Ruling 991

Chapter 991

“What are you doing here alone?” Tiffany asked, sobbing intermittently when they met. “Where’s Smore? Can you really leave him at home?”

Although Arianne felt uncomfortable, she did not show it. “Don’t worry, his daddy is with him. What’s there to worry about? I’ve decided to come here for a few days to have fun and keep you company. How are things between you and Jackson?”

“He thinks that Alejandro is the father of the baby.” Tiffany sobbed. “He wants me to abort it. I hung up on him angrily, and he hasn’t called me back since. He’s going to drive me crazy…”

Arianne wiped her tears off. “Alright, don’t cry. Pregnant women shouldn’t cry. The baby can feel it whenever you’re sad. It’s not a myth, it’s true. Suspicion is one’s greatest enemy. It can destroy trust between two people. There are two ways to solve this now; either you and Jackson have a nice chat and convince him that the baby is his, or you take a paternity test and show him the proof. I don’t recommend you aborting the baby. There’s no need to involve an innocent life in your conflict. It’s your child after all.”

Tiffany finally managed to calm down. “Actually, I was considering abortion before you arrived. But you’re right, the baby is innocent. It shouldn’t have to lose its life just because I want to piss Jackson off. Talking is impossible. He’ll drive me nuts. Besides, there’s no cure for his suspicions. I’ll do a DNA test. But the baby isn’t born yet. How do I do that? I don’t think I can wait until its born to take the test. He’ll drive me up the wall.”

“You can do the test before the birth too,” Amy chimed in. “However, you have to wait until the fetus is at least three months old. 16 to 27 weeks would be the best and the safest.”

Only at this moment did Arianne notice Amy who had been sitting at a desk behind them. A computer was blocking Amy, which was why she did not notice Amy immediately. “You’re Amy, right? Hi! Yes, I have considered the option that you’ve suggested. Prenatal paternity tests have improved in recent times. It’s not too risky so you can do that if you want.”

Amy nodded. “That’s right.”

Tiffany touched her belly and heaved a heavy sigh. “Then, I’ll wait a little longer. I’ll do the test after a month or so. I’ll wait until the baby is four months old. It’s not time yet… But… It still hurts even if he accepts the baby after seeing the proof. We’re estranged now. How can one mend a broken mirror? It feels kind of meaningless now…”

Arianne bit her lip. “How about I go home and beat Jackson up? Don’t worry, he wouldn’t dare retaliate with Mark around. I’ll avenge you.”

Tiffany’s lips trembled, she was close to tears again. “That’s not a good idea, is it? Violence doesn’t solve anything. There’s no use in forcing him to accept it. He’d still think that I cheated on him and tried to play it off like he’s the father. Let me think about it. If push comes to shove, I’ll raise the baby on my own and be a single mother!”

Arianne smiled. “You just can’t bear having me beat him up, isn’t that right? Alright, calm down, and take deep breaths. We can solve this, but it certainly won’t be possible to do it on the phone. If he doesn’t come by to see you, we can go home together this weekend, and deal with it. For now, focus on staying calm and do whatever you want. We’ll go for dinner after work. Don’t starve your baby. Will you come too, Amy?”

Amy was still in a daze as she was still processing the fact that Arianne was Mark Tremont's wife. "Uh… S-sure."

Discord wasn't limited to Arianne and Tiffany. Things were not going too well for Mark either. He had refused Mary's offer to tag along with him to the office and help take care of Aristotle. Thus, he single-handedly brought Aristotle to the office. He changed his diapers, fed him, and put him to sleep, all on his own. Aristotle began to cry, probably because he had not seen Arianne for a very long time. It took him two hours to coax him back to sleep. He was close to a breakdown at that point.

Chapter 992

Mark pulled out his phone countless times, feeling the urge to call Arianne. However, he was afraid she would reject his calls again. That, in turn, would only upset him. He had to endure this. He needed to stop spoiling her so much and that included Aristotle. They were both too spoiled.

Suddenly, someone gently pushed the office door open. A tall, slender, and pretty young woman dressed in office wear with her hair tied back into a loose ponytail glided into the room. "Mr. Tremont," she said in a soft voice, "The director has asked me to bring these documents over. I didn't knock as I was afraid of disturbing the baby. Should I leave these on your desk?"

