Ruling 771

Chapter 771

Jackson approached Tiffany again. “What did you say just now? Did we get back together?”

She became wary and retreated. “I was just making an assumption!”

He looked at her nonchalantly. “You cannot make an assumption. It’s not at all ceremonious. You need to sound serious. We get back together. Then, I’ll break up with you. That’s more like it.”

She became patient with him and said seriously, “Fine, we’re now officially back together. The floor is yours now.”

The next second, Jackson kissed her. She was stunned. In an instant, she was soon enveloped in his familiar scent. Her heart fluttered, and she became slightly teary too. After a few seconds, she recovered herself and tried to push him away, but she was embraced by him tightly. His kiss was violent and passionate, ruining her defense easily.

Finally, he let go of her. She stared at him with her teary eyes. “What are you doing? Are you toying with my feelings?”

He appeared serious. “No. Didn’t we just get back together? It’s only a kiss. What is so weird about that?”

She was tongue-tied. It was supposed to be fake…

She was in no mood to mess with him. After calming herself, she said, “Now, can you please begin your performance? Just say anything you want to say, however harsh you want it to be until you’re feeling better about it. Then… we won’t be seeing each other anymore.”

However, Jackson turned away all of a sudden, ready to leave. “I’m in a good mood today, so I don’t want to break up with you. Just let it be for the time being. See you later.”

She was shocked. Did it mean that she was tricked? Did he trick her into getting back with him? However, she firmly believed that Jackson was only playing with her feelings given how strong his self-esteem was. Suddenly, she became upset and annoyed as she realized she was too weak to play along with him.

She slammed the door harshly. Tanya heard the noise and got out of her bedroom. “What’s wrong? Did you fight with him again?”

Tiffany forced a smile. “No, I didn’t. What’s there to fight about with an ex?”

Tanya did not ask her any more questions. After hesitating for a short while, she asked Tiffany’s opinion, “Tiffany, I want to ask Hush out on a date.”

Tiffany never thought that Tanya would be such a daring girl. “Really? Are you daring enough to do so? You won’t bail out at the last minute?”

Tanya then showed Tiffany her chat history with Hush. “I feel that we had quite a good conversation there. If I want to have a romantic relationship with him, I definitely need to meet him first. At least, I could see for myself how he is. Even though it might not work out that way in the end, we could still be friends. I won’t have any chance if we never meet each other. Besides, I’m indeed quite curious as to what he looks like.”

Tiffany then started looking through Tanya’s chat history with Hush. She was feeling unsure. “I don’t think that… he seems very enthusiastic. It’s always you who initiates the conversation. His responses appear rather calm and normal. I didn’t see what’s so special about it. Do you think that you’ll be able to develop a romantic relationship with him?”

Chapter 772

Tanya was slightly disappointed. “Is that so? But… he said that he’s always busy. However, he would always reply to my messages in around ten minutes no matter how late I messaged him. If he doesn’t care for me, certainly he wouldn’t be replying to my messages. He’s always like that. Maybe he’s just slow in getting close to people. Don’t demotivate me. I just want to meet him and treat him to a meal since I’m quite curious about him.”

Tiffany felt that it would be inappropriate to discourage her since she said so. She considered it for a while and said, “Then try and ask him out directly. See if he’s willing to meet up with you. Don’t beat around the bush.”

Tanya then summoned up her courage and sent him a message. Hush did not seem enthusiastic in his reply. It was just as she said; his reply always came in around ten minutes. He did not reply to her message within seconds. It appeared like he just replied to her message whenever he was free.

After around nine minutes, Hush replied to her message. “Why do we need to meet up with each other? I don’t think it’s necessary. If you have anything you’re unsure of, feel free to ask me. I’ll definitely help to clarify your doubts if I’m able to do so.”

Tanya soon became demotivated and upset. She did not know how to reply to his message now.

Tiffany grabbed her phone and helped her write a reply. “You always help me resolve a lot of things, so I just want to treat you to a meal. If you’re uneasy about it, just forget that I brought it up.”

