Ruling 801

Chapter 801

Tanya was slightly puzzled. “Aren’t you at home?”

Tiffany replied in a daze, “No, I’m at Jackson’s…”

Tanya was slightly surprised. “Are you… staying with him again?”

Tiffany could not bother to explain herself. “Oh, just resolve your own issue first. Go home immediately. Call me when you reach home! I’ll bring you to the police station to close the case.”

After she hung up the phone, she noticed that it was not seven o’clock yet and she was quite sleepy. She returned to bed and laid down again. She wanted to sleep for another ten minutes, holding the phone in her hand, waiting for Tanya’s call when she reached home.

Suddenly, Jackson put his hand around her waist. In her daze, she asked him not to mess around, without bothering about him. Then, Jackson moved his hand to her chest habitually. He even pinched her breast twice. Stunned, she turned around and looked at him. Noticing that he was still asleep, she suppressed her urge to slap him. She had no choice but to move his hand aside.

The next second, he moved his body to lean closely against hers. He embraced her tightly. Without any sense of humiliation, he even nudged his manhood against her. She could clearly feel how energetic and strong he was early in the morning. She soon became quite annoyed. Surprisingly, he even felt that her sweater was in the way. He then stretched his hand out to lift her clothes up around her waist. Now, she could clearly feel his touch. Her breathing became slightly heavy too. “Jackson… don’t mess around here…”

She did not know whether he was doing it on purpose. He put his thin lips against the back of her ear and whispered faintly, “Yes…”

His breathing against her ears made her soft and weak. She curled her body up slightly. “This… Tan called me and said that she is fine. Hush sent that message because he was drunk. It was just a misunderstanding. I need to return home and meet her. Then we need to go to the police station. Besides, it’s not easy to hail a taxi here. Please lend me your car. I’ll return it to you once we’ve resolved the issue.”

Jackson opened his eyes slightly and looked at the time. “It’s still too early. Let’s go after eight o’clock. I’ll give you a ride. Just sleep with me for a little while longer.”

Tiffany’s mouth twitched slightly. What did he mean? She was being civil to him because she was sorry for asking him to go and file a case with her at the police station the previous night. She felt like she had troubled him quite a lot by asking him to accompany her. Now he felt like she owned him, and he acted quite recklessly. Was she such a slutty woman? Apparently not!

“If you don’t move your hand away, I’ll be harsh on you…”

Jackson knew her well, so he grabbed her hands tightly. “Don’t move. I’m afraid that I won’t be able to hold myself back.”

She did not dare to move now. In the past, he went easy on her, enduring her feeble attacks. If he was being serious, she would certainly have no way to resist him.

At first, he did nothing but hold her tightly in his arms. Gradually, the atmosphere became weirder. He held her earlobe with his mouth while using one of his hands to hold both of her wrists tightly. Then the other hand was seen reaching in from the hem of her clothes...

Tiffany moved aside and dodged his kiss. She became worried as she started to struggle. “Jackson! That’s more than enough!”

Her voice was shaky and unsure. It had been a long while since they broke up with each other. It was the first time they became intimate with each other again. He was not the only one who was unable to hold himself back. She was unable to do so too. Her heartbeat was rapid and strong. Her body became soft at the same time.

Suddenly, he turned around and hovered over her. Her legs were pulled apart by both of his knees. He then looked at her passionately. “Tiffany, how can you lie to yourself? Your body reacts to my touch vehemently. Why do you avoid me? Why did you break up with me? There’s nothing between me and Lynn. We only slept with each other that one time many years ago. She forced her kiss on me this time. It was nothing like what you saw! After being with you, I no longer notice other women! Why do you treat me like this?”

Tiffany averted her gaze. She struggled vigorously for fear that he would go through with it. But she could not bring her legs together no matter how much she tried. “Please let me go… I need to leave now!”

Chapter 802

He lowered his head and gave her a striking love bite around her neck passionately. “If you don’t be frank with me, I won’t let you go. Besides… I’ll definitely go through with it this time. I’ll count to ten. If you don’t start speaking by then, I’ll start to… One, two, three…”

When he reached nine, Tiffany could not hold herself back anymore. “I’ll speak! I… do indeed have no feelings for you now!” It was nothing but an utter lie. She could not reveal her disgusting and pathetic inner thoughts to him, including her low self-esteem, her desperation...