Mark nodded. "Put them down," he softly replied, "I'll look at them when I have the time." As he spoke, he noticed that the woman had taken off her high heels and carried them in her hands when she entered. She did not use the readily-available disposable slippers. "There's a shoe cabinet at the door with disposable slippers readily available."

The girl smiled. "I didn't know. I just joined this company, and I'm still an intern. I'll pay more attention next time. Davy isn't around so… My apologies."

Mark was not angry. The girl's inattentiveness did not annoy him. "Mm, you may leave now."

The girl continued smiling. She walked toward Aristotle who was fast asleep on the couch and tucked him in. “The air-conditioning in the office is chilly. You wouldn’t want him to catch a chill. My brother is much younger than I am. I used to help take care of him so I have some experience in babysitting. You can always give him to me, Mr. Tremont, if you’re too busy. Just call me if you need me. My name is Janice Bell.”

Mark nodded. Janice did not linger. She tiptoed softly out of the office and carefully shut the door.

In the afternoon, Aristotle woke up again. He bawled and bawled, and Mark was unable to take care of him since he had an important meeting to attend to. Davy was powerless against the little one as well. He remembered Janice and decided to give her a try. Who knew if Aristotle was willing to let her hold him? His life would be much easier with an extra set of hands during an emergency. He ordered Davy, “Call Janice Bell. She’s an intern. Tell her to come here.”

Davy hastily went to look for Janice, and it did not take long before she arrived. This time, she remembered to change into a pair of disposable slippers before walking in. “Mr. Tremont, how can I help you?”

Mark pushed Aristotle to her. “Hold him, let’s see what happens. I have to attend a meeting. If it doesn’t work, it’s fine.”

Janice nodded and carefully took Aristotle into her arms. Aristotle continued crying, but he did not cry harder unlike when Davy was carrying him.

Upon seeing this, Mark sighed in relief. “This will have to do for now. Help me out for now. I’ll come back when my meeting is over. He’s just been fed. Change his diaper whenever needed.”

Janice was overwhelmed by his favor. “Sure, Mr. Tremont. I’ll take good care of him. Don’t you worry!”

Chapter 993

The meeting did not take too long since Mark could not stop worrying about Aristotle. The meeting that would have taken at least two hours was promptly shortened to one hour because of his son. He skipped through everything that was not important.

He returned to the office and found that Aristotle had stopped crying. Thanks to Janice’s extensive efforts in cheering him up, the little man was staring up at her blankly. He did not seem happy, but at least he had stopped crying. Mark heaved a sigh of relief, walked up to her, and said, “You’re certainly good with children. No one could soothe Smore except for his mother.”

Janice became slightly more reserved when he returned. She stepped aside. “Smore? Little Smore? What a cute nickname!”

Mark gazed at his son and smiled. “That’s right, his mother gave it to him. We’ve gotten used to calling him by that name. His real name is Aristotle Tremont.”

Janice stared dazedly at Mark for a few seconds. Everyone in the office had mentioned that it had been a long time since he last smiled. She did not expect him to look even better when he smiled. It made him look a lot gentler. He did not seem scary like the rumor described. He was like a shining star in the night sky. When she regained her senses, she sincerely complimented him. “What a great name, Mr. Tremont. I can tell that you’re really in love with Mrs. Tremont.”

Mark thought of Arianne, and his smile vanished. He did not say anything. Who knew where that woman had run off to now?

Janice noticed the lack of reply but made no move to leave. She deftly switched the topic. “Mr. Tremont, I don’t think you remember me, but I remember you… I’ve always remembered you.”

Mark looked at her warily. “Have we met?”

Janice lifted her hand and tucked a lock of hair behind her ear, smiling shyly. “No… I was still studying then. My family wasn’t doing too well. Your financial aid helped me. You’ve helped so many people. I’m sure you don’t remember them all. That’s why I came to work in your company as soon as I graduated. I won’t let your goodwill go to waste. I’ll do my best.”

‘She received financial aid from me before?’ Mark let his guard down upon hearing this. He was no longer as wary. It was true, after all, that he had helped many people. He signed so many cheques every month that it was impossible for him to remember the name Janice Bell. “Mm, go back to work.”

Janice nodded and waved at Aristotle. “Bye-bye, Smore!”

