

## Chapter 182 Don't Be Ungrateful

The most prestigious awards ceremony for actors, actresses, and directors was scheduled to take place in a few hours.

To nobody's surprise, Rayan was invited as a guest of honor.

After work, Janessa left the office in a hurry to fetch Rayan's clothes for tonight's special event.

"Excuse me, I'm here to get Mr. Lu's clothes."

"Okay, I'll look for it right now. Please wait here a moment." The shop manager gestured for Janessa to sit down on the sofa before heading inside to look for Rayan's clothes.

Thinking it might take a while, she didn't hesitate to oblige. A few seconds later, she noticed a magazine with a familiar face on the cover laying on top of the coffee table.

It was Courtney, an old friend who had risen to the pinnacle of stardom. Every news media outlet in the country couldn't get enough of her. She was so popular that some of them would even beg on their knees just to get an exclusive interview with her.

Being the latest issue, the magazine's main article talked in length about her recent awe-inspiring performance as an actress. It was pretty much guaranteed that she would receive an award in tonight's ceremony.

"I see your pretty face wherever I go. It's a good thing we're friends now," Janessa meekly murmured to herself.

The only reason why two women from such different backgrounds became friends was Rayan. That being said, Courtney probably wouldn't lend a helping hand if the Lu Group's reputation wasn't at stake every time Janessa made a mistake.

But who could blame her? Why would an esteemed actress take time out of her busy schedule to help someone if she wasn't at least getting on Rayan's good side?

Despite being married to him once, Courtney didn't seem to think of Janessa as a romantic rival.

For that reason, the two of them managed to maintain a civil friendship.

Yes, Janessa was being belittled. But on the bright side, she was lucky she didn't have to go up against an insurmountable foe like Courtney.

Just as Janessa was about to finish reading the magazine, someone with an utterly grating voice started nagging her.

"Well, well, well, look who's here! Are you sure a mere assistant like yourself should be buying clothes in a store for the elite? Can you even afford the cheapest thing they have on sale?" The last thing Imani wanted was to be reminded of that horrible incident. So seeing Janessa's face as soon as she stepped inside the store was infuriating, to say the least.

If only the police arrived a few minutes late, then she would've...

"Today's weather is quite nice, wouldn't you agree? Even the ones who've been hiding inside their houses for ages couldn't resist going outside and basking in the sun." Janessa absolutely dreaded seeing her cousin, Imani. Every time they had met in the past, she would always come home fuming.

"You! Are you referring to me, Janessa?"

"Who knows? But if you feel like it's you, then why not?" After responding with a smug look on her face, Janessa thought, 'Do you think I'll still treat you nicely after what you did to me?'

For Janessa, there was no more love left to lose in regards to her cousin. Imani brought all this to herself. She wouldn't have been hurt by her backfired plan if she didn't tried to hurt Janessa in the first place.

When Imani saw Janessa's complacent expression, her heart quickly filled with rage. She was so angry that she started panting.

It was clear as day, Janessa was making fun of her for not being able to go out because of what happened.

What's worse, she couldn't even deny her cousin's teasing. After such a traumatizing incident, Imani had to seek substantial help from a psychiatrist just to be able to move on with her life.

However, something good came out of being holed up indoors. Not having to see Janessa for a while, plus hearing news that something bad happened to her, brought Imani immense joy. She was so happy that it seemed like she was finally back to her usual self.

As a way to celebrate her healing, Imani decided to go out for a short walk. But all her progress was ruined when she unexpectedly came across Janessa.

Everything she was happy for disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Not wanting to accept defeat, Imani thought of a way to exact revenge on her cousin. After a few seconds, she remembered the horrible news about Janessa that happened a few days ago. With a mischievous smile, she sat beside Janessa and started acting like a caring cousin.

