

Chapter 102 Alana's Birthday Party

When Janessa recalled her precious memories with Alana, she couldn't help but smile to herself.

Initially, Janessa thought that Alana would have an intimate get-together for her birthday like they did last year. However, things seemed to have taken a different turn.

"Oh, I see," Eric replied with furrowed brows.

Janessa assumed that Eric was uncomfortable at a party like this, so she gave him some comforting words before entering the hall with him.

Standing amongst the crowd, Alana was dressed in a white princess ball gown. She looked adorable in the dress. Because her foot wasn't completely recovered yet, she opted for some flats instead of heels.

The style was perfect for Alana.

She looked like a sweet princess who could bat her eyelids and get whatever she wanted.

"Look at her! She always stands out in a crowd, doesn't she? You can find her within moments," Janessa remarked.

"Yes, I agree," Eric replied. When Eric saw the pleased look on Janessa's face, he didn't want to upset her or Alana. He had to do his best to cheer himself up despite the problems that plagued his mind.

Alana spotted Janessa when Janessa arrived, but her father Byron Shen had distracted her before she could walk over to greet Janessa.

As Janessa stood in the corner, she caught Alana's eye and gave her a reassuring nod.

The hall inside the Shen family house was large enough to accommodate many people. Byron took Alana's hand and led her to the stage. He walked towards the microphone and said, "Thank you all for coming to my lovely daughter's birthday party. Today is the perfect chance for all the young people to enjoy themselves. As for me, I'm too old to join the festivities. If you need anything, please approach Fred. Help yourselves, everyone! And don't be hesitant to enjoy the drinks, since I'll arrange for people to bring you all home later."

Janessa couldn't help but notice that most of the men present were young and of marriageable age, aside from a few daughters of wealthy families.

This party wasn't meant to be a birthday party. Alana's family planned this to be a blind date for Alana.

The Shen family must have found out about Eric. Janessa guessed that they planned this party to find Alana a husband so as to keep her away from Eric.

No wonder Eric looked uncomfortable just now.

Janessa turned her head to get a closer look at Eric. He had a nonchalant look on his face as if Byron's words had nothing to do with him.

However, Janessa knew that Byron's words were meant for Eric.

Janessa gave him a reassuring pat on the shoulder and comforted him in silence.

In a sense, Janessa felt responsible for the situation. She wanted to set Alana up with Eric, and she didn't expect the Shen family to be concerned over Eric's identity and status.

It seemed like her act of kindness backfired on everyone.

When Byron finished his speech, he immediately left the stage. Only the young people remained in the hall.

According to tradition, Alana had to have her first dance with her date. Alana didn't bring a date to the party, so her first dance was with her brother, Gordon.

Gordon hadn't appeared in public for some time now, and he entered the hall in a crisp white suit. His hair was combed back, and he seemed like he was in a good mood. However, he looked like he lost some weight recently.

As Gordon made his way downstairs, he immediately spotted Janessa in the crowd. If so many people weren't watching him, he would've rushed over to talk to her.

Gordon bowed slightly to invite Alana to dance. They danced the waltz together, but both the siblings were preoccupied with their own thoughts as they danced.

While they danced for everyone, their minds were elsewhere.

Both of them would much rather be dancing with someone else right now.

When the opening dance finished, people began to pair up to dance. The two siblings approached Janessa.

"You're finally here! I thought you forgot all about my party!" Alana was thrilled to see Janessa. If Janessa didn't come tonight, she would be bored out of her mind.

The only person she could be her true self with was Janessa.

"How could I miss your party? If I didn't come, you would definitely come to my home and drag me all the way down here! Here's my birthday present to you." Janessa handed the present to Alana, who took it happily.

Gordon stood by Alana's side in silence as he watched Janessa.

'Janessa's lost a lot of weight recently. Has she been stressed out lately?'

His heart ached at the sight of her. There was nothing more he wanted to do than to hold her in his arms at that moment, but he had to hold himself back.

"Long time no see!"

Gordon greeted. After pondering his thoughts, he finally landed on the right words to say.

The two of them hadn't seen each other in a long time.

Janessa heard the news from Alana that Gordon was on house arrest because of her.

"Long time no see. How have you been?"

Janessa replied politely.

Her coldness towards Gordon upset him, but he had no choice but to nod slightly as his reply.

"Thank you! This gift is fabulous! I love you!" Alana squealed.

"When we were shopping last time, I noticed that you liked this kind of style. I had this necklace custom-made for you. It's simple but still elegant. Most importantly, there's only this one all over the world, and it's yours!"

Janessa proudly pointed at the necklace in Alana's hands. She was relieved to see that Alana was pleased with the gift.

"Thank you! You're the best! By the way, I noticed you were with Eric moments ago. Do you know where he is now?" Alana looked around in confusion. Moments ago, she spotted him nearby. Where did he run off to?

Alana continued to look around but couldn't find Eric anywhere. She was beginning to get anxious.

"He was with me moments ago. I have no idea where he is right now." Janessa didn't notice when Eric had left her side. Maybe he left because of Alana's family.

A maid suddenly walked over and handed Alana's phone to her because Eric was calling.

"Hey, where are you? I've been looking all over for you."

After a moment's silence, Eric spoke, "I felt a bit uncomfortable so I left early. We can talk about it tomorrow. I can bring you to this exciting restaurant I found."

"Okay, send me a message when you get home." Although Alana was disappointed at Eric's leaving, she believed what he said.

It was actually difficult for Alana to be around Eric with her family near her. Meeting with him tomorrow with only the two of them was a better choice.

When she hung up the phone, she couldn't help but feel disappointed. However, she soon forgot about it and found another topic to discuss with Janessa. Gordon stayed silent as the two of them spoke.

"Who's this lady?"

All of a sudden, a woman appeared with a sneer on her face. "Oh, you must be the famous Janessa." The voice came from behind all of a sudden, which made Alana yelp in surprise.