…

At night, Alejandro gave Jett time off. He drove back to Tanya’s condo.

Just as he walked in, Tanya happily skipped over to greet him. “Why are you back so late? Your grandfather has been waiting for you. You should have told me that he was going to visit.”

Grandfather? Jett was alarmed. He did not have any relatives. Where did this grandfather come from?

Just then, Don Smith stepped out of the bedroom, the one he usually slept in, with a cane in hand. “Jett, I didn’t know you’d gotten married and that you’ll be a father soon. What a surprise. You should have told me. I came to visit Tan. I’m sure that’s alright with you?”

Jett stiffened. “Yes, of course… Tanya, go to the kitchen and get me something to eat. I haven’t eaten.”

He was going to come sooner or later. The old man had been eyeing him for a while now. It seemed like that night was destined to be chaotic.

Chapter 994

Tanya did not sense anything amiss. She only wondered why both grandfather and son seemed distant. “Okay, I’ll get to it now. Both of you can catch up.”

Don Smith stared at Jett for a good few seconds before he turned around and made his way into the bedroom. “Let’s talk inside. I’m pretty sure you don’t want your wife finding out about everything.”

Jett bit the bullet and followed him inside before he carefully shut the door. “Sir… What is it you want? My marriage is a small matter, I didn’t want to trouble you. It wasn’t a big event either…”

Don Smith suddenly flew into a rage. “Your wife has told me everything she knows. She actually thinks that I’m your grandfather, she suspects nothing. How long did you plan on keeping this from me? How dare you betray me! Don’t forget, you wouldn’t have gotten to where you are if it weren’t for me!”

Jett immediately fell to his knees, lowering his head. Panic flashed in his eyes as he pleaded, “Tanya has nothing to do with this. Please have mercy and spare her. She really doesn’t know a single thing!”

Don Smith sat on the side of the bed. “I’ll give you one chance. Lay everything that Alejandro has done out in the open. I’m still alive. He doesn’t have the power to make decisions in the Smith family!”

Jett furrowed his brows, hesitating. The old man was not as generous as Alejandro. Should he incur Don Smith’s wrath, neither he nor Tanya would be able to escape from this place alive. Unless he was mistaken, Don Smith probably had an army of bodyguards nearby. They were just not in the house. However, if he exposed Alejandro, Alejandro would not spare him either. Finally, he decided to reveal one part of the story. “He’s been making several attempts to get close to a woman called Tiffany Lane ever since his arrival in the capital. He says that it took him three years to fall in love with that woman… Everything else is limited to land purchases and giving me instructions to cause trouble for Tiffany’s fiancé.”

Don Smith glared at him. “What gives him the right to decide on the Smith family’s marriages? Does he really think that he can marry anyone he likes? Preposterous! I’d love to see who this captivating woman is!” Then, he continued, “Jett… I know that Ale isn’t easy to deal with. He must have threatened you a lot. But I can ensure your safety as long as you don’t betray me. You’ve done a lot for me over the past few years. I’ll transfer a sum of money into your bank account. It’s different for you now that you have a family. You can’t go on without money. I hope you won’t keep things from me anymore. I won’t take into account your past misdeeds.”

Jett sighed in relief inwardly. “Yes, I understand.”

After Don Smith left, Tanya emerged from the kitchen with a bowl of piping hot noodle soup only to find Jett standing at the doorway with a sullen look on his face. “Has grandpa left?”

Jett turned around and walked toward her. “What did you say to him? He’s not my grandfather. He’s Don Smith, Alejandro’s grandfather!”

Tanya was so frightened that she froze for two seconds. Then, she hastily said, “We… I didn’t… We only talked about family stuff. He seems to know a lot about you so I didn’t suspect him at all…”

At this moment, Jett finally understood Don Smith was trying to intimidate him. Tanya did not say anything incriminating. However, he had been forced to sell Tiffany out in order to ensure Tanya’s safety. Knowing Don Smith, Tiffany would be in danger now.

He went to the bathroom and called Alejandro once he thought of this. “Sir, Don Smith visited my home. He suspects me. Furthermore, he found out about you and Miss Lane. I’m afraid that Miss Lane might be in trouble…”

“F*ck!” Alejandro cursed from the other end of the line. “Get some men and protect Tiffany. I’ll talk to the old man. Do not let anything happen to her, understand? He knows that you’ve been hiding from him, and he didn’t make things difficult for you at all? What else did you tell him?”