After she sent the message, she pouted her lips. “Maybe he’s married and has a family now. You don’t know anything about him, yet you pour your heart out to him. It’s not a good sign. Besides, both of you have the same kind of job. How could he be so much busier than you? He might have used that as an excuse to reject you. You’re still too inexperienced in things like this. Let me tell you, you need to learn to be reserved and get to know him gradually. After you make sure that he’s the right one for you, you can consider making the first move. Now, you don’t even know anything about him. Why are you in such a rush? In the end, you will only be hurt deeply.”

Tanya became slightly hesitant. “Fine… Let’s see what his reply is…”

After a short while, he replied to her message with only a single word. “Alright.”

Tiffany almost exploded with anger. “Is that it? I was only probing him, and all he got for us is just that single word. It seems like he truly doesn’t want to meet up with you, and he’s disinclined to have a closer relationship with you. Tan, listen to me. You can just treat him as your senior and ask him for his advice sometimes. Don’t think too much about it. You don’t have to reply to his message now. If there’s nothing serious, don’t take the initiative to message him anymore. Don’t ask him whether he’s had his meal or whether he has got off work. You don’t have to do that. Do you understand that?”

Tanya nodded solemnly. “I know. I’ll listen to you. It’s just my wishful thinking...”

Tanya no longer contacted Hush anymore, and this lasted until the following Monday. In order to give herself lots of confidence and perseverance in doing so, she took the initiative and said to Tiffany, “It’s now been two days since I last contacted him. I’ll cease contact with him gradually as time passes by. It’s not that bad actually.”

Tiffany gestured to her, cheering her on. “That’s it. Keep it up! You have me by your side now. If you have anything you’re unsure of, just ask me. I know what he knows too. If it’s too difficult, you can call Ari and ask her about it. She knows more than me. Why do you have to lay all your hope on that guy? That’s enough. Let’s get back to work.”

They got off work in the evening. Tiffany and Tanya returned home together. They were discussing what they were about to have for dinner. Moreover, Summer had sent them quite a lot of ingredients. When they were crossing the road, Tiffany saw a blank Bently parked by the road outside of the apartment from afar. It was Alejandro’s car. Why was he there?

She walked toward the car with doubt. She did not think that Alejandro was there for her. However, he rolled down the window of the car just in time. He looked at her gently. “Would you mind eating with me? You can bring along your friend.”

Subconsciously, she wanted to reject him. But Alejandro seemed to see through her beforehand. “Don’t tell me that you don’t even want to eat with me. Do you still miss your ex very much?”

Chapter 773

When she thought about Jackson, she denied it subconsciously. “No, I don’t! I’ll go and eat with you. But let me be frank with you, the bill’s on you. I’m just an ordinary employee working her ass off; I’m quite poor. The monthly rent is quite expensive too…”

Alejandro smiled. “Get into the car.”

Tanya did not know Alejandro, making her appear anxious and reserved. Tiffany asked her to take the back seat, where Alejandro sat, so she became very uneasy.

On the other hand, Tiffany sat on the passenger seat beside the driver. The driver was Jett. She had met him a few times now, so she greeted him casually. “Hi! We meet again.”

Jett smiled politely at her before turning his attention back on the road. He drove the car away.

Alejandro was not a talkative person, and the same thing could now be said about the others too. Hence, it was rather quiet in the car. At last, Tiffany raised a doubt. “Where are we heading for our meal? Let me be frank with you—I like to repay people’s kindness. I can’t always let you treat me to a meal. I need to treat you to a meal too. So, you better not bring me to some fancy restaurant and order any expensive food ‘cause I might not be able to treat you to a similar kind of meal next time around. I dislike the notion of keeping in touch with wealthy people like you since we belong to different worlds. Our financial status is vastly different.”

Alejandro smiled faintly and said, “The wealthy never care for such things. You don’t have to bother about it either. You’ll know where we’re going later since you might have gone there quite often before.”

It was true indeed. Soon, Tiffany knew where their destination was. It was the White Water Bay Café.

When the road became familiar to her as they got nearer to the cafe, she started to feel upset unknowingly. “Alejandro, did you do it on purpose? Why do you bring me here?”

The car was parked by the road. Alejandro got out of the car under Jett’s assistance. He then sat in the wheelchair. “I assume that you like the dishes here, so I didn’t think much about it. You broke up with Jackson, but you don’t hold a deep grudge against him. And we’re just here to have a meal. Why do you have to think so much about it, giving yourself a hard time?”

