

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0181

With what happened to Arianne last night, Tiffany did not get a good sleep. She had been yawning frequently while she was at work. She finally persevered until the end of office hours and was about to leave when she felt an oppressive force behind her. She whipped around and saw Jason who looked a lot taller than her now that he was looming over her while she sat.

“Oh, always slacking during work hours but leaving as soon as work hours end, huh? I heard the supervisor said you made a mistake with an important document today. I was even notified about it. What do you think I should do?” Jackson said with a smirk.

“I... I didn't get a good rest last night. I've already rectified my mistakes. It's a great virtue being able to admit to one's mistake and rectify it. Don't pick on me, okay?” Tiffany did not dare to show her dissatisfaction. After all, she should apologize since she was at fault.

When Jackson saw her giving in, he could not help but continue to tease her. “Didn't I tell you that young people shouldn't sleep late? Why can't you change? It's a great virtue to admit one's mistake and rectify it? Don't you feel embarrassed for saying such words?”

“Fine, you're the boss. Whatever you say, you're right. Please come earlier tomorrow if you have more to say. I'm off work now, I have to go to the hospital to see Ari.” Tiffany was extremely patient. It was better for her to leave now, she was afraid she could not hold back and start mocking her boss instead.

Jackson's expression turned solemn as he said, "I heard about what happened last night. I'm planning to visit as well. Let's go together."

"Sure." Tiffany did not behave too courteously with him. A free ride was a free ride after all.

Both of them arrived at the hospital in the same car. Coincidentally, they saw Mark parking his car in the hospital's parking lot as well.

When Jackson saw Mark's car, he honked before stopping the car. "Mark "

Mark looked at him and Tiffany before nodding slightly as a greeting.

Three of them entered the elevator together.

Jackson could not help but ask, "What's up? Why do I feel like Arianne gets injured too frequently? You aren't being a very responsible husband here..."

Mark did not say a word, he merely stared at the blinking floor number in the elevator. The moment it stopped, he stepped out.

Jackson clicked his tongue. "Can't I even ask a question? Look at his face, he looks like a raccoon now since he didn't sleep last night."

Tiffany noticed it as well. Mark looked worse for wear, obviously caused from over-exhaustion.

When they entered the ward, Arianne was awake. Mary had gone back to prepare dinner so she was the only one in the room.

Mark was slightly unhappy about this. "Where's Mary?"

"She went back to bring me food. Why did you guys come together?" Arianne asked.

Tiffany sat down by her bed. "We met coincidentally and came up together. How do you feel? Better? I was so scared last night. I haven't cried as much as I did in my entire life. If something happens to you, I won't be able to forgive myself in this lifetime."

Arianne smiled without saying anything, feeling a little nervous. Mark did a lot for her last night. If he were to find out that she had fallen and lost so much blood because Tiffany had asked her out last night, he might get upset. It was better not to mention it.

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0182

After a moment, Arianne asked, “What about Rice Ball? How is it?”

Without meeting her eyes, Mark simply answered, “Pretty good.”

Arianne heaved a sigh of relief. “That’s good. I saw the weather forecast that it’ll be windy and raining recently.” Then, she asked tentatively, “Can... Can you allow Rice Ball into the house? It’s quite stupid. It doesn’t know how to hide from the rain... ”

Mark glanced at her. “It’s pretty stupid. It can enter the house as long as it doesn’t come near me.”

Mark’s attitude was a lot better compared to before. This was a good sign. Arianne felt relieved since Rice Ball would not have to suffer. Since she had decided to take care of it, she must take responsibility for it.

Jackson watched their interaction from the side without saying anything. A nurse came in to perform a routine checkup on Arianne and took her temperature. When she saw Jackson and Tiffany, she could not help chuckling. “Mr. West, I was wondering why you were so generous. I see that it’s for this pretty girl.”

Jackson arched an eyebrow. His reply was ambiguous. "Stop teasing me. Go do your job."