Jett’s heart thumped wildly in his chest when faced with Alejandro’s interrogation. “Nothing… He only said that he’d give me some money and hopes that I won’t keep anything from him again. He said he’ll let go of my past misdeeds as well…”

Chapter 995

Jett could hear smashing noises from Alejandro's end. Alejandro was clearly enraged. "Just remember what I told you. I'm not as generous as the old man. You know what to do!"

Jett went to the door to change his shoes once the call ended. He looked at Tanya and said, "I have something urgent to attend to so I might not come home for a few days. Take care of yourself. Send me a message if you need anything. Do not call me."

Tanya looked disappointed. "What about… the noodles? Won't you eat them?"

He shook his head. "No time. You eat them."

South Park.

After work, Tiffany and Arianne went to a nearby open-air restaurant together. Both women were in a terrible mood. Tiffany was annoyed with Jackson, and Arianne was annoyed with Mark. As the saying went, 'Misery loves company'.

Suddenly, Tiffany received a message from Alejandro. "Be careful whenever you go out over the next few days. Try to avoid going out alone." Feeling apprehensive, she showed the message to Arianne. "What does this mean? Why is he telling me to be careful and to avoid going out alone? Is someone out to get me or watching me? I'm kind of scared…"

Arianne frowned at the message. "I don't know either, but he must have his reasons. There's nothing wrong with being careful. Luckily, I'll be around over the next few days so you won't be alone."

Tiffany did not think much about it and replied, “Why? Did something happen?” She put her phone aside after sending the message. “I think you’d better stay with me instead of the hotel. We used to share a bed anyway. Just because you have money, it doesn’t mean that you should waste it.”

Arianne nodded. “Sure, I’ll cancel the reservation later. I’m just worried that it might be inconvenient for you. Like, what if Jackson comes over and wants to stay the night? However, since it doesn’t seem like Jackson would be coming over, coupled with Alejandro’s message, I think it’s better that I stay with you.”

After a while, Alejandro sent a reply. “No reason. Just listen to me. Trust me, just this once. Don’t contact me for now.”

Tiffany stared at her phone screen apprehensively. Previously, she could not seem to shake him off no matter what she did. It was strange that Alejandro told her not to contact him. Something must have happened. Regardless, it was not difficult for her to stop contacting him. In fact, she felt relieved. At least, she would no longer feel uncomfortable about his feelings toward her.

After dinner, the pair went to the hotel to cancel Arianne’s reservation before returning to Tiffany’s rented condominium. As they entered the residential area, Arianne could not shake the feeling that she was being watched. Her intuition told her that danger was lurking around the corner. She was too afraid to look around. Instead, she grabbed Tiffany’s hand and quickened her pace.

Tiffany had just eaten and lacked the energy to run. “Why are you walking so fast? I’ve just eaten. I should be taking a slow walk.”

Arianne lowered her voice and said, “I need to go to the bathroom. Hurry up. You can rest when we’re home.”

Chapter 996

Tiffany was rather a reckless and careless person. She did not notice anything amiss. “Fine! Who knew even someone like you will suffer from the urge to pee and forget yourself. I thought that you’re just those immortal fairies from the legend without human needs and urges. You seem like you don’t have any human needs and urges…”

Arianne did not respond to her. After they went upstairs, she asked Tiffany not to switch on the light. Then, she walked to a window with a good view and looked down at the streets that were lit by street lamps in the neighborhood so she could clearly see the people downstairs. However, she was on a high floor so she could not see their faces clearly. Even so, she could see a few tall men in black suits. She felt unexplainably nervous and did not know what to do. Those people had training in martial arts, she could tell by the way they carried themselves. They were highly vigilant as well. She knew all these since the bodyguards, who were retired mercenaries or professional bodyguards, who worked for the Tremonts were the same way. Her instinct told her these people were the same.

When Tiffany saw Arianne behaving strangely, she approached Arianne and asked, “What are you doing? Why didn’t you allow me to switch on the light? Didn’t you say you needed to pee?”

