Ruling 631

Chapter 631

Tiffany finally noticed a certain someone at the staircase with a sullen expression on his face. How could she have forgotten it was the weekend?! Mark was usually home during the weekend. She suppressed the embarrassment she felt and shamelessly rolled her eyes. “I’m speaking the truth. I’m glad that he heard me!”

Mark did not argue with her. He stepped forward and touched Arianne’s forehead. “Remember to put on an extra layer of clothes. Don’t catch a cold. I’ll take you to your prenatal examination in the next two days.”

Arianne was not used to his concern. She lowered her head awkwardly. “Mm…”

Tiffany lifted her wrist to check the time on her watch. “I’ve gotta go, Ari. I promised to go shopping with a colleague. Would you like me to get you anything? I can bring it over.”

Arianne shook her head. “No. You go on ahead.”

Tiffany giggled as she put on a show and talked to the baby in Arianne’s belly. “Bye-bye, I’ll see you again soon…”

After leaving the Tremont Estate, she drove to meet Aye at the shopping mall. She drove the Audi that she already had. She did not dare to use any of Jackson’s cars. She would not be able to enjoy her shopping trip if her vehicle was too luxurious.

As soon as she met Aye, Aye pulled her to a branded mobile phone counter. “I’ve been wanting to change my phone for a while now, Tiffany. Is this a good brand? I’ve seen you use this brand.”

“It’s definitely reliable,” Tiffany patted her chest and confidently said, “I’ve always used this brand. You should definitely get it. Let’s go have lunch at noon. I’ll take you somewhere nice.”

“Does it cost more than $15?” Aye asked tentatively, “If it does, forget it. My salary isn’t even enough to cover my own expenses. I can’t even afford to go dutch. Let’s just have a simple meal.”

Tiffany had already decided to have lunch at Jackson’s restaurant. Jackson was working overtime at the office today, but the fashion design department was on leave. She was bored. “Oh, don’t worry. It’ll be my treat. Don’t be so miserly. Hurry up and make your purchase. I want to buy a few winter outfits after this. My old ones are very outdated, and I look like a country bumpkin in them. In our industry, we have to keep up with the trends.”

Aye was, naturally, delighted when she heard that she would be treated to a meal. “Alright. I’ll buy you a meal next time. Please don’t go somewhere too expensive, I won’t be able to pay you back.”

After purchasing the phone, the pair went up to the clothing department on the second floor. Tiffany shopped around the average-priced clothing section but could not find anything suitable. Suddenly, she saw Tremont Enterprise’s new best-selling collection of the season. Her eyes lit up immediately.

Aye stopped her. “The clothes over there are extremely expensive. Do you plan on being in a financial rut for the next half of the year?”

Tiffany furrowed her brows. “I’m just going to have a look. It’s not like I’m going to buy them. Come on, let’s have a look. We can afford to look at them even if we can’t afford to buy them!”

Aye was terrified. She said softly, “I heard that the sales assistants for luxury brands like that are snobs. Won’t they be disgusted by us if we don’t buy anything? It’ll be too embarrassing if they roll their eyes at us… Let’s not go over there.”

Tiffany was annoyed with her dawdling. “I’m not afraid of anything. Why should I be afraid of someone rolling their eyes at me? I’m going to have a look…” However, before she could finish her sentence, a familiar figure entered her sight. It was Jackson, who was supposed to be working overtime!

She instinctively pulled Aye with her and hid in a clothing store next door.

Aye had spotted Jackson as well. She muttered, “Why are we hiding? We’re off the clock. Mr. West won’t be concerned with what we do during our free time, right? What’s Mr. West doing in the women’s section anyway? Do you think he’s here with his fianceé?”

Chapter 632

Tiffany could not help but feel anxious. Jackson clearly told her that he would be at the office today. What was he doing here? Moreover, he looked like he was here shopping with someone. He was sitting in the Tremont Enterprise clothing shop as though he was waiting for someone.

She hinted at Aye to keep her mouth shut as her eyes were trained on Jackson. Around five minutes later, a tall and slender woman with long, straight hair emerged from the dressing room. She showed Jackson the white fur coat she had tried on and even twirled around in a charming manner.

Jackson had his back to Tiffany so she could not see the expression on his face. However, she could clearly see the woman smiling. Moreover, she was smiling very prettily with a hint of coquettishness. She looked like a much-doted-on princess.