Clearly, Jackson did not believe it. He stretched his hand out and conquered her last defence. At the same time, he lowered his body.

She screamed and drew in a cold breath due to the pain. Even so… she still refused to tell him the truth. She decided to let it be...

He used up all his force on her, enjoying every moment of it. He even placed soft kisses on her flushed cheeks. “Tell me the truth… Tell me now… Why? If you love me no more, why does your body react to my touch? You can’t lie to me…”

She endured it and gritted her teeth but still remained silent. He became angry and claimed her body vigorously, leaving behind various traces of their intimacy on her body.

After that, Tiffany endured the weird feeling of her body and changed her clothes without any facial expression. She then left the villa directly.

Jackson finally did the thing he wanted to do all along, but he did not get the kind of satisfaction he desired. On the other hand, he was quite upset. He was dissatisfied with her response...

But he knew that it was not a good time to hail a taxi. He was still angry so he could not bring himself to give her a ride. However, he still ran after her downstairs and gave her a car key. “Take the car with you. Keep it for yourself. I don’t need it.”

She neither rejected him nor condemned him. She just wanted to leave that place and give herself some time to calm down.

When she returned to the apartment, Tanya was there too. Tanya had called her, but… Jackson did not allow her to answer the phone at that moment. Tiffany appeared quite upset and listless. Noticing that, Tanya became worried and asked her, “What’s wrong, Tiffany?”

She shook her head. “I’m fine. Let’s go. I’ll bring you to the police station to close the case.”

Tanya was observant and she noticed the love bite on Tiffany’s neck. “Did you… sleep with Jackson?”

Tiffany seemed rather awkward. “Why are you asking me this given that you’re just an old maid? You wouldn’t understand it even if I told you… Come, be quick and get your things. Wait a moment… Let me put on a scarf first.”

Tanya blushed, being labelled as an old maid. “I… I just didn’t get to meet the right person yet. Is it that humiliating? I’ve applied for a leave from Ricky. We’ll go to work after we close the case.”

Tiffany felt slightly better now. She started to tease Tanya. “Women nowadays do not wait until they meet the right man at the end but already give themselves up by then. Most of them are quite open about it. If you give it a try beforehand, you’ll find that it’s… not that bad actually.”

Tanya felt uncomfortable with that sort of topic. “How annoying! I’m one of the few reserved ones.”

Tiffany half joked with her and said, “What a coincidence! Me too.”

Chapter 803

Upon reaching the police station, they could not avoid being scolded by the police. They had filed a police report the previous night, and the police worked hard the entire night for it. Now, all of a sudden, they claimed that it was just a misunderstanding. Of course, they would be scolded for that.

When they had closed the case and left the police station, Tanya finally decided to be frank with Tiffany. “Tiffany, I’m sorry. I lied to you. Actually… Beckett did want to use me to threaten you. He was not drunk either. But after he realized how bad the consequences would be, he begged me to let him go. Besides, he did nothing to me, so I became soft-hearted… I just feel that he’s similar to me. We’re only a part of the many hardworking and busy people here, living in this city. We look forward to our future, but we suffer terribly in reality. We did not have it easy. If I didn’t forgive him, his whole life would be ruined by being locked up in jail. I’m sorry, Tiffany.”

Tiffany was not surprised. “Do you think I’m a fool? I saw through it long ago. But I just have one request to ask from you. Don’t contact him ever again. He’s not a good man. Besides, if you want to have a serious relationship with anybody in the future, please be observant and differentiate between the good and bad. Don’t trust anyone easily. This event did me no harm, but the plagiarism put Jackson in a difficult position… But it’s fine. You don’t have to feel guilty about it. He could take it. Come, let’s get to work now.”

When they walked to the car, Tanya asked her, “It seems like Jackson’s car; is it? I saw you using this car before. I hope you can get back together with him. In fact, you’ll make quite a good match.”

It reminded Tiffany what happened that morning. She could not help but blush. “It’s not as easy as you think it is. You never dated anybody in your life. How could you understand how complicated it is to be in a relationship? I borrowed this car from him. There’s nothing much. Don’t think too much about it…

Don’t tell me that you want to help him since you troubled him accidentally? It’s not your fault but Beckett’s. Don’t bother about it anymore.”