Arianne covered Tiffany’s mouth and closed the drape. “We’re being targeted. When we were on our way home earlier, I felt someone was watching us in the neighborhood. As expected, I saw a few men in black suits wandering around the neighborhood. They’re good at telling if they’ve been found out. Don’t mess around.”

Tiffany was shocked. “Really? Is what Alejandro said true? Who’s after me? It’s impossible for me not to go to work or not to go out at all…”

Arianne was slightly nervous as well. She was only a weak woman. She would certainly be frightened if she had to face this. Clearly, they were after Tiffany, but it was impossible for her to abandon her best

friend. “It’s fine. Contact Amy and apply for leave. From now on, we’ll have to make sure the doors are locked, and we mustn't go out. I’ll inform Mark about this as well so he can bring some people over.”

Tiffany was so frightened that she instantly locked the door. “Hurry up and contact him. By the way, isn’t he taking care of Smore now? Won’t it be inconvenient? What if I contact Jackson instead? Although he currently doubts me and claims that I cheated on him, he’ll certainly do something if I’m in trouble. It’s not embarrassing to ask for help since it’s a matter of life or death.”

After considering it for a short while, Arianne felt that what Tiffany said was logical. If Mark came over in person, he would certainly bring Smore along. Currently, they were still uncertain of the situation so she would not risk her baby. It was better if they contacted Jackson. She nodded slightly. “Okay, go ahead and contact Jackson. I’m worried that something may happen to Smore so I won’t tell Mark about it for now.”

Finally, Tiffany had found a legit reason to contact Jackson. She searched for his number excitedly and called him.

Jackson answered the call swiftly. He answered in a dull voice, “Hello…”

As soon as Tiffany heard Jackson’s voice, she was filled with the inexplicable urge to cry as though she had been wronged. He had begged to reconcile with her, and then, he doubted her. In the end, she steeled herself and said with a sneer, “Am I disturbing you? Why are you so impatient?”

Jackson was rather helpless. “No… Don’t try to find fault with me, okay? I’m driving. If it’s nothing important, we’ll talk later.”

Tiffany became anxious. “Don’t! It’s urgent! I’m being stalked and targeted! Alejandro sent me a message all of a sudden, telling me to be careful for the time being. He asked me not to go out alone. Then, when I returned home with Ari earlier, we discovered some people watching us in the neighborhood. Mark’s taking care of Smore now, that’s why I called you instead. Can you bring some people over? We’re not sure what’s happening, and we’re scared…”

Upon hearing this, Jackson became agitated. “What? Alright, I’ll be there in an hour. I’ll be more careful when I’m entering the neighborhood. We’ll talk about it once I reach your place. Don’t go out during this one hour. Be careful!”

After she hung up the phone, Tiffany became quite excited. “He’s coming! He planned to come and meet me actually. He’ll be here in an hour! If I knew that earlier, I wouldn't have called him!”

Arianne found Tiffany’s reaction amusing. “It’s clear that you want to see him badly, but you still pretend like you don’t. If it’s true, you wouldn’t be so overjoyed. Moreover, it’s too early to be celebrating. We still don’t know what’s happening right now. He’s definitely coming alone. We don’t know how many people are out there. What’s their intention? We’re still in danger. We’ll be safer with Jackson around, but it doesn’t mean we’re out of danger.”

Chapter 997

Tiffany deflated like a balloon, her excitement gone, as soon as she heard Arianne’s words. “That’s true. He’s certainly coming alone. No matter how strong he is or how skilled he is in fighting, he can’t go against so many people. Forget it. We’ll see how it goes. I’ll go and take a shower first since it’s rather late. Watch the door while I’m taking a bath. Don’t open the door for anyone except for Jackson’s here. I’ll guard the door after my bath. Don’t fall asleep.”

Arianne nodded. “Alright, go ahead. I’m not so stupid.”

After learning that Tiffany was in trouble, Jackson increased the speed of his car for fear of something happening to her. It was an hour's journey, but it took him only forty minutes before he arrived at her building. If there was no traffic jam, he might arrive even sooner. When he entered the neighborhood, he surveyed the surroundings vigilantly. Indeed, there seemed to be some suspicious men around, but he did not cause a scene and pretended as though he was unaware as he made his way to Tiffany's house.