Tiffany was not a fool. Something did not sound right. This hospital was the hospital that her father had passed away in. She was quite familiar with the nurses here and could not help asking, "Miss, what do you mean?"

The nurse answered with a smile, "It's been a while since your father's passed away now, it should be okay to disclose this. The operation fee and hospitalization bill were paid by Mr. West back then. Didn't you ask me about it then? I didn't tell you because Mr. West didn't allow me to... Both of you must be together now, right? Those who have passed, have passed. Those who are still alive must live well."

The corner of Jackson's lip twitched. He did not expect to be betrayed by the nurse since this incident had long passed. It was not like he had treated it like a charity case. He did it out of compassion.

Tiffany was astonished. She had thought that it was Ethan's money in the beginning. When she later discovered that it was not him, she did not manage to find the benefactor. Who knew he was by her side all this time. Suddenly, she found it difficult to meet Jackson's eyes. A strange emotion rose in her heart.

Arianne who was also unaware of Jackson's generosity looked at Tiffany. However, there was nothing she could say at this moment.

When the nurse left, Tiffany braced herself and softly said, “Thank you... Why did you stay anonymous? At least let me know who you are so I can return you the money. You really helped me out a lot back then. It was the darkest period of my life. Thank you.”

Jackson disliked the overly-courteous atmosphere. He said flippantly, “Yeah, yeah, I’ll be thankful as long you don’t keep mocking me. How dare I ask for your gratitude? You don’t have to return the money. A donation is a donation, a loan is a loan. They’re different. If you really want to repay me, then, work hard in my company.”

Tiffany nodded, a blush could be seen on her cheeks.

Jackson still had matters to attend to and could not stay longer while Tiffany had to hurry home. Both of them left together once again.

At this moment, only Arianne and Mark were left in the ward. The atmosphere gradually turned awkward. She felt restless, especially after listening to Mary’s words earlier. She found Mark’s behavior strange when she thought about his actions last night.

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0183

After some time, Arianne could not withstand it anymore. “Go back. You must be busy too. You look like you haven’t slept well. I don’t need anyone here. Mary’s coming in a while anyway.”

Mark ignored her and took out his phone to occupy himself.

She had unintentionally browsed Mark's phone. There was no form of entertainment in there; everything was work related. Any document in there was packed with words. It hurt her head.

After a while, Mary finally came. Arianne breathed a sigh of relief and asked her to come closer to tell her softly, "I need to use the bathroom..."

Mary almost choked herself on laughter. "Isn't sir here for if you need to use the bathroom? You're husband and wife. What are you afraid of? Did you hold it in, just waiting for me to get here? Why would you do such a thing!"

Arianne became flustered and did not dare to look at Mark's expression. She had whispered it so quietly, but why did Mary not understand her intention and shouted it instead?

Perhaps to avoid the awkwardness, Mark said, "I'm going on a business trip tomorrow. Take care of her here tonight, Mary. I'll be leaving now."

As the door of the ward was closed, Arianne breathed a sigh of relief and could not help grumbling, "Mary, can't you be softer when you speak?"

Mary was puzzled by her request. “Why should I speak softer? There’s no outsider. I’m older but why does it seem like my thinking is a tad more liberal than yours? You’re so young, yet you’re so conservative? You and sir have been sharing a bed. Are you still embarrassed about using the toilet? I’m really impressed.”

Arianne did not provide any explanation, nor could she. Of course, Mary was unable to understand her current state with Mark. She would actually be mortified to do so...

After staying a whole week in the hospital, the doctor finally cleared her for discharge. Mark had not appeared since then, still away on his business trip.

No one liked being cooped up in the hospital. Arianne was visibly cheerier upon being discharged. Remembering that Rice Ball was still waiting for her at home, she was impatient to head back.

Brian drove in concentration on the way home while Mary looked a little worried. “What’s up, Mary?” asked Arianne.

Mary looked at her and replied hesitantly, “Rice Ball... fractured its leg the night you were injured. Sir found it the next day and sent it to the vet. It’s doing alright now, recuperating. There’s someone specifically attending to it every day. It’s eating well and resting well, so its recovery is going well. No one took notice of Rice Ball that night. Ari, don’t get mad...”