The completely ignorant Aye said, “Is that Mr. West’s fianceé? She’s really pretty. She’s got a great body as well. I think she’s at least 170cm tall, just like a supermodel…”

Tiffany instinctively blurted out, “Of course not!”

Aye jumped in fright. “What’s wrong with you? Why are you so annoyed?”

“Nothing… It’s just… I think it’s despicable of him to fool around behind his fianceé’s back…” At this moment, Tiffany had lost all desire to shop. Who was that woman? Jackson had been very honest with her ever since they had gotten together. Was it all an act?

At this moment, Jackson suddenly rose to his feet and pushed the woman against the changing room door. His tall figure completely covered the woman so Tiffany could not tell if they were kissing. She quickly turned away, finding it increasingly hard to breathe as time passed. “Aye… I… I’m not feeling well. Let’s go.”

Aye, naturally, did not understand what was going on. After they left the shopping mall, she asked tentatively, “Tiffany, do you have a crush on Mr. West? Since you saw him with another woman, you…”

Tiffany was not in the mood to talk, and she did not feel like explaining herself. She felt as though she was the butt of a joke. Jackson had slowly coaxed her and convinced her into believing she was the only one for him. She had tried her best to be good, worked hard to keep up and be worthy of him. Now, she

felt, perhaps, she was a suitable candidate for marriage, but she probably could not give him the novelty and excitement he craved.

She considered confronting Mark or Eric to find out if Jackson was having affairs behind her back. After all, they were as close as brothers, if something was up, they would definitely know about it. However, she did not even consider talking to Jackson about it. She could not do it. She was afraid that their relationship would end just like that...

In the past, she might have walked into the shop and slapped him without a second thought. Then, she would arrogantly storm away. However, she had fallen deeper and deeper in love with him. She discovered that if he really did make a mistake, she would still give him a chance. She really wanted to know who the woman was, but she was afraid of the answer at the same time.

Naturally, she was no longer in the mood to have lunch. After she calmed down, she said, “Aye, I think I’m going to have to skip lunch today. I have to go. Let’s go shopping another day.”

Tiffany ran off before Aye could ask her any more questions.

Tiffany went to the office immediately after she left Aye. As expected, Jackson was not in the office. She waited in the office for three whole hours before Jackson finally returned at 2 PM.

A hint of nervousness briefly flashed in Jackson’s eyes when he saw her. “What are you doing here? It’s your day off, why aren’t you relaxing at home?”

She could see the emotions that flashed in his eyes. Initially, she had planned to observe him. If he remained calm and composed, she would choose to trust him and pretend like she did not see anything. However, the panicked look in his eyes did not escape her notice.

Chapter 633

“I went shopping with Aye so I thought I’d drop by. I’ve waited for three hours for you. Where did you go?” Tiffany asked, acting as though nothing had happened.

“I… went to meet a client and had lunch before I came back. Have you eaten? I can order takeout for you.” It was obvious that Jackson was deliberately avoiding meeting her gaze. However, he did not forget to be considerate and asked if she had eaten.

“There’s no need for that. I just came to see you. I’ll grab a bite to eat on my way home. You should go back to work.” After she finished speaking, she rose to her feet and left immediately. At this moment, she felt her vision blurring from her tears that were threatening to fall. However, she forced herself to hold them back.

That night, Jackson called and said that he would not be going back to the West residence after work since he had to have dinner with a client. He told her to have dinner on her own. She agreed without a fuss. However, as soon as the call ended, she burst into tears. Since Arianne was pregnant, she could not bring herself to burden Arianne with her problems. She was afraid of riling Arianne up. In the end, she chose to endure it. However, the more she endured it, the more agonizing it was for her.

Jackson finally returned at around 11 PM. She lay in bed, quietly listening to his movements in the shower. When he climbed into bed, she pretended to be asleep.

He did not try to ‘wake’ her to be intimate with her. He did not even notice the dampness of her pillow.

Needless to say, Tiffany did not sleep well. She would fall asleep before she was startled awake. This happened repeatedly. The thoughts in her mind would not go away. She stared at the man lying next to her who was fast asleep. She could not bring herself to hate him. Instead, her mind was filled with questions. She wondered what she had done wrong. Were men truly incapable of resisting temptation?

She managed to pull through until morning dawned.

Jackson woke up at 7 AM sharp and planted a kiss on her forehead as usual. Then, he went to wash up.