When they heard the knock on the door, Tiffany and Arianne started. Both of them were so scared that they were breathing heavily. They tiptoed to the door and looked through the peephole. They only opened the door when they saw it was Jackson.

Tiffany patted her chest and complained, "Didn't you say you'll reach in an hour? Why are you here so fast? I was almost frightened to death when you knocked on the door."

Jackson said irritably, "I rushed here because I'm worried you'll be frightened. How can you complain about me coming earlier? Show me the messages Alejandro sent you."

Tiffany handed her phone to him. He took it with a dull expression on his face. Clearly, he was still quite annoyed with what happened before. After realizing that Tiffany did not have any extremely intimate conversations with Alejandro when he went through their messages, his attitude became slightly better. "The problem clearly lies with Alejandro. I heard that Don Smith had gone to the capital. Besides, Alejandro cares about you… So it's probably Don who has it out for you. The Smiths are quite a complicated family. You can't even begin to imagine the state they're in."

Tiffany was baffled. "Why would Don target me? How's it any of my business if his grandson cares about me? It's not like I can control Alejandro's actions! Does it mean that someone has to pay for the consequences of Alejandro's actions? How can he be such a tyrant? This is really confusing!!"

Arianne interjected at this moment, “Why don’t you call Alejandro and ask him about it directly? If we have information, it’ll be much easier to solve the problem. If not, you’ll have to live in fear for who knows how long.”

Tiffany looked at Jackson. If he did not agree to it, she would not call Alejandro. She did not want to get into another argument with him.

Jackson returned the phone to her. “Call him.”

Tiffany called Alejandro and put it on speaker mode. However, it only rang once before the call was rejected. At this moment, she remembered Alejandro had told her not to contact him for the time being. She said, “I just remembered he told me not to contact him for the time being. That’s probably why he rejected the call.”

Jackson thought about it for a short while and said, “Come. Go home with me. Don’t stay here for the time being. I can’t protect you all the time, and it’s inconvenient going back and forth. This is a special situation. If you want to stay alive, don’t cause a fuss.”

Tiffany pouted. “I didn’t say that I won’t go with you. Naturally, it’s important to stay alive. Let’s go home first. We’ll talk about everything else after this is over.”

Arianne got up and took her bag. “Let’s go, Jackson. You drove so far over here. Why don’t you rest? Let Tiffany take the wheels. You can always take turns with her later. After all, it’s not safe to drive when you’re exhausted. It’s better to be safe than sorry at such an important time.”

Jackson's lips twitched slightly. "Forget about it. I'm not tired so I'll drive. I'm even more worried if she drives. The last time she knocked the car against the door at my house and ruined the car again when she backed out. I only asked someone to change the door yesterday."

Chapter 998

Tiffany rolled her eyes at him. "Didn't you guide me while I was driving? How can you shift all the blame to me? You were speaking so softly I didn't even hear you when you said I was going to hit the door!"

They bickered with each other on their way out, but when they were outside, they kept quiet in tacit understanding. They could still feel themselves being watched. That feeling only disappeared once they had gotten into the car.

Tiffany was pregnant, and it was quite late now. For this reason, Arianne asked her to rest in the back seat while she took the front seat. Jackson did not feel uncomfortable about it either.

When the people who had hidden around the neighborhood saw them leaving, the leader of the group of men took his phone out and made a call. "They have left. It seems like they're leaving South Park. A man came and picked her up. There was another woman with her. Do we do it now?"

At the other end of the phone, Don's voice sounded. "Who's that man and woman?"

The leader replied, "The man is Jackson, and he's Tiffany's fiancé. The woman is… one of the Tremonts."

"The Tremonts…." Don fell silent for a moment. "Don't do anything for now. Don't offend the Tremonts. This is not Ayashe, and the capital is not a place where we can do as we please. Follow them closely. Act only when you receive an order from me. Keep me updated all the time."

After hanging up the phone, Don turned to look at Alejandro who was standing behind him. “The woman you like is, indeed, not some ordinary woman. She’s friends with the Tremonts. Since you’re so calm, is it because you know I’m unwilling to offend the Tremonts?”