Arienne suddenly recalled Mark saying Rice Ball was a dumb cat in the ward previously. Finding out about this now, she was no longer surprised. "It's okay, as long as it's alive. It's my mistake; I'm not a good owner. I couldn't even take care of myself that night, let alone Rice Ball."

Mary heaved a sigh of relief.

The car arrived at the Tremont Estate shortly. When Arienne got down, she saw a bright red sports car parked beside the road. She was not familiar with cars, so she couldn't identify the brand promptly, but she knew that it looked posh. This was the first time she was stunned by a car; she liked this model the most out of the many cars she had seen.

She could not help checking the vehicle out when a young woman wearing skin tight red leather dress and leather jacket emerged from it. She had the same shade of red for the heels on her feet and a few strands of red highlights in her hair. It was a color that rarely suited anyone, but it looked perfect on the woman in front of her. After all, she had an amazing figure.

The woman walked directly over to her and took off her sunglasses as she stood right in front of Arienne. "Hello, I'm Nina Moran. I'll be staying here at the Tremont Estate temporarily. Although, Mark doesn't seem to be around. You're...?"

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0184

Arianne thought that the name was familiar. She pondered for a long time while looking at Nina's pretty face, which was caked with makeup, and finally recalled where she'd heard it. "I know you, you're Uncle Moran's daughter."

That was right. She was Charles Moran's daughter, Nina Moran. When she ate with Charles during the business trip with Mark, the older man had mentioned Nina at the table.

Charles and the Tremonts went way back. He was someone Mark respected, somewhat of an elder figure. Nina smiled easily. "Great. The guards at the gate wouldn't allow me to go in. I could only wait here. I tried calling Mark, but the call didn't connect. He's probably busy."

Arianne asked the guard to open the gate while Nina hauled a large suitcase from the trunk without anyone's help. Arianne thought that it made her like the girl a little more. Nina's figure was wonderful. She had the proportions of a super model and was half a head taller than Arianne.

When they entered the house, Nina left her suitcase in a corner casually and lay on the couch as if it was her home. "I'm beat. My flight was over ten hours long and I haven't rested properly till now. Hey, you haven't told me who you are. How do I address you?"

Mary answered for Arianne, “She’s the mistress of this house, Mark Tremont’s wife, Arianne Wynn Tremont. You can address her accordingly. Miss Moran, do you want to take a shower? I’ll clean up the guest room for you so you can rest. We don’t know when sir is coming back. I’ll have madam ask him for you later.”

Arianne was puzzled upon discerning the hostility in Mary’s words. Why didn’t Mary seem to like Nina?

Nina didn’t seem to notice it as she said, “Alright. That’ll do. Where’s the bathroom?”

Mary pointed at the bathroom downstairs. “That there. There are two bathrooms downstairs. The Tremont Estate has slightly more servants, after all, so we share both bathrooms.”

There was a slight frown on Nina’s face. “Shared by so many people? Where’s Mark’s room? I’ll shower in his room. He’s a clean freak, so surely, he has a private bathroom.”

Mary replied instantly, “You said it yourself—sir is a clean freak. Even madam doesn’t use the bathroom in the room usually, so how could you? It’s not appropriate! Do bear with it and shower downstairs.”

It was as if Nina did not hear what she said. She dragged her suitcase up the floor and accurately pinpointed Mark’s bedroom.

Mary's change in expression was interesting. "Madam, say something! Any woman could simply use sir's bathroom now?"

Arianne was inexplicably put off as well. However, recalling that Charles was rather nice, as he was an elder to them, she decided to tolerate. "It's okay. She's Uncle Moran's daughter. As long as she doesn't sleep in Mark's room, I can cope with her."

Mary huffily went to prepare lunch in the kitchen while Rice Ball followed her inside with a limp, dragging its bandaged feet. Mary was soon heard talking to Rice Ball. "Oh my, anyone could just come stay here now. How could she be so bossy as well? It makes me so angry. Don't you think so, Rice Ball? "

"Meow..."