When they reached the company, Tiffany received a message from Arianne, asking about her. Arianne learned about the plagiarism from Mark. She was slightly worried, so she inquired about it from Tiffany.

Tiffany replied to her message immediately. “I’m fine. I can’t explain it here to you. If I’m free, I’ll go to the hospital and visit you. Then I’ll tell you all about it. I need to get to work now. Rest well.”

After she sent that message, she received another message. It was from Jackson...

She was stunned for two seconds. Only then did she click on the message and read it. There was only a single sentence: ‘I’m sorry for acting rashly this morning.’

She pretended to care not about it. “It’s fine. I can understand that. It’s not humiliating since we’re both adults. Just consider it as helping each other fulfill our desires.”

She successfully infuriated Jackson, who did not bother her further.

In the afternoon, Jackson was interviewed by the reporters in the office. He revealed every detail regarding the plagiarism. Beckett was held solely responsible for the entire affair, and he was blacklisted by the designing field. He even had to bear the loss and compensation.

Jackson's company was barred from taking part in the competition for fifteen years. The mass media doubted that he knew of the plagiarism beforehand but ignored that fact deliberately. However, he remained calm even though he was being doubted. "If I knew of it beforehand and ignored it deliberately, why would I admit to the plagiarism in front of the public? I already told you that the designer——Tiffany, who was being plagiarized—is my old acquaintance. I know her personality. That's it."

The recording of the interview and the news were released two hours after the interview. Tiffany felt a warmth by what Jackson said. At least, he chose to believe her instead of doubting her after the event happened.

The people around her wanted to right the wrong that was inflicted upon her, but she did not feel that she was wronged. What Jackson did provided her an ample sense of security. But it was quite unfortunate that his company was barred from taking part in the competition for the following fifteen years.

When she got off work in the afternoon, she brought along Arianne's favourite fruits and went to the hospital. Tanya was in a bad mood, so she did not go to the hospital with Tiffany.

Arianne read the news too. She smiled and asked Tiffany, "Don't you think you should get back together with Jackson? He's not that bad actually. He even admitted that it was his designer who plagiarized publicly when the result of the competition was announced. Aren't you touched by his full trust in you? He even abandoned his own honor and reputation."

Chapter 804

Tiffany felt both shy and awkward. "But then… he still managed to take advantage of me…"

Arianne did not understand her meaning. "Take advantage of you? He has currently suffered from a great loss. How did he manage to take advantage of you?"

Tiffany took off the scarf from around her neck. Arianne soon understood when she saw the scattered love bites. “How come… you don’t plan to get back together with him? How could you stay entangled with him? What if you create some kinds of troubles? I don’t look down on this kind of thing. I’m just just afraid that you’ll be playing with fire.”

“Don’t worry. It’s just an accident. I don’t plan to be entangled with him. It’s only once. Don’t babble anymore. Let me see how your son is doing today and whether he’s happy.” As she said so, she tilted her head and leaned her ear against Arianne’s belly. The baby was surprisingly quiet today.

She was slightly puzzled. “He’s usually quite active. Why is he so quiet today?”

Arianne touched her bulging belly. The baby soon became excited. Tiffany realized it now. “It seems like he knows who’s touching him. He must know that I’m not his mother and is afraid of strangers. When he is born, I’ll definitely make him cling to me and ask me to play with him! I’ll kiss him, hug him, and lift him high up in the air for fun!”

They laughed and talked to each other as Mary and Mark entered. Mary held a warm tumbler in her hands. Jackson was quite busy for the past two days, so he did not manage to send Arianne nutritious food for the time being. It was Mary who asked the servants from the Tremonts to cook for Arianne. Then she would bring it to Arianne.

Tiffany helped Arianne sit up for the meal. “Enjoy your meal. If there’s nothing else, I’ll head home now. I need to rest well and earn a lot of money. When you give birth to the baby, I’ll definitely buy a great present for him.”

Surprisingly, Mark was in a good mood. He interrupted, “You’re not so bad now, Tiffany. It surprised me to see your design in the top 100. I think it is quite good. We’re not sure if your design can get into the top 10, but it’s rather good.”

Tiffany felt slightly smug after being praised by him. “It’s the first time you praised me. I’m feeling quite smug now. How wonderful! I never thought that you’d praise the others.... That’s it. I’ll leave now. Please take good care of Ari.”