Tiffany was tongue-tied. It was true that she liked the food there. She did not have to care about who the boss was. Besides, it was Monday. Jackson would never appear in the cafe. It might certainly be an entirely different case if Jackson got off work and brought his girlfriend there to have dinner.

Tanya grabbed Tiffany’s hand secretly. “Tiffie… we can leave if you’re unhappy about it.”

Tiffany looked at Alejandro, who took the lead before them. She hesitated for a short while before saying, “Let’s go. It’s fine.”

The reason she was reluctant to go there was that she bumped into Jackson there the other day, and he brought along his girlfriend with him. Even Summer was there too. It was a rather awkward scene, and it was slightly… tense too. She must let go of him and let bygones be bygones. Arianne reminded her too. The world was such a small space, and they would certainly bump into each other one day.

The moment they entered the cafe, the other customers turned to look at Alejandro. It might be because he was sitting in a wheelchair. However, Alejandro appeared calm and nonchalant. He did not seem to care about them. Besides, he might be used to it. The dining table he reserved was situated in the hall instead of a private room. It seemed like he did not care for the others, and he had no intention of hiding his disability.

After they took their seats, Jett handed the menu to Tiffany. “Ladies first.”

Tiffany and Tanya ordered two dishes casually. Then, she handed Alejandro the menu.

Alejandro pointed at two dishes, and soon, Jett knew what he meant by that. Jett then handed the menu to the waiter and said a few things to the waiter. Surprisingly, Alejandro asked her, “Tell me, how is the flower I gave you? That flower is difficult to keep, and it exhausted me, trying to take care of it.”

Tiffany smiled. “I didn’t know how to take care of it either, so I asked my friend to do it. Don’t worry, it’s still growing healthily and won’t die. At least, that’s how it seems at the moment.”

Chapter 774

Tanya looked down shyly. “My grandpa used to love gardening. I learned some of the tips while doing gardening with him in the past.”

Alejandro did not care who was taking care of the flower. He thought for a while and said, “When the flower blossoms, I’ll tell you a secret.”

Tiffany made a joke. “Does that mean that I don’t get to know what that secret is if the flower dies?”

Alejandro made no reply. He took the glass of water, which was handed to him by Jett, and took a small sip.

During their meal, Tiffany looked up subconsciously and threw a few glances at the door of the cafe from time to time. She was certainly afraid that Jackson might appear there all of a sudden. Unknowingly, she was still worried that she might be misunderstood by Jackson even though she had broken up with him. She was worried that he might misunderstand the relationship between her and Alejandro, thinking that there might be something fishy between them...

It was her weak point. She always saw the world in black and white, and she did not want to be wrongly accused.

Suddenly, Alejandro spoke up. “Don’t look at the door anymore. Jackson won’t be coming here. He’s at Zero Degrees with another woman.”

Tiffany was slightly stunned. She knew what a place like Zero Degrees was. It was a bar…

She was relieved when she learned that Jackson would not be coming here. At the same time, she was filled with a strange disappointment. But she still needed to pretend that she did not care for it, for fear that the others might see through her. “How did you know about that? Did you investigate his whereabouts beforehand?”

Alejandro appeared noncommittal. “I was worried that you might be too anxious to enjoy your meal here properly, so I investigated it beforehand.”

Tiffany was engulfed in a strange feeling again. What was his aim in approaching her? Why was he being extremely nice to her? Why did he always treat her to meals? It didn’t seem that simple after all…

She asked him about that at his manor before, but he prevaricated it. She decided to raise her doubt again this time around. “Why are you being so nice to me? Normally, a man has some underlying aims if he’s nice and enthusiastic toward a woman. I don’t think you’re the type who would fall in love with a woman who’s been engaged to another man before, given your status and privileges. When you approached me, I was still an engaged woman. So, why don’t you give me a proper explanation? If not, I won’t rest assured while eating with you here. I’m afraid that I won’t be eating with you again in the future. Let’s be frank with each other.”

Alejandro stared at her for a short time. He didn’t seem surprised to see her being so straightforward. “If you want to know about it, I’ll tell you. I’ll be frank with you. But I think that we should talk it over privately. Don’t you think so?”