"What a good cat. Here's a slice of fish for you."

Arianne shook her head with a helpless smile. She was still weak in health. Initially, she had wanted, first thing's first, to return to her room and drop in bed when she got home, but now that Nina was showering in it, it would be inappropriate for her to head right in and sleep. She could only sit and wait in the living room.

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0185

When it was time for lunch and Nina had yet to come downstairs, Mary could not help going up to check. She promptly came down with a long face. “Ari, is this Nina Moran girl here to snatch your man? It’s forgivable if she showered in the room, but what’s up with her sleeping on the bed while wrapped in nothing but a towel? In all the years that I’ve worked for the Tremonts, I’ve never met a woman so immodest here! She’s even using sir’s towel! Revolting! I’ll throw everything out after this!”

Arienne frowned. She would be lying if she said that she did not mind. Even if it wasn’t Mark’s room, it was still also her personal room. She would definitely mind a stranger using her bathroom and bed, plus sleeping in just a towel. Moreover, she was further repulsed when she recalled Mark wearing that towel. He had used it. Even if it had been washed, it was still...

“Mary, wake Nina up for lunch. She needs to get up. Let her sleep in the guest room after lunch. Clean the master bedroom after this. Change all the sheets. I’m afraid Mark will be unhappy if he comes back and finds out that someone else went into the room.”

Arienne felt strange when she said that. She told herself that she was solely considering the parts she mentioned and it wasn’t other stuff that she minded...

Receiving these ‘orders’, Mary made sure to wake Nina up and see her go downstairs for lunch.

Nina did not mind the gazes of the other people. With messy hair and a silk slip dress, she came down and began eating without waiting for Arianne to be seated.

Arianne was quite surprised when she sat opposite her, holding Rice Ball. "Aren't you... cold?"

Without lifting her head, Nina answered, "No... Don't mind me. I've gotten used to being overseas and this is just how the lifestyle abroad is, slightly more open. I'm so exhausted. I need a good rest after this."

Arianne smiled without saying anything. She returned to her room after lunch, but before she could lie down, Nina threw herself on the bed first. "This bed is comfortable. It's softer than my bed abroad."

Mary spoke with a long face by the door, "Miss Moran, this is sir and madam's room. Can you please go to the guest room? Madam has just been discharged from the hospital, and she isn't in the best health. Don't disturb her rest."

Nina turned around and smiled at Arianne. "Mark isn't back anyway. Let's just sleep together. I promise that I won't fidget and disturb you. I'm dead tired, I'll sleep now. "

Arianne and Mary exchanged a look. Neither of them knew what to do since this was their first time encountering such a plight.

Of course, Arianne did not sleep with Nina. She could not possibly fall asleep beside a stranger. She could only head to the guest room.

Mary's food preparation in the kitchen was alarmingly loud the entire afternoon as if she was venting her discontent.

Nina did not wake up for dinner and Mary didn't bother waking her either.

Arianne was worried that Mark might suddenly come back and take off his clothes to shower in the room.

That would be awkward. After a moment of hesitation, she called him.

The call was picked up in seconds and she went straight to the point. "Nina is here, staying in your room. I'm resting in the guestroom. When you come back.. watch out..."

Mark was ruffled. "Nina Moran? Uncle Moran said that she'll be staying with us temporarily when she comes back. I didn't expect it to be so soon. Let her sleep in the guestroom. I'll call her after I'm done with work."

Hanging up, Arianne breathed slightly easier. When Nina woke up, it was already past ten at night. Unable to fight off sleep, Arianne willed herself to speak up, "I have trouble

sleeping in a different bed, so I'd like to have this one. Go to sleep in the guest room. Mark will be back in two days."

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0186

Nina mumbled an agreement and went to the kitchen for food. After that, she got changed and went out.

Mary complained as she cleaned the master bedroom. The moment Arianne lay down, she felt incredibly content. She used to hate sleeping on this bed, but she hadn't expected to have gotten used to it now.