The minute Tiffany left, Mark put himself down and approached Arianne. He leaned closely to her belly and listened to the baby’s movement. He might have done this often so that the baby would be used to him. He moved rather happily. Arianne felt slightly uncomfortable from all the movement. “He’s moving too vigorously now. I feel that my belly will burst any minute. Please don’t amuse him anymore…”

Mark could not even hide his smile. “He knows that his father is here, and that’s why he’s so happy. Look at how naughty he is! The child’s certainly a boy.”

Mary was delighted. She blurted out, “How nice it would be if the child’s a boy! The Tremonts will have an heir then.”

Mark did not like to hear those kinds of things. “It doesn’t make much of a difference whether it’s a boy or girl. Women can inherit the family property too.”

Mary patted her mouth symbolically. “Oh, look at what I’ve said! I didn’t mean that. I’m just too happy.”

Arianne did not care for that. She ate her meal slowly. She was currently staying in the hospital, and she rarely moved around. Her weight had increased a lot, and she could clearly feel that she had become

plumper. Further, she could see some stretch marks around her belly too. Although applying olive oil could help with that, it could not erase the marks entirely. Mark asked her not to apply the olive oil everyday, as it was quite troublesome for her, so she did not care about it now.

Chapter 805

Noticing that both Mary and Mark were staring at her, Arianne looked up at them. She was slightly confused. “Why are you staring at me?”

Mark chuckled. “Nothing. I just noticed that your complexion seems rosier now, and your body has become healthier. I’m happy about that. Go ahead and enjoy your meal. Do eat more.”

Mark smiled and remained quiet. It made Arianne lose her appetite. She felt like she was being guarded there, being forced to increase her weight like a pig in the pigpen. Mary even claimed that her body had become much healthier and plumper now. She frowned and pushed the lunchbox aside. “I don’t want to eat anymore. I took my weight yesterday, and I’m 20 pounds heavier than I was a month ago. If I don’t control myself now, I might suffer from high blood pressure.”

Mark frowned. “You’ll slim down after you give birth to the baby. The doctor mentions nothing about it. You won’t get high blood pressure. Just eat more. Are you used to Jackson’s food now, so you’ve got no appetite toward others’ cooking? If he is free, I’ll ask him to cook for you again.”

Arianne became annoyed now. She refused to take another bite. “I don’t want to. It’s him who helped to increase my weight indirectly. It’s quite ugly to have stretch marks. How could I bear it if I become plump? If we want to have a healthy baby, it’ll not do to feed the pregnant lady more food until she becomes a fat lady. What I need is a healthy diet. I don’t want to eat anymore. Mary, give me an orange. Eating fruits won’t make me fat, and it’s good for the baby’s skin.”

Mary and Mark could not persuade her, so she could only prepare a fruit platter for Arianne; as long as she was willing to eat, even if it was only fruits.

On the other hand, Tiffany drove the car and reached her apartment. Downstairs, she saw Alejandro's car. She left in the middle of a meal with him the last time. She even promised to treat him to a meal, but she did not manage to pay the bill in time, so she was rather sorry about it. She got out of the car and walked toward his car. She said in a joking manner, "Are you here to block me again? I'm sorry for what happened last time. It's quite late today. Why don't I treat you to a meal tomorrow? Let's go to some fancy restaurant and enjoy a great feast. The restaurant we went to at that time was not fancy enough. It didn't match your style. Let me compensate for it."

Alejandro looked at her through the window nonchalantly. "So you do know that you're sorry for it. You left in a hurry, and you didn't even reply to my message. It's not late now. Come to my manor for a while. A new set of red wines just arrived. I'll let you try it."

Tiffany was slightly hesitant. Alejandro looked at her car, and he seemed to be troubled by it. "Don't worry. I won't take up a lot of your time. You'll be able to reach home before 11p.m. Just drive your own car. It's not bad."

Tiffany nodded. "Fine, I'll go there for a while. Besides, it's not my car. It's my… friend's."

Alejandro smirked slightly. "Is it Jackson's? You don't have to explain yourself. People who know about it could easily guess the rest."

Just when Tiffany was about to start the engine of the car and go with Alejandro, she spotted a car from across the road all of a sudden. Was that not Jackson's car? Why was he here?