Tiffany looked at Jett and Tanya. She knew that she would be unable to gain an explanation from him this time around. It seemed quite inappropriate to ask him that kind of question under such circumstances. If he had no such intention toward her, she would seem rather narcissistic. It would be quite awkward too. “Sure. Don’t try to avoid my question again…”

When the meal was almost over, Jett got up all of a sudden and took a call outside of the cafe. He then returned and whispered something to Alejandro in his ears.

Alejandro showed no great changes in his facial expression. He then said calmly to Tiffany, “I’m afraid that you’ll have to hail a taxi home later. I need to deal with an emergency. I’ll pay the bills first. Excuse me. See you around.”

Wanting to be civil to him, Tiffany bade him farewell. Suddenly, Alejandro said, “I’ll call you later.”

She was about to say something. Did he think that she was eager to know the reason he approached her? They promised to talk it over privately. She certainly would not be too anxious about it.

Chapter 775

Alejandro and Jett had not left for long when Tiffany and Tanya decided to leave too. Besides, Alejandro had paid the bills so they enjoyed the meal tremendously. They became quite full when they got up to leave.

They looked at each other and smiled at the same time. Tanya held her waist and whispered, “The food here is indeed delicious. No matter how many ingredients Mrs. West sent us, we still couldn’t cook such delicious food… I’m so full now. It’s quite humiliating. By the way, do you not regret breaking up with Jackson at all? He’s good at cooking.”

Tiffany said impatiently, “I want a man, not a chef. How could I bear being cheated on by him, seeing him kissing another woman? If that’s the case, I’m more than willing to give the delicious food up! Have a little self-esteem! Come! Let’s go home and have a rest!”

Suddenly, Tanya frowned. “No, I need to head to the washroom for a while. I can’t hold it in anymore. I’ll leave my bag and phone with you. Please guard them for me and wait for me here.”

Tiffany nodded and sat down again.

Suddenly, she saw a familiar figure appear at the door out of the corner of her eyes. Soon, she felt as if she was struck by lightning. She inwardly exclaimed, ‘Jackson! Isn’t he at the bar with another woman, enjoying himself? Why is he here on a Monday?’

She soon calmed herself down. After all, she went to the cafe just to have dinner. So what if it was his cafe? It was not like she ate the food for free. She then pretended not to notice him, crossing her legs, picking up Tanya's phone, and starting to play with it.

Jackson went toward her and stopped there. "What a coincidence! It seems like you're leading quite a good life after breaking up with me. You're still able to come and have your meal here. Do you want me to notify the receptionist, allowing you the privilege to have your meals for free in the future?"

She looked up at him and smiled faintly. "You don't have to. I can still afford it. Otherwise, why would I come here? Besides, someone… footed my bill today. I didn't spend a penny. After all, we broke up with each other. It's inappropriate to eat for free here."

He narrowed his eyes slightly while fixing his eyes at her, sizing her up. It seemed like he was trying to see whether she was lying to him. "Oh… Is that so? It's fine. I'm always quite generous toward my exes. Besides… it seems like we've gotten back together with each other. Isn't that right? Then, you're still my girlfriend, and you don't have to be embarrassed about eating for free here."

It was he who tricked her intentionally. How could he claim that he had gotten back together with her?

Just when Tiffany wanted to curse him, a message came to Tanya's phone all of a sudden. At that moment, she was still holding the phone in her hand. It was a message from White Moonlight——Hush. The message popped up on the screen of the phone, and its content was shown clearly: 'I've thought about it. I'm free next week. If you want to meet up with me, we can grab a cup of coffee.'

Needless to say, Jackson saw that message too. He pursed his thin lips in annoyance. Suddenly, he grabbed the phone and clicked on the message. "White Moonlight… I didn't know that there was still somebody else that you yearned for. How come I've been unaware of it all this time? Let me see who he is…"

Tiffany became anxious. Tanya would be back soon. She could not let him ruin it. She got up, wanting to retrieve the phone from him. However, he was too tall. She could not even get hold of the phone even if she stood on her tippy toes and stretched her hand out. He just held the phone high up, appearing quite smug about it.