No one knew how long it had been when loud noises came from downstairs. There was the sound of the door being slammed and the click-clack of heels against the floor. Arianne was woken up, with her head feeling like a mess. Unhappy, she checked the time and saw that it was four in the morning...

She did not have to guess to know that Nine was back, not that she could say anything. She could not even throw a tantrum. Covering her head, she went back to sleep.

She got up at ten the next morning and Mary grumbled to her once she did. “Nina came back at four in the morning and was so drunk, she vomited all the way. Downstairs, the staircase, everywhere. It’s disgusting. Sir will be mad if he finds out about this when he comes back! I don’t know how much longer she’ll be staying here, but we’ll all go crazy if she keeps this up.”

Butler Henry, who was usually silent, burst Mary’s bubble. “Two months, at least.”

Mary shuddered. “I hope sir comes back as soon as possible to put this monster in her place. I can’t take it anymore!”

Arianne could not help feeling amused. “Alright, alright. Mary, she’s a guest after all. Be tolerant.”

Arianne’s temperament was mild. She was not usually one to confront someone with her temper.

In spite of it, blaring heavy metal music came from the living room when she was having an afternoon nap. Startled awake in a cold sweat, she could empathize with Mary now; Nina seemed to be chaos herself as long as she was awake...

The doctor had reminded her to rest quietly for recuperation during her discharge. After half an hour of toleration, Arianne gave up and went to knock at the door. “Nina, tune it down! I’m resting!”

Nina opened the door with a frown. “Why are you so weak? You’re always eating and resting like an infirm. Mark probably doesn’t dare go so hard on you in bed with how frail you look, huh?”

Arianne’s face fell. Everyone had their limit. She disliked people joking about sexual relations with her, especially people who she was not familiar with.

“Miss Moran, this is my and Mark’s private affair. Please watch your mouth. We have different views and values after all, there will be preferences. I’ve just been discharged and need to recuperate. Can you soften the noise when you’re here? The capital has a lot of entertainment available twenty four hours. You can head out more and familiarize yourself with the environment.”

Nina’s expression sank a little as she turned to switch off the speaker. “Alright.”

Arianne could not figure out if she was happy or not from her tone, but she was not in the mood to ponder. She turned around to head back to her room.

Mark’s car appeared in the Tremont Estate around five in the evening. Everyone in the house breathed a sigh of relief. Rice Ball even limped to his car and snuggled against his feet when Mark came down from the vehicle, as if it was complaining about its suffering.

Goosebumps racked through Mark's entire body when he saw Rice Ball's furry, round body, but when he saw Arianne watching him by the door, he forced himself to pick the eat up and carry it with one arm.

Arianne was astonished. Since when was he so friendly with Rice Ball?

Nina, who saw the scene from the window upstairs, locked her brows together. Mark hated furry animals. She knew about it since she was a little kid. She did not expect him to put up with Arianne's cat...

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0187

"It's windy today. Don't stand here. Go back and lie down. Ask Mary to send your meal to the room." Mark went to Arianne and stuffed Rice Ball into her arms.

Arianne was stunned once more. He had disallowed her from eating in the room, citing improper manners in the past. Now, he was the first to suggest it.

In the heat of the moment, Arianne asked, "Can Rice Ball come into the room? It hasn't seen me all day, I'm afraid that..."

Mark halted his steps slightly. "Don't ask for too much. If I see it, I'll throw it away."

His tone was not stern, but rather, casual. There was a ghost of a grin on Arianne. Did he mean that she could bring it in as long as he did not see it?

Arianne did not have her dinner in the room out of self-consciousness. It wasn't like she couldn't move.

Nina was chattering at the dining table ceaselessly. "Mark, you're still the same after so many years. I thought men turn fat and ugly when they reach thirty, but you're growing the opposite, still as charming as ever even though you're married. I've met so many handsome men abroad, but none are as pleasing as you are to me."

It sounded like a joke and Mark was not as unfamiliar with Nina, so with a smile, he said, "You're prettier than you were when you were younger."