When she returned home just now, he was not there. He must have reached that place while she was talking to Alejandro just now.

He once doubted that there was something going on between her and Alejandro. She became slightly guilty. Alejandro's car was just there right in front of her, but she did not dare to get out of the car and speak to Alejandro. Hence, she called him. "I'm sorry. Actually, I can't go today. I'll go next time. You may leave first… I'm truly sorry…"

Alejandro saw Jackson's car too. He soon understood what was going on. He paused and said, "Fine."

As Alejandro's car drove past Jackson's, they looked at each other. Both of them gave each other challenging looks. It seemed like a battle had started between them. Jackson's facial expression darkened, and he remained in his car. Tiffany sent him a message from across the wide road. 'Why are you here?'

Jackson became angry and replied, 'Why? Alejandro is more than welcome here, but I'm not? Is that how it is?'

She became tongue-tied. As she was wondering about how to reply to his message, he sent her another message. 'Didn't he come looking for you? Why didn't you go with him?'

She acted patiently and turned the topic. She asked tentatively, 'Would you like to go to my place for tea?'

He immediately replied, 'Tanya is at home. It's inconvenient. Let's go to my place.'

Chapter 806

’Don’t go, or you’ll face the consequences yourself. I’m certainly not going to seek you out again’ — he added to his message, perhaps afraid of her refusal.

She turned speechless once again, then remembered the unfortunate circumstances in the morning. He had already apologized, she had no reason to sulk over it. However, going to his house clearly entailed… a deeper meaning. Should she go? She was conflicted, as she didn’t want to maintain such a shady relationship between them. However, she was worried that he wouldn’t contact her again. She searched her heart; she didn’t want to cut ties with him or for him to cut ties with her.

After some thought, she admitted: ‘I’ll go if you promise not to do anything to me.’

Jackson didn’t answer. Instead, he drove his car towards her and honked. She knew what he meant — get in the car, he would drive her.

She got into his car. “I haven’t eaten. I’m guessing you haven’t either? Let’s have a meal together.”

“Alejandro asked you out for dinner too, right? Looks like I’m more important to you than he is. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have asked him to leave,” he mumbled.

Tiffany let out a dry laugh. “That’s right, you’re so smart… So don’t sulk at me, okay? Where do we eat?”

He glanced at her. “My place. I’ll cook.”

Her heart trembled. This guy… Was he trying to make peace with her? And this was the first time he had volunteered to cook for her since their break up. She felt apprehensive. “Uhm… No need. Let’s just eat at a restaurant.”

“Why? Scared that I might poison you?” he asked in a deliberately icy tone.

“It’s not that; I’m just scared that you…” she grumbled weakly.

He couldn’t hear a word she said. “What are you mumbling about? I just… wanted to apologize to you. I was too rash this morning…”

Tiffany nearly laughed. “Am I hearing this right? You’re apologizing to me? Fine. Then I don’t have anything to worry about. Consider your apology accepted once I’ve eaten your cooking.

Jackson headed straight to the kitchen once they had returned to White Water Bay Villa. He had purposely gotten off work to buy ingredients to cook for her. Like every other time he saw her with Alejandro, he felt so angry that he wanted to just leave. However, at the same time, he was reluctant to. Luckily, she was tactful enough to follow him home instead.

His small variety of dishes were soon finished, and Tiffany had two helpings along with two glasses of red wine. Her cheeks were slightly flushed, and her lips were red, tender, and plump, sparkling ever so slightly. She looked so delectable that one couldn’t help but want to kiss her.

“Why not stay the night?” Jackson asked her, half-jokingly.

She shot him a glare. “Of course not, what do you think we are? I have principles. I used to have sex with you ten times a night back when we were together, but now that we’ve broken up, once is already a sin on its own. Speaking of… How are things going between you and that little girlfriend of yours? Why are you reminiscing your time with an old girlfriend like me, instead of sleeping with a fresh new one?”

He knew that she was trying to pry into his personal affairs, but he refused to give in to her. He refused to talk about Sasha. “You can leave if you want. I’ll drop you off later…”

Chapter 807

Tiffany knew that he was doing this on purpose. She got up and grabbed her handbag. “Take me home now, then. It’s past nine. I have to go home early and get some sleep.

He downed another glass of red wine right in front of her. “So sorry, I almost forgot. I’ve been drinking. I can’t drive. You’ve been drinking too.