Feeling the vast difference in their heights, she became deeply upset. She decided not to try to snatch the phone back. She then put her hands on her hips, looking quite ferocious and angry. “What are you doing? Have you gone mad?”

Jackson saw that she had given up trying to snatch the phone back, so he replied to Hush’s message immediately. “I don’t want to meet up with you anymore.”

At the same time, Tiffany snatched the phone back with a speed as fast as lightning. She did not manage to scold Jackson for what he had done; she wanted to recall that message immediately. Unfortunately, Hush replied to the previous message within seconds even though he was always slow in replying to Tanya’s message...

There was only a word to his reply: ‘Alright.’

Chapter 776

Her facial expression worsened. “You… How could you… That’s not my phone!”

Only now did Jackson realize that it was indeed not her phone, though it was the same color...

Tanya exited the washroom and returned to the seat. She was puzzled as she looked at them. “Jackson… why are you here?”

Tiffany stared at Jackson. She then returned Tanya her phone. “Here’s your phone. White Moonlight sent you a message just now… It… has nothing to do with me!”

Jackson raised his eyebrows slightly. He decided to run away from the scene. “I came here to take something. I’ll leave now. Take your time!”

Tanya looked at the message that Hush sent her and the reply. Her facial expression slightly worsened. Tiffany was so nervous that she was now soaked with cold sweat. Tanya usually had a good temper. She rarely got angry. But that was also why it would be quite frightening if she was infuriated.

“This… Jackson thought that it was my phone, so… I’m so sorry. I’ll help explain it to Hush!”

Tanya looked up at her in a daze. “It’s… fine. I’ve made up my mind not to meet up with him. I never thought that he would do such a thing all of a sudden… Tiffie, I think that… Is Jackson still in love with you?”

Tiffany kept quiet for around two seconds. Then, she smiled casually. “Nonsense! He likes literally any woman who appears pleasing to the eyes. I’m just one of those women. Come, let’s go home now.”

On their way home, Tanya did not try to explain herself to Hush. Tiffany was slightly guilty, so she asked, “Are you really not going to explain to Hush?”

Tanya shook her head. “I don’t have to. It’s not that bad. Actually, it’s not easy for me to summon up my courage and ask him out. I do indeed admire him. But after thinking about it seriously, it’s impossible for him to hold any feelings toward me. Besides, he rejected me the first time I asked him out. I’ve made up my mind not to meet with him now. I don’t have to explain myself anymore. I also don’t want to contact him from now on. He doesn’t have such feelings for me, but I held such a wishful thought toward him. It’s indeed inappropriate for me to keep in touch with him from now on.”

Tiffany no longer tried to persuade her; one could not be forced into things like these. Some people were willing to take risks, but other people were used to stopping just in time.

After they returned home, Tiffany laid in bed and looked at her phone. Only then did she see a message from Alejandro. He might have resolved the emergency by now. He asked her whether she had reached home.

However, she was in no mood to have a casual chat with him. She called him directly. Actually, even if she did not meet him directly, it was quite frightening, just listening to his voice. As long as a man was handsome, it was fine even though his voice did not quite match with his handsome face. That was probably why appearance was quite important.

Once he answered the phone, she became frank with him. “Is this time convenient for you? I’m home now.”

Alejandro chuckled twice. “Are you so eager to learn about it? It’s not the first time you asked me about that.”

She thought, ‘How could you hide the truth like that, knowing that it’s not the first time I asked you about it? Who knows what’s up your sleeves? What if you want to plot against me?’

Chapter 777

Tiffany obviously kept those thoughts to herself. “I’m not curious. Instead, I’m asking for my own sake. Isn’t it quite frustrating to have an unsettled issue? After thinking about it for a long time, I still couldn’t understand why you approached me in the first place. It’s quite peculiar. I’m also aware that rich people only spend time with people who are as rich and influential as them. It’s because they hold the same status, and they could benefit from that kind of relationship. We do not belong to the same world. I was rich once, so I understand the logic behind it. As we know, everything happens for a reason…”

Alejandro was quiet for a short while at the other end of the phone. “When the flower blossoms, I’ll tell you about it.”

