passed by Tremont Tower during the journey. Arianne couldn't make heads or tails of whether it was the only route they could take to reach their destination or Mateo had deliberately done that. Whatever it was, for those very few seconds that the car passed by Tremont Tower, Arianne's breathing became very still.

It was not until the car had driven far away and that spectacular tower was no longer in sight that Arianne began to have an emotional breakdown. “Stop the car! Stop the car!”

Mateo was completely unfazed. “Enough.”

However, Arianne kept on harassing the driver like a crazed person, so the car began swerving on the road, going left and right. Hence, Mateo forcefully pressed Arianne down "Enough! That's right, I deliberately: drove past this route. I wanted to let you know that even if we are within Mark's sights, he will never be able to find you, so give up!"

Then, in a craze, Arianne bit the back of Mateo’s hand. The frightening gaze in her eyes seemed like she was going to bite the flesh right off his hand!

Despite the fact that his hand was in pain, Mateo did not retract it but allowed Arianne to continue biting onto it. That continued until Mateo’s blood painted Arianne’s lips bright red.

When Arianne finally released his hand and cried out emotionally, Mateo tried to console her by saying, “I’m willing to do anything as long as you’re happy. So, forget about him. I can’t lose you…”

Arianne's voice trembled as she said, "You can't lose me, so you're taking away my right to freedom? You're just being selfishly I to lose Mark possessive can't be and my son either, so please beg of you... Let me go... I never intended to provoke you in the first place..."

Mateo pursed his lips and remained silent; he did not know what he could say at that moment. Clearly, he could not comply with her desperate request. He was horrified by the thought of having to live his life without her, even if she was never his to begin with…

After driving for at least three hours, the car parked at a medium-sized airport. ‘There aren’t any overseas flights in this airport, so it’s obvious that Mateo is only planning to go to another city before flying overseas.

‘The moment my identification documents leave a trace here, Mark is sure to find out about it very soon. And after I arrive in the other city, I’ll be flying overseas directly without any downtime.’

Chapter 1863

Obviously, Mark had had his men keep an eye on this airport as well. However, since it was a smaller sized airport, there were not many men placed there.

Before they got out of the car, Mateo put on a pair of sunglasses and a face mask. Of course, he had prepared a set for Arianne as well.

Expectedly, Arianned refused to wear it and get out of the car. However, Mateo had already thought about it beforehand and handed over the syringe and drug to the old lady in the front passenger’s seat. “I’m getting off first, bring her with you later. Be careful.”

After Mateo got out of the car and entered the airport, the driver took up the syringe after filling it up with the drug, ready to inject it into Arianne. Obviously, she struggled with all her might. “Don’t touch me!”

The old lady moved to the back seat and forcefully held Arianne down. “Ms. Wynn, stop struggling. Otherwise, you’re the one who’s going to suffer if I have to stick this needle in you. The drug is only going to put you to sleep for a while; there won’t be too much of a side effect.”

What shocked Arianne was that the old lady was surprisingly strong despite her old age, which was completely out of her expectations.

With both the old lady and the driver pinning Arianne down, the drug was soon injected into her arm.

Arianne disregarded the immense pain she felt and continued to struggle, almost using every ounce of strength in her body. When the needle was removed, it scratched Arianne's skin, causing it to bleed.

When the driver saw that, he began to break into sweat. "Ms. Wynn, can you not give us any more trouble please? If you keep behaving like this, how are we supposed to explain to Mr. Rodriguez later? If you insist on behaving like this, I'm not going to go easy on you anymore."

Arianne spat and said, "How are you any different from human traffickers?! You *ssholes!"

Although the driver was being insulted, he did not retaliate. That was because Mateo had instructed for them not to be too violent with Arianne. However, if the situation continued, the drug wouldn't be able to get injected Hence the driver could no longer be bothered and used his knee to pin Arianne's arm down after gritting his teeth. Now, no matter how much Arianne struggles, it would be to no avail, causing the drug to be completely injected into her body.