Tiffany was shocked. “You didn’t… plan this, did you? You knew you had to drive and you still drank? Well… What do I do now?”

Jackson shrugged. “I didn’t drink much. I’ll be able to drive later at night. Just wait a while. I cooked the food, so you wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. I’m going to take a shower.”

As she watched him walk upstairs, Tiffany couldn’t shake the feeling that something wasn’t right, but she simply couldn’t figure it out. She washed the dishes and cleaned the kitchen for him. It would take a good few hours for her to sober up. Wouldn’t it be tedious if she arrived home in the wee hours of the

morning? Calling a designated driver seemed more appropriate to her. When she went upstairs to speak to Jackson, she realized that he was still in the shower. He was dawdling in the bathroom.

She suddenly spotted her white knitted top underneath his bed sheet covers, the one she wore last night. She clearly remembered putting it in her room after changing her clothes…

The bathroom door opened just then. Jackson stepped out with a towel wrapped around his waist, his bare chest in full view, still shining with rippling droplets of water. She felt her throat tighten at the sight of this. “What are you doing? What took you so long in the shower?” she asked, trying to conceal her innermost thoughts. “I think I’d better call a designated driver. I have to go home.”

Jackson walked towards her, lowered his body, and stared right at her, allowing a drop of water from the tip of his hair to slide onto the tip of her nose. “Why? Are you scared that I might do something to you? You were obviously drooling at the sight of me. I should be the careful one here, no?”

She was so embarrassed that she wanted to bury herself into a hole. “That’s nonsense. You’re being preposterous. I wasn’t drooling! I got tired of looking at your body long ago. It doesn’t interest me!”

He smirked. “Alright, since you’ve put it that way, I’ve gotten tired of your body too. We dislike each other. What’s wrong with you staying the night then? Get showered; stop being tedious.”

She dashed into the shower, probably to avoid his teasing. She would stay over then. Whoever initiates sex, loses! She didn’t manage to sleep well last night, so she was already quite sleepy at this point. She couldn’t be bothered to go back and forth in this.

By the time she had finished her shower, she realized that she didn't have a fresh change of clothes. She turned to him and sulkily demanded, "Give me my shirt from last night!"

Jackson was taken aback. He had forgotten about that. He had nicked the woolen shirt back onto his bed after she had left; it still had traces of her scent… He did not expect her to notice it. He did not try to hide it but handed the shirt to her. "It was raining last night, so the bed sheets and duvet haven't dried. They're all soaked. You'd better sleep in my room tonight."

Tiffany's head was now filled with questions. When did it rain last night? However, it would seem that the couch in his living room did not have covers today, so maybe he was telling the truth…

She put on her clothes and casually laid down on his bed. She put on her earphones and listened to music to sleep. She would be able to endure it as long she didn't hear him moving…

Jackson couldn't resist a smirk when he saw her feverish attempts to ward him off. He quietly lay down next to her and pulled her into his arms. He had longed to hold her to sleep, every night since their breakup. This temporary fix had put his mind at peace.

This was perfectly described by a line from an old movie — "Every day apart feels like ten thousand years." When one is separated from his true love, every day seems longer and more tortuous than the last.

As she listened to the soft music from her earphones, Tiffany did not object to his advance. She even put one of her earpieces on his ear. Suddenly, the world seemed to be at peace.

Chapter 808

They fell asleep at some point. Tiffany realized that her earphones and phone had been neatly put away on the bedside table when she woke up the next day. Jackson must have put them away for her when she was asleep. She suddenly remembered how she would always wake up to her earphones choking her whenever she slept alone…

Jackson was already awake. There was no sign of him on the bed, but his spot was still warm. She could hear soft sounds of movements from the bathroom; he was showering.

Nothing happened last night. She felt both a sense of relief and a certain part of her heart melting away, replaced by a warm, cosy sensation.

He was still in the bathroom even after she had waited for ten minutes. Her bladder was full. She ran to the door and knocked. “Hurry up, I need to pee…”

He opened the door with a mouthful of toothpaste. “Come in and pee then. It’s not like I haven’t seen it.”

The corners of her lips twitched. “Can’t you have some decorum? Get out, now!”

She forced him out the door, relieved herself, then slowly walked out. “Walk a little slower, why don’t you? My toothpaste is going to dry. Can’t you be reasonable?” he asked begrudgingly.