She inwardly exclaimed, ‘It’s the flower again! Who knows whether it’ll blossom or not? What if it’s only some kind of grass? Is he trying to fool me?’

She started to grit her teeth. “You said that you’ll tell me a secret when the flower blossoms. Now, you claim that you’ll tell me why you approached me in the first place when the flower blossoms. If you’re reluctant to tell me the truth, just be frank with me. Why do you have to make a fool of me? If you gave me a nonflowering plant, do you expect me to wait for it to bloom eagerly every day? That’s enough! I don’t want to ask you about it anymore. Bye!”

Before she could hang up her phone, Alejandro shouted all of a sudden, “Tiffany!”

She waited silently, waiting for him to continue talking. Unexpectedly, he joked with her, “If I’m not wrong, you just gritted your teeth…”

She felt like she was being fooled again. She thought that he had decided to tell her the truth since he sounded rather nervous. However…

Suddenly, she felt that there was something wrong. She did indeed grit her teeth just now, but she sounded normal when she talked. How did he know about her response? Could he see her from the other side of the phone? How did he… know her so well? It seemed to be like that from the very beginning. He knew her taste well, and he knew what her favorite food was. If it was only a coincidence the first time she ate with him, what about the second time? The food he ordered a while back at the cafe was her favorite too.

Besides, Jett said a few things to the waiter after they finished ordering the food just now. Now that she thought about it, all of those things were said for her sake. He might have asked the waiter not to put the parsley in the food or scallion in the soup. If there was celery, he asked them to change it to other vegetables… Those were the foods she hated. She did not care much about it at that moment, but she remembered it now. It was quite frightening after she gave it more thought.

“Who… are you? Have you known me before?” she held her breath and asked tentatively.

“I’m Alejandro Smith, and I’m eight years older than you. It’s impossible for us to have come from the same school. I never met you before. So what are you thinking about?” He spoke slowly and distinctly. It seemed like he was trying to manipulate her thoughts according to his wishes, and he even emphasized his name intentionally.

It was true indeed. He was Alejandro Smith, an influential and powerful man from Ayashe. She would easily gain any information about him just by surfing the internet. She had never met him before. What was she thinking about now? What if his taste in food resembled hers coincidently? Although it appeared quite far-fetched, she did not have any other plausible explanation for that now.

She heaved a sigh of relief. She then forced herself to abandon those strange feelings. “I… I wasn’t thinking about anything. It’s just a simple guess. I thought that you might have met me before, but I don’t know if you… Let’s forget about it since you’re unwilling to bring it up. I won’t ask you anymore. Just tell me when you feel like it. I’m gonna hang up now. I’ll go and take a bath.”

After the bath, she wrapped herself in a towel and went toward the kitchen. She kept the mask cold in the small refrigerator in the kitchen. Although it was spring now, it was still cold at night. But her light footsteps soon faltered the minute she saw Jackson there. She was shocked. “What the hell… are you doing in my home?”

Chapter 778

Tiffany saw another person at home after her bath; it was the last person she ever wanted to see!

Jackson was wearing an apron and concentrating on his cooking. He did not even turn around to look at her. “Mark called and told me that Arianne has a bad appetite. He asked me to cook something and send it to the hospital. We’ve got no choice. She’s pregnant. Besides, I don’t have any ingredients at home, and it’s too late for me to go and buy them. I do know that my mom has sent you quite a lot of ingredients. Moreover, your apartment is much closer to the hospital compared to my place. So I took the initiative and came here directly to cook for Arianne. In short, I’m doing this for your best friend. Do you have a problem with it?”

Tiffany was tongue-tied after listening to what he said. His reason was quite valid, and she had no way to retort to him. She could not and would not stand in his way.

She then took a deep breath, pretending he was not there. She opened the small refrigerator and took a sheet of mask. When she turned around, she knocked against his chest. She touched her stinging nose

and looked up at him, staring. “What are you doing now? Why did you stand behind me quietly all of a sudden?”

He looked down at her silently. There was an unknown meaning in the way he looked at her. She began to panic and retreat. Soon, she was leaning against that two-door refrigerator that Summer bought her. She was shocked by that coldness, so she leaned forward inevitably. But Jackson got closer to her, and she grabbed onto her towel tightly for fear that she might expose the body parts that should never be revealed. “Let me tell you… This is my home. Tan is here too. Don’t you dare do anything out of line!”