"I heard from someone that there was a video gone viral on the Internet. Some woman said you hired people to rape her. Having known you for so long, I was sure she was lying. But when I heard her speak with such conviction—" Imani intentionally stopped talking in an attempt to spite Janessa. She even covered her entire face with both her hands and huffed like she was about to sob just to show how disturbed she was about the news.

But underneath her convincing display of disappointment was a wicked smile and gloating eyes.

Even since they were children, Imani never passed up on a chance to satirize Janessa. Did she really think she could still get away with it?

After so many years, she never learned to change her poor behavior.

So today, Janessa decided that it was finally time to teach her cousin a lesson.

"Oh really? Where did you get that news, my dear cousin? How in the world have I not seen nor heard about it?" With a raised eyebrow, Janessa took out her phone and started looking for the startling allegations against her right in front of Imani.

After a few minutes, Janessa couldn't find a single article with her name on it.

"What? How could that be possible?" Imani was in utter disbelief. She was so shocked that she immediately took out her own phone and started searching on her own. But alas, the news report she read that morning was nowhere to be seen.

She was so enthralled by that article that she even read it again before going out. How could it just disappear into thin air?

Imani couldn't help but think that Janessa had something to do with it. Otherwise, how could she act so calmly in the face of such damning allegations?

Way past the boiling point, Imani hid her phone before going into a fit of rage. With a finger pointed right at Janessa's nose, she exclaimed, "Do you really think you can get away with this? You did something so despicable! No matter how hard you try, you can't hide the truth!"

"Wow, I honestly didn't know that you cared so much about my life. In that case, I sincerely thank you for your concern." Janessa nonchalantly replied. But deep down, she really pitied her cousin.

All Imani seemed to care about was making it hard for Janessa to live a normal life. Back when they were children, it didn't seem like such a big deal. But now that they were all grown-ups, seeing her still acting like a bratty, bitter, and immature child was just sad.

How could she ever find the right guy to start a family with if she never changed for better?

"Janessa, stop being so reckless! Do you think you can get away scot-free just because you're part of the Qiu family? When the board members find out about what you did, they won't hesitate to cut you off and leave you to rot in your own filth! If that stupid little brain of yours still works, you better apologize to me this instant! Don't forget that you're talking to someone who can sway their decision! I can either help you or ruin your life even more!"

After letting loose, Imani looked absolutely satisfied with herself. There was no denying that she had the means to speak directly with the board members. However, Janessa knew there was nothing to fear.

"I heard a while ago that they haven't been pleased with your recent behavior. Apparently, they've been looking for a way to replace you ever since your accident, Janessa."

Imani couldn't stop herself even if she tried. She wanted to make sure she came out on top once again.

"That's enough, Imani. You know what? I should probably talk to the board members myself. Don't forget that you only own one percent of the Qiu Group's business shares. Someone so insignificant can't even be in the same room with the members of the board. Are you serious when you say you can sway their decisions? Even your father knows he has no ability to do so! Wake up, girl! Even if I'm your cousin, I can't stand it anymore!" Janessa knew exactly what Imani was trying to do. The poor girl was so desperate to feel superior that she even used her father to make her seem special.

But what was the point of it all? Sooner or later, the truth about her family's misdeeds would eventually come out.

"Janessa, I'm trying to help you. Stop being so stubborn and listen to me!" At that moment, Imani had said everything she could in order to get the upper hand. But for some reason, she didn't really feel like she had won.

In fact, she was even angrier than before.

"Stubborn? Imani, just stop right now. I'm sure you'll regret saying another word."

Just as Imani was about to open her mouth, the shop manager stepped out of the storage room, walked towards Janessa, and handed her Rayan's clothes. "Here's all of Mr. Lu's order."

"Okay, thank you very much." After taking Rayan's clothes and hanging them over her forearm, Janessa walked out of the store without batting an eye.

Robbed of her chance to respond, Imani simply glared at Janessa while stamping her feet to vent out her anger. In the end, she was so irritated that she left the store without buying anything.