She shot him a glare. “Hurry it up and send me home. I need a change of clothes before I go to the office. Be quick about it; I don’t want to be late.”

He changed his clothes at such a leisurely pace, that she grew anxious and helped him with his tie. Suddenly, he wrapped an arm around her waist and pulled her towards him. He locked her lips with his and kissed her until she was left breathless. She reluctantly broke off when she was near asphyxiation. “Hold it right there! I don’t have time to whisper sweet nothings with you now. Get ready and come downstairs!”

Waves of emotion swirled in his gaze. “I can only have a good night’s rest when you’re around. Do you think you could come over more often if I promise not to touch you?” he asked seriously.

She stiffened. She knew all of his deepest, darkest secrets and she always felt bad for him. However, only now did she find out that he hadn’t had a good night’s sleep since their break up…

She pursed her lips. “D-don’t you have a girlfriend? Isn’t it all the same no matter who you sleep with? Ask her to keep you company…”

He shook his head gently. “I’ve tried; it’s not the same. It’s useless… No one’s been able to replace you since you came along.”

He’d tried? She felt upset. Despite knowing that he already had a girlfriend, hearing these words straight out of his mouth still put her out of sorts. “You’ll get used to it after a few tries,” she mumbled. “We weren’t used to it in the beginning too, remember? I can’t. I can’t do it.”

“Why?” he asked, looking forlorn.

“We’ve broken up,” she replied irritably. “Besides, you’ve had other girls since our breakup. The very thought of this breaks my heart. I can’t act like nothing’s happened and sleep with you. I don’t want to experience being demoted from the official girlfriend to mistress. I haven’t had any other man in bed since our break up. Y-you… You should get lost. Stop making fun of me!”

Jackson suddenly smiled. “Hehe… You can’t possibly have thought that anything’s happened between me and some other girl, can you? The one you’ve heard of, Sasha? I’ve never had sex with her. She only laid next to me in bed for one night. I didn’t get a good night’s sleep then either. I haven’t called on her since, except to have a few meals together. Just say the word, and I’ll break it off with her immediately.”

Chapter 809

Realizing that she had lost control of her emotions, Tiffany forced herself to calm down. She did not plan on getting back together with him, so she shouldn’t concern herself with his personal affairs. “I don’t have the right to do that. That’s your personal issue. I won’t come over so often. We can be friends, and you have to get used to sleeping well without me. I can keep you company during the beginning stages, when it’s most difficult to bear. This is the best I can do to pay you back for everything you’ve done for me in the past… That’s all. It’s time to go.”

He forced himself to contain his nearly-crumbling emotions when he heard the last part of her sentence — she would still keep him company. He had already discarded all of his ego anyway. As long as she was willing to see him, he would not let go. He had the utmost faith in his lady killing skills.

He set his emotions aside. “Fine… I’ll take you home.”

Tiffany said goodbye to Jackson when they arrived at the ground floor of her condo. Her office was just across the road, so after a change of clothes, she would make a mad dash to the office.

Tanya stared at her dubiously as she walked through the doors. “Another night away from home. I saw it all from up here. Jackson sent you home. What’s going on between you two? A lingering love affair? Are you getting back together?”

Tiffany carelessly changed her clothes in front of Tanya. “You wouldn’t understand, even if I told you. It’s almost time for work. Are you ready?”

Tanya nodded dazedly, staring at her waist. “A-all ready… What’s that bruise on your waist? On both sides too… Doesn’t it hurt? How did this happen?”

Tiffany looked at her waist in shock. It was just as Tanya had described — both sides of her waist were bruised. She remembered that Jackson had a firm hold on her waist, back when they were doing the dirty dance. It didn’t hurt at the time, but she only felt sore at the moment. She had no idea that it looked so dreadful. She ignored the throbbing in her heart, unwilling to remember the entire process. “N-nothing… I just bumped into something by accident. It’s fine, it doesn’t hurt.”

Tanya was still worried. “How can it not hurt? Look at it! I’m going to buy two boxes of medicated patches for you after work, okay? My grandfather used them whenever his body ached.”

Tiffany blushed. “Th-this… No need! I’m young. I don’t need patches. Don’t worry. We should get to work.”