Nina rolled her eyes. "Was it because I was ugly? Was that why you disliked me when we were kids? It's a grand transformation for a girl to grow into a woman. I'm not ugly anymore, but too bad you're already married."

Arianne suddenly felt like she was an extra, and Mark furrowed his brows. "What do you mean too bad I'm married? It's not bad at all. You being ugly or not has nothing to do with me. I was just worried for Uncle Moran in the past, afraid that you wouldn't be able to find a husband."

“My dad said that if I couldn’t find a husband, he’d marry me to you,” Nina said suddenly.

The atmosphere tensed at once. Arianne somehow thought about how Aery had made her life so miserable previously. Was she looking at Love Rival No.2 now?

The emotions that surged in her heart finally spilled. “Uncle Moran must be joking too, right? I was with Mark when we ate with him last time. Nina, you look like Uncle Moran a lot.”

Mary could practically cry tears of joy now when she heard what Arianne said from the side. Arianne’s previous ‘sainthood’ had finally cracked now. She finally knew how to fight for her dignity as a woman!

Nina pressed her lips together without saying anything. A complex wash of emotions flashed across Mark’s eyes; there seemed to be a gleam of surprise stroking his heart too, but he could not distinguish which emotion he was feeling. This was the first time Arianne had called his name with such familiarity.

After dinner, Nina and Mark chatted in the living room. Arianne, as someone who was not a part of their past, did not want to join, as she did not want to feel isolated. She discreetly took Rice Ball to the bedroom.

She wanted to rest, but as if she was injected with a shot of adrenaline, she stayed wide awake and involuntarily paid attention to the noises downstairs...

After some time, it went quiet before footsteps were heard closing in on her room.

She could tell they were Mark's. Looking at Rice Ball, who was sound asleep on the blanket, she frantically stuffed it into the blanket, not forgetting to leave it a little gap for ventilation.

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0188

The door pushed open the next second, and as expected, Mark appeared.

Arianne hung her head somewhat guiltily. Her cheeks were flushed from her nervousness, and her heart was beating wildly. Fortunately, Rice Ball didn't move.

Mark seemed to be in a particularly good mood. Although no one else was around, he was still smiling and even asked her, "Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?"

Arianne was so nervous right now, she couldn't be bothered about the unpleasant things between them. "No, I'm feeling quite good. I think I'm well enough to go back to work tomorrow," she replied smoothly.

Mark became displeased. "Stop joking. You should rest at least a month at home. Don't go pissing me off in the future. It's not beneficial to you. Can't you just... learn how to please me like other women?"

Arianne lifted her gaze to meet his. “Like who? Aery Kinsey?”

His breathing stagnated, and his face sank. He changed his clothes and ignored her. Arianne always managed to annoy him, anytime and anywhere.

Just when Mark had changed into comfortable pajamas and was about to go to bed, Arianne suddenly tightened her grip on the blanket and stopped him. “Um... C-Can you... go downstairs and fetch something for me?”

Although Mark wasn't too happy about it, he still agreed. “What do you need?” he asked faintly.

“I... I wanna eat bananas! Can you get one for me?” Arianne wasn't craving any bananas, but she had to get Rice Ball out of here. Mark usually never rested this early. He had retired to the bedroom this early due to the exhaustion from a business trip. Arianne failed to think of this.

Mark gave her a weird look then turned around and went out.

Arianne quickly picked up Rice Ball and released it outside. Not only would the cat not go away, but it even jumped back onto the bed. Arianne's heart ached at the sight of it limping.

“Rice Ball, that man-eating tiger is coming back. Aren’t you afraid of him? He doesn’t want you in here. Why don’t you go downstairs and play with Mary? Be good and go quickly now. He’ll be back any moment.”

No matter what she said, Rice Ball wouldn’t listen to her. Mark soon came up with a plate of fruits. Arianne had no choice but to shove Rice Ball back under the blanket again. This was hopeless...