Tiffany was awake. Naturally, she was aware of his small actions. She stayed in bed, lying very still before finally getting up after ten minutes had passed. She changed her clothes and washed up as though she was on auto-pilot.

When they left the house, Jackson finally noticed something was amiss. “What’s wrong? Why are your eyes so red? Have you been crying?”

Tiffany shook her head but did not reply to him. In the past, he would have noticed this a long time ago.

“What would you like to have for dinner?” Jackson asked with a frown on his face as they made their way to the office. “If you’re bored of eating out, how about I get up half an hour earlier and make breakfast for you?”

She shook her head again. “No need. Any breakfast is fine.”

Jackson fell silent. Soon after, he asked, “What’s going on?”

She tried her best to force a smile on her face. “Nothing. I’m just… in a bad mood for some reason. You know… women have this issue for a few days every month. Stop asking.”

Jackson was puzzled. “You period came early this month? It arrived on the 15th of last month… It’s only the 10th. I wonder if your irregular period is the reason why we haven’t been able to conceive. Would you like to go for a checkup?”

Tiffany exploded at the mention of pregnancy. “I don’t want kids! Not now, not ever. So stop asking about it!” His heart was not with her anymore. Why should they have a child? Did he expect her to take care of his child like a long-suffering wife? Now that she thought about it, she realized not many people would be able to do what Summer did. Summer had single-handedly raised Jackson to adulthood. She was not that amazing, she would not and could not do it!

Jackson hit the accelerator. “What’s wrong with you? If something is bothering you, talk to me… Don’t throw a tantrum and keep me guessing.”

Chapter 634

Tiffany stared at him, taking note of his impatience and explosive temper. He never used to be like this. Maybe he did not change, maybe it was just her. With the state she was in, everything was simply magnified. She tried to calm down. “It’s nothing. I just don’t want to have children anymore. It’s meaningless.”

Jackson's expression turned cold. He did not say another word and continued driving to the office. When they arrived at the intersection, Tiffany got down from the car without looking back at him.

He punched the steering wheel angrily, causing the honk to sound loudly. His already-busy morning now had an extra disturbance. He had just parked the car in the car park when he received a message on his phone. "It's inconvenient for me to go out now. Grab some breakfast for me and deliver it to the hotel."

An expression of impatience appeared on his face as he stared at the message from the unsaved number. He typed out his reply. "No time. Do it yourself." Alas, he did not send the message. After a bout of hesitation, he deleted the message and drove out of the car park.

When he arrived at the hotel with the breakfast he bought, he sent a message to the unsaved number. "Collect it downstairs."

He received a reply in no time. "I've already told you it's inconvenient for me to go out. Since you've already bought it, what's wrong with sending it up?"

He gritted his teeth and quickly walked into the hotel with the breakfast in hand.

At the office.

Tiffany was becoming more and more suspicious. Up until now, Jackson had not come into the office yet. Although she did not wait for him at the elevator, he should have arrived by now.

Aye noticed her unease so she walked up to her and asked, “Are you okay? Your eyes have swollen to the size of walnuts, and you seem really distracted… You… you’re not affected by what we saw yesterday, right? Do you have feelings for…”

Tiffany rolled her eyes. “You’re such a blabbermouth. What’s going on in your mind? Get to work.”

Aye pursed her lips. “I’m just trying to be nice. Why don’t I tell you a secret of mine in exchange for yours? My boyfriend cheated on me with my best friend three months ago. My heart was torn to pieces, and I was furious. It took me a week to finally get peace of mind. My boyfriend works in our company as well, but he’s in another department. No, sorry, I meant to say ex-boyfriend.”

Tiffany was surprised. Aye spoke about it with such nonchalance. She understood her pain completely. She was just like Aye, furious and desperate. “Seriously? That’s horrible! Which department is your ex-boyfriend from?”

Aye smiled. “Seems like gossip is the only thing that can pique your interest. I had to use my pain to cheer you up. Don’t ask me about it. I don’t want to talk about it anymore. Moreover, there are very low chances of us bumping into each other.”

Tiffany lowered her eyes and bit her lips. “Then, I’ll tell you a secret…”

Aye’s ear pricked up. “Tell me! I promise I won’t tell a soul…”

Chapter 635

“I’m Jackson West’s fianceé.”

Aye froze. It took her a few seconds before she slowly widened her eyes. “Are you serious? You… You’re joking, right?”