Since they had a previous experience of injecting too high of a dose, they did not dare to inject too much into Arianne that time. However, with the amount of dosage that they used, it was enough for Arianne to fall into a comatose state within a few minutes.

True enough, because Arianne was originally weak to begin with, she began to feel uncomfortable within half a minute.

When the old lady and the driver saw that, they finally released Arianne before quietly standing by for Mateo's next instructions.

On the other hand, Mateo had the documents with him as he took care of the flight schedules. When the airport staff requested for him to remove his sunglasses and face mask, Mateo took a look at his surroundings, making sure that no one suspicious was near him, before removing the requested items for a few moments before quickly putting them on again.

Then, the staff expressionlessly worked away on his computer and apologized as he said, "I'm sorry sir, there seems to be something wrong with our computer and we're unable to proceed at the moment. Please wait a moment while I ask for our technicians to resolve this issue."

Mateo suspected that he had been spotted by Mark's men but still asked with a very patient tone, "How long do you need?"

The staff pondered for a moment before he gave an estimated time. "About 20 minutes; we've been having the same issue recently, so it will only take a while to resolve it. Please wait for a moment and I'm sorry for any inconvenience caused."

Mateo impatiently raised his wrist to look at the time on his watch. 'It's too late to go to another airport now, so I'm going to have to wait for 20 minutes even if I don't want to. Mark shouldn't have found me here so quickly. Even if he does, he can't possibly be nearby so coincidentally and should only be rushing here with his men now. I'll be able to lose the few men placed here by him easily.'

However, Mateo had underestimated Mark's efficiency in problem solving. Just as Mateo walked to the counter a moment ago, the staff had already received the news about Mark wanting to stop someone from flying.

What was even more coincidental was that Mark was actually nearby; he had already predicted that Mateo would choose to fly from a smaller airport instead of directly heading for the international airport so boldly. The moment Mark found out that Mateo was the one who had abducted Arianne, he instantly dropped all the work he had in his office and personally handled the matter himself.

Chapter 1864

As they rushed to the airport, Mark continuously urged Brian to drive faster. 'I'm so close to finding Arianne, so close to bringing her back to my side…'

However, despite everything, luck was not on Mark's side. Halfway there, the roads were so packed in traffic that there was nothing that could be done unless they could fly.

Brian was feeling extremely impatient. "Sir, there seems to have been an accident in front, causing this traffic jam. I don't believe we will be able to move forwards any time soon, nor can we reverse since there are so many cars behind us. What should we do now?"

Mark was so furious that the color on his face changed. He got out of his car to check on the situation of the traffic jam. 'We definitely won't be able to move for at least another 20 minutes. I can't just stay here and wait!

‘If Mateo is at the airport, this means that Arianne is definitely there as well. The woman that I constantly dream of is right in front of me, so what reason do I have to not rush straight ahead?!’

At that thought, Mark rolled up his sleeves and loosened his tie.

When Brian saw that, he curiously asked, “Sir, what are you doing?”

Mark took a deep breath. “I’m going to run out of this traffic and get a taxi there, what else? You don’t have to follow me, just drive the car over there later.”

Brian looked up towards the sky and glanced at the sun. “Sir… The weather’s extremely hot, you might end up with a heat stroke.”

However, Mark did not say anything and began making his way towards the traffic in front of him.

Mark had never run like this in his life, relentlessly running forwards at full speed while covered in sweat, which he despised the most.

Finally, Mark escaped the traffic area.

Since he did not see any taxi within the vicinity, he stopped a random person’s car and took off the expensive watch he had on his wrist, handing it to the owner of the car. “Take me to the airport, the one right in front over there. Drive as fast as you can; I’ll pay for any tickets you receive!”

The owner of the car was slightly skeptical at first, but after sizing Mark up, he believed that Mark was a powerful and wealthy man and that the watch was worth a fortune. Hence, the owner of the car willingly drove as fast as he could.