“Don’t eat too much, it’s not good for your body.” Mark came into the room and set the plate down on the bedside table before getting in bed and under the blanket.

Arianne thought he was acting somewhat weird today. Why was he suddenly so kind to her? Since she couldn’t think of anything else at this moment, she could only lie down fearfully. She placed Rice Ball on her left while Mark was lying on her right...

“Don’t you want to eat?” he suddenly asked.

“Huh?” She was distracted trying to clutch Rice Ball’s restless paws in her hand.

“The banana,” he reminded her.

“Uh... I... I... don't want to get up... Just leave it there, I'll eat later...” She gave him a random reason.

However, Mark suddenly got up and peeled a banana for her then brought it to her lips. “Eat it quickly and go to sleep. It's getting late. I still have a meeting tomorrow morning.”

She really couldn't bring herself to eat it... because she wasn't hungry. “How about you eat it instead? I don't feel like eating right now.”

Mark raised his eyebrow at her then gave her a profound smile. “I don't eat this.”

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0189

Arianne suddenly blushed. Why did she suspect that he was referring to something else? Was he making a dirty joke?

In order to dispel the strange atmosphere, she opened her mouth and took a bite. With much difficulty, she swallowed the food. “I can't take another bite. Can you take it away? The fruits will leave a smell in here.”

Mark's eyes slightly glazed over while watching her slightly trembling lips. Then all of a sudden, he leaned over and kissed her on the lips.

Arianne could hear her head ringing. What was he doing! They still had many unsolved problems between them. Weren't enemies supposed to be annoyed at the sight of each other? Why was he kissing her?

"Umph... No..." She tried to resist him. As soon as she opened her mouth, he took advantage of it. He pressed his whole body up against her to stop her from struggling. With only a layer of blanket between their bodies, she couldn't even budge an inch under him. But of course, he didn't put all his weight on her.

She passively endured his behavior, her mind slowly going blank due to the lack of oxygen. All of a sudden, Rice Ball sprang out of the blanket. "Meow! "

Mark instantly stiffened and reflexively jumped out of the bed, looking terrified.

Arianne tore the blanket away, picked up Rice Ball, and rushed out of the room with a flushed face. "Mary, change the sheets!"

Mary was confused. "Didn't we just change them?"

Arianne lowered her head and whispered, "Rice Ball got into the bed!" Not only that, it was discovered too...

Mary quickly responded, but Mark's voice suddenly came from upstairs. "No need to change them!" This was followed by the sound of the door being slammed.

The commotion caused Mary to tremble all over as she helplessly told Arianne, "Ari, you shouldn't bring Rice Ball into the bedroom since sir doesn't want it in there. Can't both of you just live in peace instead of fighting all the time? Give me Rice Ball. It'll sleep in my room tonight."

Arianne hesitated a little. "There's four people living in your room. Are you sure it's alright for Rice Ball to go in there?"

Mary slapped her chest and assured her. "Don't worry! Although there are four people in the room, the room is quite big. There's still plenty of space. Just go tidy up and rest. You need to take good care of your body."

Arianne reluctantly handed Rice Ball to Mary. She couldn't help feeling timid as she watched Mary leave. Should she return to the bedroom now? But Mark just slammed the door on her...

The kiss from Mark that came out of the blue left her so flustered that she was subconsciously reluctant to return to the bedroom...

All of a sudden, Nina showed up at the top of the stairs. Like a lazy cat, she rested her arms on the railing while looking at her. "Do you want me to take you in for tonight?"

Mark is such a nice guy, but why is he so mean to you? I've never seen him lose his temper and speak so loudly."

Really? She'd never seen Mark lose his temper and speak loudly? For some reason, Arianne was relieved by the revelation. Mark would only expose his true self in front of the people he was close with. This meant Nina was only an outsider to him.

"It's alright. You can't possibly 'take me in' since this is my home anyway," Arianne said as she walked past Nina and headed to the bedroom.

"Do you think you and Mark are good together?" Nina suddenly asked in a soft voice.