Tiffany lifted and waved her hand, showing Aye the ring on her ring finger. “Jackson put this on me during our engagement party. Now you understand why I had such a big reaction when we saw him with that woman yesterday, right? You promised to keep this a secret so I’ll keep yours too. It’ll be like a leverage. We’ll keep each other’s secrets. I don’t want the whole world to find out about it.”

Aye stared at her and said weakly, “Umm… Isn’t it a bad idea for me to slack off during work hours in front of my boss’ fiancee?”

Tiffany rolled her eyes. “Please. Aren’t I slacking off as well? In the office, I’m just like you. An average fashion designer. There’s not much difference between us. By the way, don’t you dare pity me. Nothing’s confirmed for now.”

Aye nodded solemnly. “I understand… Neither of us is better than the other. I’m pretty unlucky. At least you and Mr. West are engaged, and you’ll be Mrs. West in the future. I got cheated on, and I didn’t even get a breakup fee. What right do I have to pity you? Cheer up. If you’re still upset, I can break my budget and treat you to a meal. You can have whatever you want, just don’t empty my savings.”

Right at this moment, Jackson finally entered the office with a sullen expression on his face. Everyone could tell he was in a bad mood with just a glance. The staff was extra cautious as well when they greeted him.

Tiffany and Aye buried their heads in work.

When Jackson walked past Tiffany's desk, he placed a box of breakfast on her desk. He did not even pause as he walked past her.

Tiffany glanced at the breakfast. Her heart softened, just a little. Was he late because he went out of his way to buy her breakfast?

Aye advised Tiffany, "Maybe it's not what we think… Why don't you lay your cards on the table and talk about it? All this is pointless if it ends up being a misunderstanding. Look, Mr. West even bought breakfast for you."

"Focus on your job," Although Tiffany's expression was cold, a small smile could be seen on her face. She was the kind of girl who was easily coaxed. No matter how cruel the other party was, she was easily satisfied with just a little bit of sweetness. It seemed like she had not really grown up at all.

At noon, she did not ask Jackson out for lunch. She went out with Aye for lunch.

Coincidentally, Jackson had sent her a message, informing her that he would be having lunch with a client.

She did not ask too many questions and did not care if he was lying. At least he had informed her of his whereabouts. She had considered following him but thought it would be crossing a line. Therefore, she quickly dismissed the idea.

Tiffany and Aye went to a restaurant near the office. They picked a table by the window. For this reason, they saw Jackson's car driving past.

Aye stared in Jackson's direction and sighed. "If it were me, I wouldn't care how many side chicks he has as long as I'm his legal wife. He's insanely rich and handsome. It'd be strange if he weren't a player. Don't those women on TV choose money in the end? You can't control someone who can't be controlled. It's fine as long as he treats you well."

Tiffany said irritably, "Can't you say something nicer? It's not like it's confirmed. You even said that it might be a misunderstanding earlier. Why did you suddenly change the tune you're singing? I'm thinking of how to confront him. It's really uncomfortable holding all of it in. I want to ask, and yet, I'm afraid of the answer."

"Women are fickle-minded by nature… I'm just listing out alternatives for you," Aye replied in a self-righteous manner, "I said 'if''... If I told you that you're only engaged and not married yet, are you going to break it off with him? If it's as you suspected, are you going to continue with the wedding? If so, what then? If you kick up a fuss, it'll only benefit the other woman. Moreover, a man like him will never lack women. In my opinion, you should hire a private investigator to investigate that hoe. Know your enemy, and victory will be yours. Confirm their relationship first. If it's just a misunderstanding, then, great. However, if it's as you suspected, don't kick up a fuss. After all, even if you get divorced in the future, you'll still benefit from it."

Chapter 636

Tiffany paused thoughtfully for two seconds before she calmly said, "Those benefits are not important to me. If he's cheating on me, I'll leave him without any hesitation. The saddest thing for a woman is to put all her hopes on a man. My life will be much better without him."

Although she disagreed with Aye's opinion, she agreed that she should get a private investigator. She did not waste any time putting this into action. Previously, after helping Arianne with an investigation,

this was a walk in the park for her. She contacted the private investigator, and all that was left for her to do was wait for the results.

…

Meanwhile, Tanya was currently standing in the washroom, completely at a loss. She had been locked in by some person with ill intent when she was mopping the floor. The door had been bolted from outside. She could not get out. Since she did not have a habit of fiddling with her phone while she worked, she did not have her phone with her. The only thing she could do was wait for someone to come to her rescue.