Despite her pointed rejection, Tanya ignored her and made a special trip to the pharmacy during her lunch break to buy some medicated patches for her. Then, she marched her to the washroom and applied it for her. Medicated patches generally carry a heavy smell and are absorbed into the skin, where they linger for a very long time. Hence, when Jackson contacted Tiffany near the end of working hours, she refused to see him. Not even perfume could mask the smell of the patches. She really didn’t want to see her ex while smelling of medicated patches.

Tanya promptly received a message from Jackson: ‘This is Jackson West. Does Tiffany have another date with Alejandro? Are you able to find out? For me? Don’t tell her that I asked you to do it.’

Tanya turned to the side and glanced at Tiffany, then replied: ‘How did you get my number?’

Jackson quickly replied: ‘This shouldn’t be your priority. It’s not that hard to find out someone’s phone number. Please ask her for me? I’ve just asked her out and she’s refused to see me. I know that you’re best friends, and I’m not asking you to be my “spy”. That Alejandro is bad news. I’m sure you want the best for her too.’

Chapter 810

Tanya calmed herself. “Tiffany, will you be seeing Jackson tonight?” she carefully asked.

Tiffany shook her head without hesitation. “No. He just asked me out. I’ve refused.”

“Why not?” Tanya asked.

Tiffany patted her waist. “This medicated ointment. I smell like a seventy-year-old lady. My fresh, young fragrance is all but gone. I can’t see my ex like this. That won’t do. My image is still important to me.”

A hint of disappointment flashed across Tanya’s eyes. “I’m sorry… I didn’t think of that. I just thought that you’d feel better after applying those medical patches.”

Tiffany did not notice Tanya's feelings and carelessly replied. "I've already told you that it doesn't hurt, but you insisted…"

Tanya pulled up her shirt and pulled out the patches before she could finish her sentence. The tear stung her, and just as she was about to object, she turned around and realized that Tanya had gotten up and gone to the washroom, seemingly unhappy. She paused in thought. Was Tanya mad at her?

She grabbed Tanya's hand when she returned and childishly cajoled her. "Aw… Come on, that's not what I meant. I know that you were doing this for my own good. Buying medicinal patches just for me during lunch break like that… You're the best. I'm not blaming you. I don't want to see Jackson anyway. It's going to be messy if I don't make a clean cut. When will it ever end? Don't overthink it. I'll cook you a nice meal tonight, okay?"

Tanya forced a smile on the corners of her lips. "It's alright. I'm not angry. It's my fault for causing that strong smell on you… But as your friend, I'm confused. Why do you have such a shady relationship with Jackson while seeing Alejandro at the same time? That's not a good idea, is it? Jackson still cares about you and wants to get back together with you. If you really want to reject him, you should be thorough about it. Don't keep him on the hook."

Tiffany was stunned. "No… What are you talking about? Who's on my hook? Don't you know what's going on between me and Alejandro? There's no such thing… And Jackson, he's the one initiating our meetings. You make it sound like I'm playing the field."

Tanya pulled her hand out from Tiffany's grasp expressionlessly. "Those who aren't involved can't see the big picture, but those who are not usually see everything clearly. I'm not reproaching you; I just don't think it's a good idea. If you don't have feelings for Alejandro, why do you keep meeting up with him? When a man is eagerly attentive to one woman, his intentions clearly aren't pure, and if you continue agreeing to see him, it shows that you're not rejecting him and that you're trying things out with him. Aren't we friends? So there's no need for you to hide anything from me. Both men are rich

anyway, and any one of them has enough money to keep you well-fed and clothed for the rest of your life. It's just that Alejandro is slightly flawed. Don't get so caught up in the chase that you're unable to quit. That's just playing with fire."

Tiffany never expected for these words to come out of Tanya's mouth. She never really enjoyed the thrill of the chase. Besides, the situation really wasn't how Tanya had described. Now, she was slowly realizing that Tanya had been tainted by her surroundings since her arrival in the capital. Her values had changed. She was no longer a gullible and naive girl.

She opted against going into a long explanation and felt uneasy. "It's not what you think. You're overthinking it."

Tanya didn't answer and focused on her tasks instead. Just when Tiffany had turned her focus away from her, she sent Jackson a message: 'She says that she won't see you today but didn't say anything else. I'm guessing Alejandro will call her up again.'