Alejandro appeared calm, sitting in the wheelchair. “If you’re bold enough, kill Arianne as well. She’s Mark’s most cherished treasure in this world. At that time, the capital will be your burial ground. Tiffany is Arianne’s best friend. It seems like you won’t have a chance to act. It’s not just the Tremonts, you can’t afford to offend the Wests as well. It’s just that the Wests are a decent family. However, the Tremonts are just like the Smiths in the past.”

Don smiled coldly and said, “Do you think that I’ve run out of options just like that? I’ve never failed if there’s someone I want dead. Ale, it seems like you don’t know me well. I just want to ask you since you were staying abroad all these years. Tiffany never went to Nafaeth. How do you know each other? How did you spend three years and fall in love with her? You… It seems like you’re not my grandson.”

Alejandro tightened his grip slightly. “So? If I’m not your grandson, can you find another Alejandro? You’re still suspicious.”

Don did not dwell on that for long. “Yes, maybe it’s because I’m suspicious. Or maybe… I heard wrongly, right, Jett?”

Jett who was standing behind Alejandro tensed up. “Yes…”

Alejandro gritted his teeth. “Old man, if you’re capable, go ahead and force Jett to talk. I won’t blame Jett. However, if I were you, I wouldn’t go opening a can of worms. Old man, what are you trying to do?”

Don sneered. “I should be the one to ask you that question. What are you trying to do? We’ve already arranged a marriage for you so you better be obedient and do as I say. Don’t go and find some woman who’s not beneficial to our family. After the marriage, I don’t care who you choose to mess around with. If you want me to let Tiffany go, then, go home with me. Go through with the marriage. Then, I’ll do as you wish. By the way, you’re really pathetic. It seems like the woman you love doesn’t even like you. She’s got a fiancé as well. What are you hoping to gain? Is the baby in Tiffany’s womb yours?”

Alejandro gritted his teeth and said, “No! Don’t you dare meddle in my affair! I promise to go with you and go ahead with the marriage. However, after the marriage, don’t interfere with my personal matters again. Otherwise, I’ll send you straight to hell before your time is up!”

Chapter 999

Don was not affected by Alejandro’s vicious words. “If you’re capable of doing that, then, go ahead. As long as you’re married, I won’t bother with your affairs. However, don’t think you’ve fulfilled your responsibility to the family once you’ve gotten married. Don’t let the Larks find out about your affairs with other women. You have to be nice and considerate toward that young lady from the Larks and make sure she’s loyal to you. It’s best if you’re able to give me a great-grandson. Do you understand that? Let me advise you, you don’t necessarily need to possess someone just because you like them. In fact, if you’re stubborn like that, you’ll only ruin the person you like.”

Alejandro closed his eyes. “Don’t talk nonsense with me. I’ve given you my promise. Is that enough? Please dismiss those people who are watching Tiffany now. If anything happens to her, I’ll ruin your dreams of having an alliance with the Larks!”

Don agreed. “Fine, you have my promise. I won’t stay here and annoy you. I’ll return to Ayashe over the night. I’ll watch over your every single move. Don’t try to play any tricks. I’ll give you three days. Then, you’ll have to come home and get married.” After that, Don left Alejandro’s manor under the protection of the bodyguards.

Jett kneeled down in front of Alejandro. “I’m sorry. I couldn't help saying what I did. However, I said nothing about the other things…”

Alejandro stretched his hand out so Jett could help him up. “I know. It’s inevitable for you to reveal some things after being interrogated like that. He just wants to seize the chance to make me do as he said and get married. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have revealed his intention to harm Tiffany to me. He could’ve just acted. It’s fine. She’s not with me now anyway. It doesn’t matter if I get married or not…”

Jett heaved a long sigh. “Then… Do we still need to get people to protect Miss Lane?”

Alejandro shook his head. “Didn’t you hear that old man said that Jackson took her away? She… doesn’t need my protection. It’s more than enough with Jackson there. I can do that one thing for her at least and do as I’ve promised the old man. All you need to do now is keep an eye on Tiffany for me. There’s no need for you to return to Ayashe with me. After the marriage, I’ll return as soon as I can.”

Jett nodded. As he was leaving, Alejandro said, “Ask Lynn to act fast. Although I can’t approach Tiffany now due to the old man’s pressure, I don’t want Tiffany living happily with another man. I’ll definitely get her back sooner or later.”

Jett nodded again before leaving.