This was not the first time something like that had happened. On her second day of work, someone had deliberately spilled hot tea on her arm. Getting ordered around was a regular occurrence, there was no limit to the mocking and sneers. She did not want to cause any trouble for Eric so she had stayed silent about it.

She could not understand why she was being treated this way. Although she was doing janitorial work, those who had desk jobs were not necessarily superior.

After an unknown amount of time had passed, the door was finally opened by one of the cleaning ladies who worked with Tanya. The middle-aged lady was surprised. “Why were you locked in here?”

Tanya shook her head, her eyes brimming with tears .“It’s nothing… It was an accident. I’m going to continue cleaning…”

The woman sighed, “You don’t have to help me with cleaning the washroom anymore. I can do it. Your job is to clean the office area anyway… You wouldn’t have been locked in here if you didn’t help me.”

Tanya forced a smile on her face. “It’s alright. I’ll help you clean when I have the time.”

After completing her job, Tanya returned to the janitor’s room to rest for a moment and to get a drink of water. Although this was the rest area for the janitor, in reality, it was no more than a storeroom. There was only one cupboard for her to hang her clothes and store her personal items. This room was also used as a changing room for her to change into her work uniform.

The door suddenly opened at this moment, revealing a pretty figure. “Oh, you’re pretty young for a janitor. Are you slacking off in here? I was just wondering why I couldn’t find you. Anyway, get up and buy me a cup of milk tea. Now.”

Tanya quickly gulped down the water that she did not even have time to swallow in the first place. She looked at the fashionable and pretty woman in the doorway and asked, “Can I ask you something? Why are all of you doing this to me? What have I done wrong?”

The woman sneered. “Your existence alone is annoying. We just can’t stand the sight of a country bumpkin like you. We know you’re not close to Mr. Nathaniel. You’re only able to come and go freely with him because you sold him your sob story. Mr. Nathaniel simply pities you. Are you only good at milking sympathy from men? You have no family or friends, is that why you decided to latch onto him? What are you planning?”

Tanya lowered her head. “I’m not…”

The woman crossed her arms in front of her chest and arrogantly kicked a bucket in a corner of the room. There was now a puddle on the newly-cleaned and spotless floor.

Tanya put down her glass of water, got up, and picked up a mop, ready to clean up the mess.

However, the woman stepped on the mop. “Mr. Nathaniel even requested us to mentor you in fashion designing. Can anyone just waltz into this industry? A country bumpkin like you is only fit to be a cleaning lady, ordered around by everyone else. I’d much rather draw a few extra designs than teach you.”

Chapter 637

Tanya bit her lips and forced back her tears. “I thought… that you’d teach me if I did everything you asked… Mr. Nathaniel told me that everyone’s nice here and asked me to learn from you. Once I’m more skilled, I’d be able to become a fashion designer like all of you…”

The woman scoffed. “A fashion designer? You? I just think of you as a great bullying target. What? Didn’t you hear me? Get me a cup of milk tea!”

“My job is limited to janitorial work. It’s not my job to run errands for you. Do it yourself. I don’t owe any of you a thing.” This was Tanya’s first time rejecting the lady’s request. Then, she forcefully pulled the mop out from under the lady’s heels.

The woman stumbled and nearly fell over. Her humiliation turned into rage and she slapped Tanya. “Who do you think you are? We already have a cleaning lady, you being here is just a joke. Mr. Nathaniel only gave you a job out of pity. Your job is so easy, you don’t have to do anything else. How is it any different from being paid for not doing anything? If you want to stay here, you’d better run errands for us. Otherwise, we’ll tell Mr. Nathaniel that you’ve been neglecting your duties. He’ll definitely fire you if he hears about this!”

Tanya felt a sting on her burn wound, but the pain could not compare to what she felt in her heart. She thought that the people she had met here would be nice like Arianne, Tiffany, and Eric. Now, she knew there were equally as many horrible people as well. “Go ahead then. Tell Mr. Nathaniel to fire me. I quit.” As soon as she finished speaking, she closed the door to the janitor room. She was going to change and leave this place.

The woman was still in a daze. Was the meek little white rabbit going to retaliate? Well, it was good that she was leaving anyway. She was an eyesore. She no longer caused trouble since Tanya said she was going to quit. She made her way back to the office area, her heels clicking on the floor loudly. She announced haughtily, “That country bumpkin is quitting. She’s leaving.”