"What do you mean?" Arianne stopped in her tracks and looked at her.

"Hehe, I just think you two make a strange couple. You are the orphan he took in after your father killed a dozen people from his family. How could he marry you? Just look at your background alone, your father was only a private pilot that served the Tremont family. Both of you are of different social standings. I suddenly can't help but think that girls like you get everything. Although you seem like a frail, harmless girl, you're actually a rather cunning one."

Nina spoke very neutrally, but her words somehow made Arianne feel uncomfortable.

A Ruling Passion – Chapter 0190

Arianne straightened her back and asked bluntly, “What do you hope to achieve by telling me all this? You’re only acquainted with Mark through both of your fathers. I don’t think it’s your place to say any of this. Our marriage doesn’t concern you. You are being too much of a busybody, Miss Moran.”

Nina smiled then headed back to her room without saying another thing.

Arianne pushed open the door and entered the bedroom. Mark seemed to be sound asleep so the room was quiet.

She laid down quietly with a chaotic mind. Every time someone mentioned the plane crash, she would feel suffocated by an overwhelming pressure. It fanned her desire to find Mr. Sloane as soon as possible so that she could uncover the truth.

Early next morning, Mark got ready to go out.

Nina rushed out of her room in a hurry. “Mark, I’m going out too! Give me a ride! I’m too lazy to drive.”

Arianne, when hearing this, reflexively jumped out of the bed and cracked the bedroom door open a bit to carefully observe the situation.

Mark didn't refuse but said, "Where are you going? I'll see if it's in the same direction. If it's not, then it's better for you to drive yourself. I'm in a hurry."

Since Nina didn't know her way around here, she couldn't really find a valid reason. In the end, she just said, "I've seen the map, it's near your office. Definitely along the way, so you can just drop me off there."

Mark said nothing this time. Arianne only went downstairs after they left. Mary brought a bowl of millet porridge to the table. "Here's your breakfast, Ari."

Arianne hummed in response then sat down at the table. Gently stirring the steaming porridge in the bowl, she realized that she didn't have much of an appetite. "Mary... Nina told me some strange things last night. Since you know people better, help me analyze it."

Mary pulled out a chair and sat down. "Go on, I'm all ears."

Arianne repeated Nina's exact words to her last night Without missing even a single detail and Mary instantly rolled her eyes. "I think she's trying to tell you that she's the best match for sir. She should look at herself in the mirror! You've been my sir's side for more than ten years; how could she possibly compare? That reminds me, I think I've seen her before. But she was only an ugly child back then... To be honest, I thought she was lucky to be born into a good family because, otherwise, she wouldn't be able to find a husband in the future. Little did I expect her to change so much after growing up.

“At the time, Nina’s father had the intention of giving sir his daughter’s hand in marriage, but sir didn’t accept it. Sir wasn’t even an adult back then and Nina was four years younger than him. His father said that he would let the children decide for themselves in the future, but who knew something would go wrong after that... It’s been so many years. Since Nina came to find sir as soon as she returned to the country, I’m guessing that she still had that intention in mind. Given how ugly she looked when she was young, I didn’t think she would grow up into the dashing lady she is today. It’s most likely plastic surgery. Rest assured, Ari, sir isn’t that kind of person.”

Arianne felt a little uncomfortable. “I’m not worried... I was just asking casually. Why would I worry about it? Alright Mary, please return to your work now. I’ll help you out again when I feel better next time.”

Mary shot her a glare. “No way. Do you have short-term memory? Sir will never approve of letting you work with the servants all day long. Didn’t you notice that he’s been treating you better after that incident? If you’re still going to insist on helping me with my work, I don’t know how I’ll explain myself to him. You better rest up so you can do whatever you should soon. Hopefully, you can bear a child for the Tremont family soon. Having a child can naturally bring a married couple closer together.”

Arianne’s face turned pale at the mention of a child. The miscarriage had not only damaged her physically, but even moreso, psychologically. She was ashamed that she had ever even considered an abortion... Who would have guessed that Aery would end up making the decision for her...