## **Chapter 131 Meeting Old Friends**

As Janessa walked out of the room she felt extremely satisfied. She then headed for an office situated on the third floor.

This office belonged to the owner of the private manor and unauthorized people were prohibited entry.

Knock, knock, knock.

"Yes, come in." A voice answered from inside the office.

Janessa walked in after pushing the door open. A beautifully dressed woman was reclining on a desk chair. She had a glass of scarlet red wine in her hand. She looked rich in the fine clothing and leisurely sat there.

"Ah! Look at the bourgeoisie life you are leading in here!" Janessa walked over to the woman and picked up the bottle of wine to have a look at it closely.

"It is vintage. It was made in the year 1982. How come you are enjoying always without calling me once?" Janessa pretended to be angry.

"Oh come on! You are always busy. Do you even have the time to come and have a drink with me? Also, I am sure you are here just because you need my help, otherwise, do you even remember that I am your friend?" Leona complained and looked meaningfully in her friend's eyes.

"No Leona, you are the one who has been busy. I had to hear it from other people that you went to M Country. You never even told me, so naturally I did not know when you came back. Don't blame me. "

Leona was Janessa's senior in college. They had a very rocky beginning but by the end they had become really close. After breaking up with her boyfriend, Leona had disappeared completely. It was only some time back that Janessa heard her friend was back again.

"Well, you are buying me dinner tonight. Or else, this friendship won't stand anymore." Leona demanded fiercely. She sounded ruthless but the next moment broke into a laughter.

"Obviously. But really, thank you for helping me out. Otherwise, Rayan would still torture me." Janessa suddenly remembered his surprised and disappointed look and rejoiced.

'He absolutely deserved that. He tortured me so much in the office that also in the presence of that irritating woman.'

"But didn't you marry him? It is strange that you two spend so much time together even after the divorce. Are you intending to get back with him?"

Leona was aware that Rayan and her friend were together when the accident occurred in the Qiu family. She did not like the match right from the beginning and expressed her disapproval. But there was nothing much she could do to help her friend and her family instead. Now things were different.

She herself had changed as a person. If she found Rayan treating Janessa poorly, she would not sit silently.

"No, but I will tell you that exact reason later."

Leona understood that her friend did not want to talk about it at that moment. So she did not push. Then she put aside her glass of wine and took Janessa's hand in hers. Comfortingly she said, "Listen, in the past I was unable to protect you from this bad marriage, but now if he ever mistreats you, you must come to me."

Janessa smiled gratefully. Not having her parents beside her always made her feel helpless. But Leona's assuring words and sisterlike approach made her feel happy.

The two of them reclined on the lavish sofas and started chatting for a long time. They caught up for all the things they missed about each other in the past years.

They lost track of time. Suddenly Leona's phone rang and caused a distraction in their chitchat.

As she saw the name of the phone screen, Leona looked at Janessa in a daze and said, "Sorry, but I need to answer this."

Then she went inside the other room and took the call seriously. Janessa had seen the name on Leona's phone but she decided to stay silent and wait for her to come back.

After about five minutes Leona came back to sit beside her.

"Anything wrong? Did something happen in there?" Janessa asked in a nonchalant way though she was really worried.

"Nothing important. I am starving. Let's go get dinner."

She understood that Leona did not want to talk about it, so she let it be. Both of them left the office eventually.

As they waited for the car in the yard they noticed four people walking out from a room nearby.

"It is now not surprising that your assistant is here. Seems like she is in good terms with the hostess," Leonard said while casually putting his arm round Rayan's shoulder.

Seeing Janessa at a distance, Rayan felt even more depressed. Even though he drank a lot, he still remained sober.

"Come on! Let's make a move." Rayan stumbled inside his car and let his eyes close. But he could not get Janessa out of his mind.

He was confused. What was wrong with him, after all? When she refused Gordon, he felt unaltered joy. He even voluntarily helped her without thinking twice.

But the moment she pushed him away as they entered the company, it hurt him really bad.

His confusion knew no bounds. The more he thought the more he got confused. Then he suddenly opened his eyes to look at Janessa's direction but she wasn't there anymore.

The others did not make any comment on Rayan's strange behavior. Each of them got into their own car and left the manor.

This was the most unpleasant gathering they had ever had.

As Janessa moved to the corner of the yard, watching the cars leave one by one, she felt relieved.

"Let's make a move. What are you looking at?"

Leona had gone upstairs to get something. When she came back she found her friend staring blankly in the distance.

"No, nothing. Let's go." Janessa let out a sigh as she climbed the car.

The two of them found a nice place to have dinner. While they were eating, Leona's phone rang again.

However, she muted the phone and pierced her fork in the steak.

"Leona, do you remember this restaurant by any chance?"

"We wouldn't have known each other, had you not spilled the soup on me back then."

The story of how they became acquaintances was really funny.

Janessa was dining with her friends at the time. The waitress passing by with food on her tray somehow tripped over. Janessa immediately stood up to cover herself with her clothes out of instinct.

In a hurry, Janessa knocked her soup over and it spilled on the person next to their table.

After having heated exchanges that day, they ended up becoming really good friends.

Thus, it was ritual for them to dine in this restaurant for their nights out.

"I had no intention of doing that. But thankfully because of that accident, I have such a good friend now!"

"True, real good friends. If you did not need my help this time, maybe you would not even come to me at all." Leona nagged as she served Janessa with her favorite food.

"Oh! My apologies. This glass of wine is my peace offering."

Janessa drank one more glass of wine.

As she was speaking, Leona's phone rang again and this time it was a message.

As Leona checked her phone she put her knife and fork down with a glum expression. "I must leave, Janessa. I am sorry. There is something that I need to do today. Let's plan for another day."

"Alright, just call me if you need anything!" Janessa comforted her friend. Leona nodded and left shortly.

It was clear that something was wrong with Leona. Even her smile was not natural.

As she finished her food and was about to pay the bill, Janessa saw two people entering the restaurant. One she could recognize as Gracie but the man with her was unknown. She was surprised to see the strange man.

She looked carefully and somewhat found the man's face familiar. But she could not exactly make out, who he was.

The two of them walked into a private room one after another. As they walked in, the man put his hand on Gracie's waist.

What relationship did the two have? Why were they walking together like that?

Janessa was very confused. She did not know whether she was unfortunate or Gracie was unlucky that such a secret came to the surface

Next Chapter