

Chapter 176 Why Are You Here

"So you do know what time it is now? You didn't come home until past midnight! And you didn't even call! What if something had happened to you?" Alana fumed at Janessa, standing in the living room with her hands on her hips.

Janessa looked mortified. Should she tell her friend that she was a major buzzkill?

She was pretty sure that Alana must have said "what if something happened" one too many times that night.

Janessa lay on the sofa wearily and did her best to focus on Alana's words, but it all sounded gibberish to her.

"Are you even listening? Janessa, you need to get back to your senses." Alana had been worried sick all night. If Janessa hadn't been back yet, she would have definitely called the police by now.

She was aware that the case would not be filed unless a person was missing for 24 hours, but she would have kicked and screamed until they had found her friend.

Alana's scolding was starting to make Janessa's head ache. She rubbed her temples and tried to drown out her friend's voice.

She was repeating the same things over and over after all.

"Well, Leona, you are pregnant. How come you can stay up late with Alana? It can't be good for the baby..." Janessa knew that Alana would never stop worrying about her. She may be tough and aloof most of the time, but whenever something came up, she would protect her loved ones fiercely like a mama bear.

Leona was asleep on her feet, but all her worrying about Janessa had her too jacked-up to go to bed. But seeing that Janessa was safe and sound, she was starting to relax and her tiredness finally caught up with her.

"All right, now that I know you are okay, I can get some rest. Goodnight," Leona said after yawning and retired to the guest bedroom.

She really had to sleep now. Her nerves had been on edge for too long and now she could finally breathe a sigh of relief and get some much needed rest.

Being pregnant, Leona had the room to herself, while Janessa and Alana shared the master bedroom.

The house was a little crowded with three people living in it, but it was warm and cozy.

Of course, the atmosphere could be better if Alana didn't nag so much.

"Well, okay, no need to say anything else. I'm fine, see? The charity party took longer than I thought. The last item was a pair of emerald jade bracelets. They were like ridiculously expensive. And those people kept raising the price! Do you know what the highest bid was?" Alana liked collecting gemstones, especially jade, so when she heard about the emerald jade, her face fell in distress.

If she had known, she would have gone to that party.

"I'd say around ten million," Alana guessed, based on Janessa's description of the gems.

Janessa shook her head.

"Thirteen million?"

Janessa shook her head again. Alana tried again, "Fifteen."

Janessa knocked on the table once and exclaimed, "Sold."

In her current financial situation, Alana couldn't afford such a thing.

Good thing she didn't go to the party then. Seeing those beauties and not being able to have them would be torture to her.

"Well, you can read all about what happened at the auction tomorrow on the Internet. I'm tired. Can I sleep now?" Janessa looked at Alana expectantly, but her friend was still lost in her thoughts about the jade bracelets she would never get the chance to lay eyes on.

Janessa reached her bed and sat on it, rubbing the soles of her feet, which were sore and a bit swollen.

Her exhaustion got the best of her and she was asleep as soon as her head touched the pillow.

The next day, she slept in. Her feet still hurt and she was too tired to go to work, so she made up an excuse and asked Rayan to give her the day off.

She closed her eyes again and just stayed in bed like that for a while longer.

When she finally got up and opened her bedroom door, there was no one in the living room.

She looked around but neither of her friends were home, it seemed.

'Where are they?'

Janessa dragged her sore feet to the kitchen to make some breakfast, but she found that a plate was already set out for her.

Leona was an absolute sweetheart. Even now that she was pregnant, she was still making breakfast for everyone.

Janessa usually avoided eating at home these days, not wanting to burden Leona with cooking for her, but just this once, she would savor the breakfast her friend had prepared for her. She took the sandwiches and milk to the living room and ate while watching TV.

Judging by the newscast, it was a pretty busy day. Janessa was looking at the TV absentmindedly while eating, until suddenly something got her interest. 'What's that?'

A familiar face had popped up on the screen.

'Is it really her? She's the daughter of a rich family, right?'

"Courtney's first public appearance after winning the Award for the Most Influential Actress of the Year. Courtney, do you have anything to share with us?"

The host extended the microphone in front of the haughty woman. The two of them were of the same height, but Courtney's bearing made her look as if she towered over the other woman.

"I always strive to do the best I can, to show people the different aspects of my character. I hope that one day, I will prove myself to all of you." Courtney was exuding an air of authority

as she spoke, making it hard for people to take their eyes off her.

"Good to hear. Would you like to say something to your fans, who are supporting you at every turn?" The host seemed to choose her words carefully.

Courtney's fans were not ordinary people. Like their idol, most of them were aloof and haughty. How could they not?

Although Courtney wasn't aware of it, her fans wouldn't let anyone talk bad about her.

Janessa was obviously surprised. "Courtney is a star? But when she came to see me last time..." Janessa was still gaping at the screen. 'How did I not hear about it?'

She hadn't even heard that Courtney was in the entertainment industry, let alone that she was so popular.

She grabbed her laptop and googled Courtney's name. Multiple results came from her search. As it turned out, Courtney had started her career abroad and had recently returned to the country.

Courtney's portfolio was not a big one, but all her works were considered classics.

Janessa put down her lap top in silence, as the document Courtney had sent last time popped in her mind.

Courtney had her mind set on Rayan, so she should have seen Janessa as her rival. But she didn't. Instead, she even took the initiative to help Janessa out before. Janessa had to admit this woman was really something.

She was the type of person that even if she was friendly with someone, she could turn into an enemy in the blink of an eye

Since Leona and Alana were not at home, Janessa decided to treat the blisters under her feet. Fortunately, they were not that bad. She just needed to stay off her feet and rest for a while.

As she was taking care of her feet, the doorbell rang.

"Who can it be? Is Leona back?" Janessa limped to the door and stood straight, pretending to be fine.

She glanced at the peephole and jumped back in surprise.

'What is he doing here?'

Janessa fortified herself, taking a deep breath before she opened the door. She didn't open it all the way though, for her own safety.

"Why are you here?"