Jackson raised his hand and stroked her collarbone quickly with his finger. He then took a daring step and stared at her slightly exposed cleavage. “I’ve seen every part of your body. What is there to be embarrassed about?”

In that instant, she was wearing nothing on her feet except a pair of slippers. Her legs began to tremble slightly. She even curled her toes up. “How shameless! Why are you blocking me? Get out of my way!”

He was smiling sweetly at her now. He then approached her slowly. “You’re blushing. What are you thinking about now? Are you thinking… that I might do that to you…”

She neither wanted to listen to him nor look at him. She knew perfectly well how daring he was when he started to talk about those things recklessly. They had broken up with each other. She did not want to be teased by him and to blush consequently. It was too humiliating! Before he could finish talking, she shouted and interrupted him, “Shut up! I’m not! Stop your nonsense now!”

He seemed not to believe her. His hot breath was close against her cheek. He was clearly seducing her with his deep and attractive voice. “Is that so…”

Her heartbeat quickened when she smelled his special scent. She remembered all those intimate things that she did with him before. He was still quite attractive to her, especially when she thought about his body, which was hidden under the suit. She even swallowed slightly. It was so shameful of her.

He took in her every response. He chuckled happily. “Your body is more honest than you. It’s fine. Go ahead and imagine it all the way you want. You also can… plead with me. By the way, I just want to take some ingredients from the refrigerator. I need to cook first. Can we continue what we’ve left off after I’m free?”

She pushed him away. She was shy and annoyed at the same time. After that, she ran away and returned to her bedroom. She even locked the door, making sure that he had not run after her. Only now could she calm her rapid breathing. Thinking about how he teased her just now, she wanted so badly to slap herself twice. That was indeed not the man she should yearn for. It was over between them. If she yearned for his body, it was quite humiliating. She needed to act prudently.

Chapter 779

After recomposing her thoughts, she changed her clothes and stepped out of her bedroom. Tanya had holed herself up in her own room, probably to avoid the commotion. She only ever showed her face when she stepped out to open the door for Jackson. Tiffany felt very awkward. She didn’t want to be left alone with Jackson!

She secretly sent Tanya a message: ‘Get out here! What are you doing in the room? You know very well that my relationship with Jackson is at an awkward stage!’

Tanya swiftly replied: ‘I am not coming out! I’ve heard what you were doing in the kitchen. It’d be awkward for me if I go out! I’m not going to be the third wheel! Pretend that I’m asleep. I can’t help you!’

Tiffany was dejected. What a wonderful “friend” she was!

Suddenly, Jackson’s voice called out from the kitchen, “Tiffany Lane, help me out here. Mark is rushing me.”

She would endure this, for Arianne!

She put on a poker face and walked in, refusing to look him in the eye. “What do you need?”

Jackson pointed at the vegetables in the sink. “Trim the vegetables. Mark says that there must be a balance of meat and vegetables in her diet. Thank goodness I researched nutritious meals for pregnant women back when you were trying to conceive…”

Tiffany didn’t answer, as she wasn’t really listening to him at all. She rolled up her sleeves and trimmed the vegetables. Suddenly, she noticed that his apron was loosening and instinctively helped tighten it for him. He stiffened. The atmosphere suddenly turned into silence. Only the sounds of the boiling soup could be heard.

Realizing that something was off, she quickly went back to trimming the vegetables. After five minutes or so, Jackson suddenly asked in a very serious manner, “What if I told you that I never betrayed you? Would things go back to how they used to be?”

Sasha's face flashed across her mind's eye. "No, I don't love you anymore." He clearly had a new flame, why did he have to say these things to her? He had been living a pretty good life since their breakup. It's not like he couldn't live without her.

"Forget it." He smiled bitterly.