A group of women, all of whom shared the same character, gathered and discussed in high spirits.

“Do you think we were too hard on her?”

“What do you mean? I only accidentally spilled tea on her. It’s her fault for not serving it properly.”

“Do you really think there’s nothing going on between her and Mr. Nathaniel?”

“I’ve already asked that hick. I even asked Mr. Nathaniel. Their answers are the same. They’re just friends. Mr. Nathaniel told me that hick has no family or relatives and asked us to take care of her. I think she’s pretty good at seducing men. She even managed to sell her sob story in such a refined and graceful manner. She knows nothing of the basics, and yet, she wants to become a fashion designer. Dream on! If Mr. Nathaniel really cared about her, he would have confronted us long ago. How long has

it been? We've been so mean to her, but Mr. Nathaniel hasn't said a word. I'm pretty sure he's not completely unaware of this. He just can't be bothered to deal with it."

"I'm glad she's leaving. She's an eyesore. How can someone like her come and go freely with Mr. Nathaniel? She even treated him like her chauffeur. He had to drive her around. Who does she think she is? That damned hillbilly cleaning lady!"

Tanya who was passing the office area by chance heard these hurtful words. She had long gotten immune to this so she pretended as though she heard nothing. Instead, she swiftly made her way to Eric's office.

Upon seeing this, the group of gossipy women grew worried.

"She's not going to file a complaint against us, right?"

"Probably not… She would have done it a time ago if she wanted to complain. She's probably just handing in her resignation. Who knows? Maybe she's already complained, but Mr. Nathaniel simply isn't bothered…"

"You're right… Let her be."

Tanya shut the door immediately upon entering the office.

Eric noticed her unusual state and asked, “What’s wrong?”

She took a deep breath and tried her best to force a smile on her face. “I’m sorry, Ricky. I don’t think I’m doing a good job here. I don’t feel like I’m a good fit here. I’d like to resign. Sorry for being a nuisance over the past few days. Thank you.”

Chapter 638

Eric was confused, “It’s just cleaning, what do you mean you’re not doing a good job? You’ve been doing well, both at home and in the office. My house finally looks more like a home since you moved in. Why are you saying this now? Did something happen?”

Tanya shook her head, unwilling to reveal her experience here. “It’s nothing really. I just don’t want to work here anymore. I’ve only been working for a few days so there’s no need for you to pay me. I just came to inform you about this. Anyway, thank you very much. I’m going home now to pack up so I can move out.”

Eric furrowed his brows. This whole matter came as a surprise to him. Everything seemed fine before… To be honest, he enjoyed coming home to a nice warm meal every day. However, since Tanya insisted on leaving, he had no reason to stop her. “Then, where are you planning to go? Tiffany put you in my care, I have a responsibility to fulfill. At least tell me where you’re going...”

Tanya had not decided on where to go, but she lied, “I’ve found somewhere to live. Don’t worry. You should get back to work. I’ve got to go.” Then, she left the office in a panic, afraid that he might see through her lie.

Eric had more to say, but she had left too quickly.

Tanya packed up her things as soon as she arrived at Eric's house. After that, she cleaned the place one final time before she left.

She walked along the streets, feeling the freezing wind blowing against her. Everyone was rushing to their destinations, but she was wandering around aimlessly. She stuck out like a sore thumb.

This was the first time she had felt so helpless. No matter how poor she was, she had always had a roof over her head. Currently, she had nowhere to go. She was beginning to regret leaving her hometown and coming to this big city where she had no relatives at all. As big as the city might be, she had nowhere to go.

Soon after, she grew tired of walking. She found a park and sat down to rest. The wind was particularly strong today. The cold was piercing, and she felt it keenly in her legs. She waited until the sky was darkening before she continued on her aimless journey again.

She found a small, run-down motel and decided to temporarily stay there.

A middle-aged woman who was cracking nuts while manning the front desk studied Tanya from head to toe. "Need a place to stay? For one?"

Tanya nodded and put her identification card on the desk. "How much for one night?"

The woman munched on a nut as she said, "$15!"

A night in a run-down place like this would cost less than half the price in her hometown. However, she had nowhere to go so she was forced to agree. She pulled the money out and said, “Fine…”

The woman swiftly snatched the money from her hand. She meticulously checked the bills to make sure they were authentic and there was nothing wrong with them before she gave Tanya a room card. “Check out is at noon tomorrow. If you’re ten minutes late, you’ll have to pay for an extra day. You’ll have to depend on your luck for hot water in the shower. By the way, don’t open the door at night no matter who knocks on it. This place is not a place of rainbows and sunshine. I won’t be responsible if anything happens to you.”