The owner of the car's driving skills were pretty decent, and he was even able to strike up a casual conversation with Mark. "Why are you in such a hurry, my friend? That's such a small airport, why didn't you go to the bigger one? It'll be more convenient for you to travel anywhere you want there. There was such a huge traffic behind us just now, many people weren't willing to come here."

Mark was not in the mood for small talk at all, so he merely said, “Just look straight ahead and drive. I’m in a hurry!”

The owner of the car shut his mouth begrudgingly and stepped on the accelerator all the way. If he had not met Mark, he definitely would not have been able to experience that moment where he could drive as fast as he wanted without any worries for the repercussions later on.

Meanwhile, at the airport.

Mateo had become impatient from waiting. 20 minutes seemed to pass by like hours and it was extremely unbearable, causing him to become restless.

He kept staring at the airport's technician who legitimately seemed to be resolving the issue with their computer. Mateo wanted to persuade himself to take it easy, telling himself that a happy and Carefree life was waiting for him long as he left with Arianne, but alas, he was unable to relax. He could not shake the feeling that something was going to happen soon...

While waiting, Mateo decided to return to the car to check up on Arianne. However, the moment he arrived at the main entrance, he saw that the car's door was wide open, the old lady and Arianne were nowhere to be seen, while the driver stood there smoking in front of the car.

Mateo panicked and immediately walked towards the driver, questioning him, "Where is she?! Where have they gone?!"

The driver hurriedly threw away the cigarette in his hand and carefully said, "A while ago... I did as you instructed and injected the dug into Ms. Wynn. Then, I have no idea what happened, but she said that she was feeling dizzy and sick, so couldn't. just let her throw up in the car, could I? I quickly asked the nanny to take her to the washroom. They just left a few minutes ago. I'm guessing the drug must have kicked in and she has already fainted. Shall I go and take a look?"

Chapter 1865

Mateo wanted to personally check on her himself, but he was also worried that the repair work in the airport would be completed and he needed to continue with his flight registration. He frowned and said, "Be quick about it and don't mess it up. She's much smarter than you think she is. If she escapes, it's going to be your head!"

The driver nodded his head and bowed as he reassured Mateo continuously. Then, he rushed off to the washroom. However, before he had even arrived there, the old lady suddenly ran out alone. "We've got a problem! She's gone!"

The driver suddenly felt a "Buzz" in his head. "What did you say?! She can't possibly have been able to stand properly, so how did she manage to disappear?! Have you tried looking for her?!"

The old lady looked to her surroundings. “I've been guarding her the entire time, but it was getting suffocating in the washroom. Seeing that she was still vomiting, I came out to get some fresh air. But the moment I went back inside, she was gone. I tried searching the surroundings, as she couldn’t have run off too far in her condition and might have fainted somewhere. However, I just couldn’t find her, d*mn it!”

The driver calmed himself before he said, “We’ve got to split up and look for her. If we don’t find her soon, we’re going to be in deep trouble. She shouldn’t be too far away; it’s about time for her medicine to kick in as well. It’s going to become troublesome if someone else finds her first, as what we’re doing isn’t legal at all. How could you be so careless?!”

What the two of them did not know was that Arianne was actually watching them from a corner nearby. It was true, the drug had already caused her vision to become blurrier and blurrier. Therefore, in order to make sure that she did not pass out, she kept on scratching the skin of her palm with her earring. Arianne was not sure how many times she had scratched herself, but her hand was painted red with her blood. The pain was the only thing that was keeping her awake at that moment.

‘With Mateo’s intelligence, I can’t just look for a casual bystander to help me, as he'll be able to find a way to resolve the situation. But I can’t maintain my consciousness for much longer either; the moment I pass out, that’s the end of it. I need a better way.’

Arianne grabbed an opportunity the moment the old lady and the driver split up to look for her before running to the opposite road. During that moment, her ears had begun deafening and she could not clearly hear what was going on around her aside from some buzzing noises. She had almost been hit by some cars a few times before finally being able to safely arrive at the other end of the road safely.