He abandoned his party at the bar and rushed to White Water Bay Café when he found out that she was there with Alejandro, pretending that he was only going back to collect something. When he arrived and saw that she was alone, he let out a sigh of relief…

He couldn't hide his jealousy when he saw that message from "White Moonlight", and when he discovered that "White Moonlight" wasn't exactly her "White Moonlight", he couldn't help but smile…

He knew that she had trouble remembering roads and was no different from someone with terrible direction, a foolish girl. He was entirely capable of getting ingredients from White Water Bay Café and cooking everything there, then bringing it over to Arianne. However, he decided to come here instead, just so that he could see her… She wasn't suspicious at all when he gave her that lame excuse…

He just… wanted to see her…

He never let go of her, but she managed to declare that she no longer loved him, with ease. It was time to let go of his wishful thinking and let go of her and himself. Perhaps he should get used to her absence… And have a good night's sleep, like he used to in the past.

It's not that bad, being alone.

Jackson immediately drove off to the hospital after whipping up a nutritious meal. He did not interact with Tiffany at all. Of course, he did not try to take advantage of her, or deliberately provoke her.

Chapter 780

Tiffany felt something small and subtle deep down. For some strange reason, she was upset…

It's all his fault, he shouldn't have annoyed her. Now she was all confused and anxious!

…

Having stayed at the hospital for almost a month, Arianne was certain that she would have to stay in the hospital until her due date. It was boring, but she had no choice.

In order to whet her appetite, Mark made Jackson cook meals for her every day. Even though it was only one meal a day, she felt very apologetic about it.

During Jackson's most recent meal delivery, she couldn't help asking, "Jackson, isn't this too much trouble for you? You have work to do during the day, and now you have to cook and deliver my meals at night…"

Jackson smirked. “Don’t be so modest. What’s a meal between Mark and I? This is a special circumstance. I’d stuff you with my cooking as long as you deliver the baby safely. You women go through such difficulties during your pregnancies. The very sight of you worries me too…”

At this point, he inadvertently thought of Tiffany. If Tiffany had gotten pregnant back when they were trying to conceive, would they have broken up? But that would mean… that she would suffer during the birth too, just like Arianne… Perhaps this was a good outcome too.

Mark, who was standing on the sides, remained silent. He barely went home this month, aside from getting some sleep. He would either be in the hospital, or the office. He couldn’t even get a good night’s sleep, as he was constantly worried about Arianne, who was in the hospital. He had been paying particular attention to her due date, crossing off the days. Once the baby was born, his torment would be over.

Arianne smiled. “It’s not so bad, just a little boring, being stuck in the hospital all day.”

Mark’s phone suddenly rang. His expression changed. He looked at Arianne, then walked out of the ward to answer the call. “Hello? Why are you calling me now?”

Mr. Harris, Zoey’s husband, answered, “Oh dear, no need to be so nervous. What’s wrong with calling to check on my niece? I can’t just call Arianne, right? I’ve heard that she’s staying at the hospital to take care of the baby. Shouldn’t I be worried too? Is she alright?”

Mark’s expression immediately sunk horribly. “I’m warning you, stay away from Arianne. How did you know about her hospital admission? If you ever show your face in front of her, I will make you suffer!”

Mr. Harris was still as wretched as ever. “Hehe, don’t worry. I won’t see her, unless I’m left with my last resort. I’ve been… short on money lately. You’ll have to help me, won’t you, nephew? Don’t worry, I’ve paid off my gambling debts with the money you’ve given and stopped gambling since. Those casinos rake in a lot of money, but you lose a lot of money too, and you’ll never win it back. I’m enlightened now, and I’ve stopped wasting money. I’m short on money for business purposes.”

Money, again. Mark was losing his patience. “I seem to recall saying that that would be my last time dealing with you. I’ve given you $1.5 million. What do you think I am? A walking ATM machine?”

This time, Mr. Harris seemed fully confident. “Just tell me if you’ll give me the cash or not. That’s all I have to say. I won’t beat around the bush with you. It’d be unfortunate if someone with Arianne’s health were to suffer a little bit of stress… As her husband, you should see this as a means to get rid of a disaster, with money. Why? Are you unwilling to pay?”

Of course, Mark had no qualms in using money to get rid of a problem, but this guy was a bottomless pit. He simply had no patience for this continuous weed.

He ended the call at once and called Henry. After conveying his instructions, he went back to the ward, as if nothing had happened. Desperate times call for desperate measures. As long as his methods were ruthless enough, this vile spawn would be stopped.