The woman’s warning frightened Tanya. “What? Why? Why would someone knock on my door at night? Who are these people?”

The woman had already taken the cash so she did not feel the need to lie. “Drunk alcoholics, maybe drug addicts… Robbers, prostitutes. There are all sorts of possibilities. You’ve already paid for the room. Leave if you want. However, there’ll be no refunds.”

Chapter 639

Tanya was frightened, but the woman’s refusal to give her a refund made her hesitate. In the end, she mustered up her courage and decided to stay.

Eric went home immediately after work. The house suddenly felt very empty. It was obvious that someone had cleaned the house. It was spotless. Not a single stray hair could be found. However, Tanya was no longer here. Feeling worried, he decided to call Tiffany. “Where’s Tanya?”

Tiffany asked in confusion, “Isn’t she working in your company? Moreover, she lives with you so why are you asking me this?”

Eric exclaimed, “You mean she hasn’t gone to see you?! She resigned from the company today and said she found somewhere to live. She moved out immediately. I thought you knew… She didn’t contact you?”

Tiffany, who was already upset about Jackson’s affair, grew even more upset when she heard that something might have happened to Tanya. She was so anxious that she nearly cursed out loud. “What the hell is going on? She didn’t contact me at all. I thought she’s doing fine with you? What’s going on?”

Eric felt an impending headache. “I don’t know either. I felt suspicious when she suddenly told me she wanted to resign. She was doing so well. Moreover, she was acting strangely when she was in my office. She left before I could even ask any more questions. How about this? I’ll call her.”

As soon as he ended the call, he called Tanya. Unfortunately, her phone was turned off. He panicked and sent Tiffany a message. “I can’t reach her. Let’s look for her.”

When Tiffany read the message, she cursed softly. She quickly put on her coat and grabbed her keys before she left the house. Fortunately, she was not working overtime today. Jackson was still at the office so she could not ask him for help. It seemed like she and Eric would have to look for Tanya on their own.

…

Meanwhile, in the motel.

Tanya finally charged her phone that had run out of battery. Since it was an old model, the battery died very quickly. Moreover, she would have to wait for it to be fully charged before she could switch it back on.

She did not have anything to eat the entire day, but she was too afraid to leave the room to get something to eat. She was truly frightened by the receptionist's warning. After a while, she discovered cup noodles on the cabinet so she quickly boiled some water to cook the noodles.

Coincidentally, she discovered a box of Durex next to the noodles as well. She flushed with embarrassment and quickly found something to cover it up.

During the afternoon, she was overwhelmed with the urge to return to her hometown. However, her mind was clearer now. Since she had already come here, she would not leave until she made something of herself. She did not care about fame and fortune. All she wanted was to find the meaning of her life.

She decided to look for a job tomorrow. The money she had now was enough to let her stay a few nights in this place. Once she found a job, she would consider renting a place nearby.

While she sat on the chair, hugging her knees, waiting for her noodles to cook, she was unaware that Tiffany and Eric were searching high and low for her.

Soon after, the fragrant smell of the instant noodle permeated the room.

After she had eaten her fill, she surveyed the room. The interior was simple and crude. It was very tiny as well. When she went into the bathroom, she turned on the shower and discovered there was no hot water. It did not matter anyway. Due to burns on her hand, it would be inconvenient to shower. Although it was already beginning to scab, it still hurt, and it would get infected if it had gotten wet.

She lay on the bed that smelled like mold. Even the mattress felt damp. She could not make herself comfortable no matter how many times she shifted positions. However, she did not complain. After all, this was better than having to sleep on the streets. Before she went to bed, she had pushed the cabinet up against the wall. That way, if someone tried to break in, they would not be able to get in easily.

She dozed off for a while before she was woken up by a commotion in the hallway. It sounded like a group of drunk young men. They spoke loudly, and she warily waited until the commotion faded away. After that, she fumbled around to look for her phone before switching it on. Since she was all alone, her phone gave her a sense of security, If anything happened, she would call the police immediately.

Around half a minute later, her old phone finally switched on. She was surprised when she saw more than ten missed calls and messages on the screen. They were from Tiffany and Eric. Were they looking for her? She looked at the time. It was 9 PM. They must have been extremely worried!