However, the driver spotted Arianne right at that moment as well. He swiftly ran towards her to chase her down.

Arianne gritted her teeth and scurried into the hotel in front of her. She was unable to clearly hear what the receptionist was asking her; all she knew was that she was in no condition to even explain that she was being kidnapped. There was only one thought in her head. ‘RUN!’

Arianne rushed into the elevator with a burst of dogged determination. She pressed the highest floor there was on the panel. Thankfully, it wasn’t peak hours in the hotel during that time, so not many people were currently using the elevator.

Arianne was finally able to heave a sigh of relief when the elevator ascended. However, the moment she relaxed herself, everything before her was suddenly shrouded in darkness. Just as she was about to pass out she ferociously bit hér, fip, covering her mouth with the stench of her blood. 'This really is an efficient method. I'm able to temporarily maintain my consciousness by doing so.'

Since the driver was not able to make it to the elevator, he could only chase after Arianne through the stairs. He did not know which floor Arianne had pressed and he was also afraid that she might suddenly return back to the first floor midway, so he could only muster up the courage and call Mateo. "Mr. Rodriguez, she has just escaped into the hotel on the opposite side of the road and is now in the elevator. We're very close to catching her. I'm now going after her through the stairs. Please block the entrance. Im worried she might return to the first floor. I have no idea how she has managed to remain conscious till now; I know I'd have passed out a long time ago with that dosage!"

Before the driver finished his sentence, Mark had already hurried over to the hotel. ‘I knew things wouldn’t move so smoothly. I’ve underestimated Arianne after all. This woman has always been different from all other women; she’s just given me another “surprise”.’

Chapter 1866

However, Arianne did not return to the first floor. Her brains were not capable of thinking about that anymore. Hence, when the elevator arrived at the top floor, Arianne exited and realized that there were

still stairs that could go up higher, which was inaccessible through the elevator. Hence, she went ahead to the stairs.

There was only one more floor left through the stairs, heading directly to the rooftop of the hotel. It was not a high class hotel, so the rooftop only had some plants and flowers on it, making it not too much of a sight to see.

'I've got nowhere to run to. What should I do now…'

Arianne walked to the guardrail and took a glance. The wind that swept the heat raised her hair, which was already drenched in sweat. There were very few cars and people down on the roads, neither knowing that Arianne was risking her life or escaping…

Soon after, the driver caught up with Arianne. When he saw her by the guardrails, he was shocked. "Ms… Ms. Wynn… I'll stop chasing after you. So, hurry up and come over here… It's dangerous there!"

Arianne was unable to hear him at all, until Mateo showed up.

She mumbled, "It's so high up here. I'll definitely die if I jump down from here, won't I? Mateo… I told you before… I'd rather die than go with you. I refuse to leave Mark alone, without him being able to find me. He'll lose his mind…"

Mateo did not know if Mark would lose his mind or not, but at that very moment, he was the one who was about to lose it.

Mateo was so frightened that his voice trembled. “Don’t do anything stupid… Come over here. I’ll let you go if you come here, all right? I won’t take you away with me anymore… So hurry up and come here!”

However, not only did Arianne not step away from the guardrail, but she even stepped on top of it. “I won’t believe you anymore. Whenever I think about how I won’t be able to see him anymore, I feel like I’m living in hell, suffering every second of my life. You may not have to be so persistent anymore if you’ve gotten me, but what about me and my Mark…? What about… his son and I?”

The light in Mateo’s eyes began to fade. For a split second, he regretted his actions.

‘Geralt did advise me and tell me how much Arianne loves Mark. He also told me not to persist with her any longer because it wouldn’t end happily.

'I refused to listen to him and insisted on taking Arianne away with me. I thought that with the amount of time I'd have left to treat her well and shred away the hatred in her, would be able to make her fall in love with me. But, looking at the current situation, it's completely impossible. She won't give me the chance to take her away with me.