Meanwhile, Jackson drove Arianne back to Tremont Estate first before returning to White Water Bay Villa with Tiffany.

It was two in the morning, and Mark had long gone to sleep with Smore. Arianne snuck into the bedroom and took a look. As she turned around to leave and sleep in the guest room, the table lamp on the bedside cupboard suddenly switched on. Mark sat up and asked, “Why did you come home so late?”

Arianne remained silent, momentarily stunned. ‘Is he talking to me because he’s still bleary from sleep? He actually sounds normal. However, I’m wide awake, and we’re still in the middle of a fight.’ Then, she turned and left for the guest room. She had only lain on the bed when Mark entered the bedroom. “I was talking to you. Didn’t you hear me? Did you come home alone at such a late hour?”

She still remained quiet. ‘You can’t hold yourself back now, can you?’ He sounded agitated now. However, the angrier he became, the calmer she was.

He put his hands on his waist and took a deep breath before slowly exhaling. “Are you done messing around? You let me take care of Smore alone today while you went and enjoyed yourself the entire day. Are you feeling better now? As you wished, I had a terrible and miserable day today. Are you quite satisfied? If you’re satisfied, go back to the room and sleep with me now!”

Chapter 1000

Arriane said in a dull tone, “No, I’m still dissatisfied. We can forget about certain things, but there are some things you just can’t forget. Before it’s resolved, I don’t want to talk to you. I don’t even want to see you. Didn’t you say it’ll be fine no matter what happens to me? You can hold the baby. Why? After taking care of him for just a day, you can’t take it anymore? I took care of the baby every day after I gave birth. The trouble you experienced today? I’ve been experiencing them for a few months now.”

Perhaps Mark was angry, so he blurted out, “What are you complaining about? You’re the one who wanted a baby!” However, he regretted his words as soon as they left his mouth.

Arianne did not get angry. In fact, she was so deathly calm that it was terrifying. “So, what you’re saying is I deserve to live like that just because I wanted the baby? Are you saying that I’ve got no right to

pursue the kind of life I want just because of that? It's me who wanted the kid, so no matter what happens, I can't complain about it. Is that it? Since you've said such words, me and my kid have nothing to do with you. Why are you still keeping us with you? Is there a point to that? If you don't like Smore, there's no need for you to force yourself to accept him. After all, from the get-go, you've been against me giving birth to him."

Mark softened his attitude immediately. "I'm sorry… I didn't mean that. I just said it out of anger. It's nonsense. I definitely love Smore. I was only against you giving birth because I was worried about your safety. Smore belongs to both of us. I shouldn't have said those d*mned words. Please forget I ever said that. When he's older, you can work if you want to. I won't stop you."

Arianne adjusted her position and lay flat on the bed. She closed her eyes as she said, "Are you done talking? If you're done, go away. I don't want to see you now. Please switch off the light on your way out."

Mark knew that he could not leave at that moment. If he left, everything would just be the same. Their argument was still unresolved. He did not want to be like that anymore. After thinking about it for a short while, he decided to act shamelessly. He switched the light off and lay down next to her. "If you don't want to go back to the bedroom and sleep, I'll sleep with you here. Let Smore sleep alone."

Arianne raised her leg to kick him, but he held her leg easily with his large hand. "Don't mess around. It's my fault. Don't be like this, okay? Go back to the bedroom and sleep there…"

She struggled for a while, but she did not manage to free herself. "Get lost."

Once, he had said that to her. The situation had changed now. He did not dare to get angry. "No, I'm not leaving. If you continue to be like this, I'll get angry…"

‘Angry?’ Arianne smiled coldly. “Just get angry all you want. You don’t have to tell me about it.”

Mark grabbed her leg and pulled her close to him. Soon, certain parts of their bodies came in contact. She could feel the change in his body so she raised her hands to push him away nervously. “Let me go! Don’t even think about it!”

They had such a vast difference in both their heights and strength. She had no way to resist him when he pressed her underneath him. He was not at all affected no matter how hard she struggled. “You b*stard!”

He leaned into her ear and whispered. “Don’t be angry. You did that for my sake. I shouldn’t care about my pride. Don’t try to resolve any issues for me in the future. I don’t want to be a good-for-nothing who relies on women. Just use your wits on me. That’s more than enough.”