After pondering for a moment, he said with a hoarse voice, “Please come down. I’ll let you walk away, I swear…”

Arianne could not hear what Mateo was saying very clearly; all she could see was his lips opening and closing. As her vision slowly darkened, she gradually lost control of her body and fell towards the road.

At the end of it all, Arianne had finally reached her limit. Visions of the years of life she had shared with Mark flashed through her mind, completely ignoring the cries from Mateo.

Mateo rushed forward as fast as he could and very accurately held onto Arianne. Both of them then fell outward together.

Mateo knew what he was doing, his mind was crystal clear. ‘I’m already a dead man anyway, so why would I mind actually dying for her for once?

'The hug that I had been waiting for all these years is finally being fulfilled-in this moment.' At that, thought Mateo had thoroughly let go of everything and resigned to his fate.

At that moment, Arianne had already lost consciousness completely. Hence, Mateo tightly held onto her in his embrace, feeling a sense of tranquility that he had never felt before…

When Mark arrived at the airport, the entrance was extremely quiet.

Before he even entered, the loud yells and the crowd on the opposite side of the road attracted his attention.

Suddenly, Mark felt a sudden wave of uneasiness. He crept slowly and heavily towards that direction. As he got closer, the chatter from the crowd entered his ears.

Chapter 1867

“How did someone fall from the building all of a sudden? The man and the woman were embracing each other when they fell, so they’re probably both dead, right?”

“Look at how terrible they look… They fell from so high up, do you think they can still be saved…?”

Each and every word that was uttered was like a sharp knife stabbing mercilessly into his chest. For a moment, Mark even found it difficult to breathe.

He had desperately hoped that it was all just a ruse by Mateo to attract his attention. However, the moment he saw matted black mane drenched in the sea of blood, he stopped in his tracks. In that instant, despair hit him like a train and he rushed forwards in a crazed state.

The onlookers did not dare to go too close, so they had only formed a circle at the surroundings. When Mark entered the inner circle, someone grabbed onto him. “They’re in a terrible state from their fall, so why are you trying to get so close? Don’t you know it’s bad luck to look at too much blood?”

However, Mark flinged away the onlooker’s hand and walked forward before bending over. He wrestled to pull Arianne away from Mateo’s grasp.

He hated the fact that even till death, Arianne was still in the arms of another man. Even if Mateo was in a completely unbearable state, he still wanted to punch him as hard as he could.

‘It’s all Mateo’s fault. If it weren’t for him, Arianne wouldn’t have died!’

Mark disregarded the strange looks and whispers from the crowd and painstrickenly held Arianne in his embrace as he said with a hoarse voice, “Ari… I’m here to take you home… Let’s go home now…”

Arianne’s face was completely pale. He could not feel her breath and heartbeat.

‘Why didn’t I stop her on the morning she was going to the funeral? I thought I understood her well enough and should respect her wishes. Being selfish would mean saving someone as well, wouldn’t it?

‘I’ve been selfish towards her for so many years, so why did I have to leave her be for that one time?’

By the time Brian arrived at the scene, the driver and the old lady that were brought by Mateo had already disappeared.

When Brian saw the scene, his feet instantly gave way and he was so close to kneeling down. “Sir… The ambulance is almost here…”

Mark held onto Arianne's lifeless body. 'Would Arianne's life be saved if the ambulance is here? Would she still be able to open her eyes?' TO Mark, the sky had already fallen... Unknowingly, his tears began to fall on Arianne's pale cheeks. After so many years, he has never shed a single tear. He had thought that he was strong enough...

Three days later, the truth about Mateo's plan to fake his kidnapping and murder had finally been revealed after Jackson submitted. his evidence. Of course, now that Mateo was dead, his corpse from fatting from the building would be the best piece of evidence.

When the Rodriguezes received the news, they did not have too much of a reaction, probably bolstered with the pain they felt from the first incident. Instead, they were only thinking about how they would be able to protect themselves.

But, how could Mark possibly leave them alone?

Mrs. Rodriguez had long but known about the truth of how Mateo was alive through the letter Geralt had given her. In fact, she had even covered up the tracks of Mateo's men when they d kidnapped Arianne. Then, when Mark wanted to leave, she deliberately stalled for time. All of those actions were unforgivable in Mark's eyes.

With the use of some tactics, Mark managed to make it so that the Rodriguezs were not able to retrieve Mateo’s corpse to be cremated. Instead, it had to be reprimanded in the mortuary.

Soon, the Rodriguezs grew restless and could not help but plead desperately.

It was a lovely afternoon that day. Mark was sitting in front of his desk to build up some wooden blocks with Smore.

When he found out that Mateo’s parents were visiting, he casually said without even batting an eyelid, “Let them in.”

Chapter 1868

When Davy brought them in, Mark even served them some high class tea and had a casual expression on his face as though nothing had happened at all. However, it was exactly because of his calm demeanor that Mateo's parents were scared out of their wits. They were completely clueless as to what the man before them was actually thinking.

The first to speak up was Mrs. Rodriguez. "Mr. Tremont, I know that our son was in the wrong, but… he's already dead. So, I beg of you, could you please return us his body? As long as you give it back to us, we will do anything you ask for."

Mark lips curled into a cold snicker. "Can you make everything right with just an admission of guilt? My wife is still lying in the hospital. Who knows when she'll wake up, so how are you going to make that right? I suppose there's a way for you to retrieve Mateo's corpse…"

Mark deliberately stopped his sentence halfway to leave them in suspense.

The moment they saw that there was hope, Mrs. Rodriguez hurriedly asked, "What would you want me to do?!"

Mark did not answer immediately. Instead, he glanced at the glass wall nearby before he slowly said, "With that kind of thickness, I doubt it would be enough to stop a person who wishes for death, wouldn't it? Your son has caused my wife to land in this kind of situation, so how could we call it even so easily? Think about it yourself, I'm not forcing you. Even if you don't do that, you'd be leaving your son's corpse to be thrown into the wilderness at most. It's just a corpse, so it shouldn't matter that much, should it? A gentle reminder, this is the 46th floor, so death is inevitable."

A hint of fear flashed through Mrs. Rodriguez's eyes and her face instantly turned pale.

On the other hand, Mr. Rodriguez calmed himself and asked, “Do we really have to ask for each other’s lives to resolve this matter? I’m willing to give you everything the Rodriguezes have just for my son’s corpse, isn’t that enough?”

Mark scornfully laughed. “Do I seem like I have the need for money? Do you think that little of me? Why don’t you tell me instead, what happened before my wife fell from the building… At that moment, did anyone ask for my opinion or even discuss it with me? Since everyone’s behaving like this, why would you beg for me to be merciful?”

After he said that, Mark looked towards Mrs. Rodriguez. “Didn’t you say you would do anything if I were to return your son’s corpse? This is the only way, think about it yourself.”

Mrs. Rodriguez took a deep breath as though she had just made a huge and important decision. “So it’d be enough just for me to jump, is it? It’s a life for a life then, plus Arianne isn’t dead yet…”

At that moment, Mark's hands balled up into fists. However, he did not. want to lose his temper in front of Smore, so he quickly returned to normal. "I'm not that cruel; decide amongst yourselves who's going to. Plus, whether or not you'll be able to survive isn't important; it all depends on your luck."

‘This is at least twice as high as the building that Arianne and Mateo fell from. Of course there’s no chance of survival!’

Mrs. Rodriguez trembled as she walked towards the glass wall, but Mr. Rodriguez reached out and grabbed onto her. “What are you doing?! I’ll jump!”

Mrs. Rodriguez shook her head. She knew all too well that it was she who had been helping Mateo carry out his plans from start to finish. Hence, Mark would not stop unless she was dead it's fine, ll do it. I want my grave to be beside Teo's so that he wouldn't be lonely anymore... The Rodriguezes won't be able to survive without you, you're the pillar of support!"

Mark was in no mood to watch such a touching scene. 'How much despair was Arianne feeling when she jumped off the building? How could they possibly know how much pain I felt when I saw Arianne lying there in the pool of blood?"

With a loud “Smash”, Mark covered Smore’s face as Mr. Rodriguez’s painful cries rang beside their ears.

Smore curiously asked, “Daddy, what’s wrong with them?”

Mark said with a gentle voice, “Nothing, she just wanted to be released from her painful life. It’s got nothing to do with us.”

Chapter 1869

Soon, the police arrived to understand the situation.

Mark graciously brought out the surveillance cameras he had in his office. In order to prepare for that day’s commotion, he deliberately instructed to have surveillance cameras installed in his office.

Regardless of the angle, Mrs. Rodriguez had jumped out of her own will and Mark had not even moved from his seat at his desk from the beginning. Plus, coupled with the fact that Mr. Rodriguez “silently

acknowledged" it as his tears fell without saying anything, the police deemed it to be suicide before closing the case.

After the police left, Mr. Rodriguez asked with a shaky voice, "When will I be able to bring my son home with me?"

Mark smiled slightly. "Anytime, don't forget your wife's corpse as well. Although she's a complete mess from her fall, she still needs to be buried properly."

Mr. Rodriguez walked towards the door helplessly. After taking a few steps, he suddenly stopped. "Are you… really letting me go?"

Mark's expression turned cold. "I would very much like for all of you to die, but this… is enough. Go, I don't ever want to see anyone from the Rodriguez family ever again."

Aside from being in pain, Mr. Rodriguez actually felt like he had been spared. 'At least I've survived… At least Mark didn't go to the extreme!'

That afternoon, Smore had grown bored from playing, yet Mark forbade him from running about. To Smore, the company was the most boring place to be at. Hence, he tilted his head sideways and asked, "Daddy, when are we going home? I want to play with Mommy."

Mark cleared up the documents he had in his hand and glanced at the broken glass wall before he said, "We'll go back now, but… You won't be able to see Mommy for a while. She's sick and needs to receive treatment at the hospital. We'll play with her when she's better, ok?"

Although Smore was slightly unwilling, he still nodded his head.

Mark held Smore in his arms as they walked towards the office entrance. “Davy, get someone to repair the wall in my office as soon as possible. I don’t want to face a huge hole everyday.”

Davy was still a little frightened from Mrs. Rodriguez's jump. It was unavoidable for him to be fearful when he confronted Mark Everyone knew full well whether Mrs. Rodriguez wanted to die by suicide or not. "Yes... I'll get someone to fix it immediately! You'll be able to see a seamless piece of wall tomorrow!"

Mark retracted the cold look beneath his eyes. "Are you afraid of me? You've been with me for so long. already, you know all too well what can be done and what can't. So long as you don't commit an unforgivable mistake I be able to give you anything that you want. So, relax and do your job. I've never mistreated my people before."

Davy hurriedly nodded. “I understand, Mr. Tremont! You’ve always treated me rather well, I do understand it…! Are you going home now? Then, I’ll stay here and watch them fix the wall. I still have to clean up after they’re done and leave!”

Mark nodded his head and held Smore with him as they left the office.

Mark headed straight for Tremont Estate. Arianne was not in good condition in the hospital at that moment, so visits were not allowed. Therefore, Mark could only learn about her latest condition through the doctor.

When Arianne was not around, Mark was suddenly patient with Smore, much more patient than before. Mark kept recalling what Arianne looked like when she was educating Smore and subconsciously tried to imitate her. He was afraid that Arianne would be unhappy with his teaching methods.

Mark was afraid that Arianne would never wake up again; he did not wish for there to be too much regret left between them.

He wanted to know exactly what had happened on the day the incident happened. 'How did Arianne end up falling from the rooftop with Mateo? I clearly rushed there as fast as I could, yet I couldn't make it in time…'

Just as they arrived home, Mark's cell phone suddenly rang. After seeing Smore take off his shoes and jump around as he played, Mark walked to the patio and answered his phone call. "Hello?"

Chapter 1870

Jackson was on the other end of the phone call. "Mark, where are you? I want to find you now. It's about… the matter before Arianne got caught up in that incident. The driver and nanny that was accompanying her have been found."

Mark lightly took a breath. "All right… I understand. Come to my house then, I'm here."

After waiting for approximately half an hour, Jackson and Tiffany entered the door together. Coincidentally, Alejandro was with them as well. However, he was there alone without bringing Melanie with him.

While they chatted in the living room, Mark asked Mary to bring Smore with her to play somewhere else.

Tiffany’s eyes had gone red before she even spoke. “How’s Ari?”

Mark shook his head lightly without saying anything. He did not wish to repeat what the doctor had told him. At that moment, Arianne was still in critical condition.

Jackson heaved a sigh. “The driver was at the scene when Mateo and Arianne fell from the building. Before that, when they arrived at the airport, they’d injected some drug into Arianne and wanted to take her away directly. But she struggled hard to escape and finally ran into that hotel before heading up to the rooftop. Arianne didn’t seem to have the intention of jumping during that time, but she probably couldn’t resist the drug’s effects any longer, so she fell. Mateo rushed towards her without a second thought, so I’m guessing he probably wanted to protect Arianne. That’s why he’s dead, but Arianne’s still alive. I took a look at Mateo’s corpse; he fell pretty terribly, there’s literally no bone in his body that’s unfractured. On the other hand, Arianne’s fractures aren’t severe, the most important thing is that her head was well protected. However, from that height… this is the best that could happen.”

Jackson tried his best to be as euphemistic as possible, so as not to hurt Mark as much.

However, Alejandro was not as "merciful". "Fm here because of this matter as well. In order to maintain her consciousness while escaping, Arianne had consistently been inflicting injuries on herself. Her palm was a complete mess from being scratched, she had also bitten her tongue quite seriously as well. It seems like Mateo did love Arianne quite a bit, as he could very well have not jumped with her, and still be alive and kicking at this moment. I was the one who caught the driver and the nanny. They're still with me, so tell me how you want to deal with them. Otherwise, I still have to accommodate them and provide them food and drinks. Just thinking about it reminds me of the losses I'm incurring. I wouldn't have come if I knew Jackson was going to; he's going to say whatever that's needed to be said anyway."

After Alejandro spoke, Mark’s face turned dark. He was well aware of the details that Alejandro had just said. “Do as you please.”

Jackson's expression turned strange as he glanced at Alejandro. “What can we do? "Dealing" with all of them would seem quite cruel. Since the matter is already cleared up, we should just let them go after teaching them a lesson: Mateo's the one who asked them to do it. "Now that he's already dead, let's just leave it at that."

Alejandro teasingly said, “Are you pretending to be merciful because Tiffany’s here? You’ve mingled around with Mark for so many years now, how innocent could you possibly be? Aren’t you tired from pretending?”

Jackson could not hold it in any longer. “Do you really have to be at odds with me? Are you trying to say that we should kill them off? In that case, you do it. They’re in your hands anyway.”

Unexpectedly, Tiffany was actually much more cruel than Jackson. "Even if Mateo did instruct the driver and the nanny to do it, they're the: ones who injected the drug into Ari. They're the ones who indirectly caused Ari to be in this situation, so neither of them should even think of escaping! Even if they don't die, I want them skinned so that they learn a lesson to never do that kind of thing ever again! If Ari doesn't make it, they'd be better off dead as well!"

Alejandro raised an eyebrow. “You’re quite right, I’ll follow what you just said as much as I can. Well, if there’s nothing else, I’ll be leaving now, so you guys carry on.”