Chapter 194 Why Are You So Slow

"It doesn't matter. I've already decided to raise my baby all by myself. When I was still in college, all I wanted to do was write articles and novels. Unfortunately, I didn't have the time to do so. But now, despite everything that's going on, I think I can finally live out my dream. And besides, I'll always have you to rely on, right?" After talking, Leona caressed her belly with a hopeful smile on her face.

"Okay, you win. It seems like being a godmother isn't going to be as easy as I thought it would be. I hope your baby doesn't take all my hard work for granted in the future!" Knowing it was pointless to argue, Janessa just went along with Leona's decision.

She knew it wasn't easy for Leona to make that choice, especially when her baby's future was at stake. But after hearing her speak with such optimism, Janessa felt comfortable letting her dear friend carve her own path in life.

After dinner, the two of them cheerfully headed home.

The next day, Janessa brought a formal dress with her to work. It was for the Qiu Group's annual meeting later. She knew that she wouldn't have had enough time to go home, get changed, and head back to attend the meeting, so she came prepared.

As usual, Janessa first went to Rayan's office for her daily report. After her report, she thought for a while before remembering to say, "The Qiu Group's annual meeting will take place this afternoon. It will start at 3 p.m.. Please, don't be late."

"Okay!" Rayan responded, which was a rare occurrence.

To top it off, he wasn't taking the initiative to start trouble today. Janessa couldn't help but feel like something was wrong.

unintentionally met her gaze.

After a while, Rayan realized that he hadn't heard sound of her high heel shoes walking out of his office. So he looked up and

Neither of them tried looking away. No one uttered a word as well.

A few seconds later, Rayan finally broke the silence. "Why are you still here? Did you run out of work to do? Do you need me to give you more?" Although Rayan spoke a little harshly, deep down, he was actually pleased about their brief staredown.

Ever since their divorce, Janessa had always tried avoiding eye contact with him. To top it off, they had never gotten along well the past few years. So yes, it was awkward. But it was quite a pleasant change.

'Why was she staring at me like that? Is she falling in love with me?'

At the thought of this, a smug expression appeared on Rayan's face.

"I'm leaving right now!"

same troublemaker she once knew.

After shouting at him, Janessa rolled her eyes before walking out of Rayan's office. Sure enough, her ex-husband was still the

past few days, her time at the office was a breeze. However, she still felt more comfortable when her job was as challenging as today.

A few hours before the meeting, Janessa was all done with her work.

Needing to attend the Qiu Group's annual meeting that afternoon, Janessa had to scramble all morning to finish her work. For the

She went to the bathroom to get changed and put on some more makeup. When she was all done, she stepped outside and headed

for the elevator. On her way, she happened to come across Rayan coming out of his office.

As soon as Rayan saw her, his eyes lit up like fireworks. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't help but stare at his gorgeous

ex-wife for a while.

Janessa was wearing a fitted red dress that perfectly matched her lipstick. Her hair was slightly curled and draped elegantly over

her shoulders. If she went outside looking like that, everyone would probably think that she was a movie star.

Heck, some might even ask for her autograph.

"Mr. Lu! Mr. Lu!" Janessa called Rayan while waving her hands in front of his face. When he finally snapped out of his trance, he

elevator without batting an eye.

her head pointed down.

quickly looked away as if nothing happened.

In a blink of an eye, he was back to being the aloof Rayan that everyone knew.

That said, he was still charmed by her beauty that afternoon. So much so that he couldn't stop himself from sneaking glances at

her from time to time.

Since the two of them were ready and headed for the same place, they had no qualms about leaving together. Janessa followed

"Let's go."

Rayan into the CEO's exclusive elevator. They headed straight down to the first floor.

"Go to my car. I'll give you a ride." Rayan spoke so softly that it seemed like he was whispering. After that, he stepped out of the

If it weren't for Janessa's impeccable hearing, she probably wouldn't have understood a single word he said.

Anyhow, she was relieved that she didn't have to drive to the meeting by herself.

After stepping out of the elevator, Janessa saw Shelby coming out of the regular elevator.

Because of her tight dress, driving there on her own would've been a nightmare.

Was it really Shelby who betrayed her?

In an instant, almost everything that Sally had previously mentioned, flooded Janessa's mind.

Janessa was eager to confront Shelby about it. Unfortunately, she didn't have a single shred of evidence.

When Shelby saw Janessa's prying eyes, she immediately looked away. But instead of fleeing, she walked towards Janessa with

clue what Shelby wanted to say.

After checking the time on her phone, Janessa realized that she had a few minutes to spare. Before placing her phone back in her

"Can we talk for a bit, Janessa?" Shelby asked meekly. However, Janessa couldn't help but be on her guard because she had no

"I really have to be somewhere soon. Would ten minutes be enough for you?" For a while now, Janessa wanted to clear things up with Shelby. Unfortunately, she could never find time to do so.

"It's more than enough," Shelby replied with a smile. The truth was that she didn't have much to say. She just had to explain

something very important.

The two of them went back upstairs to the company's meeting room. Once there, Janessa looked at the scenery through the

window before asking, "So, what did you want to talk about?" Janessa had no clue what to expect. But she promised herself that

she wouldn't waste this opportunity to find out the truth about the incident.

"I knew this day would eventually come. But I never expected it to happen today. First of all, I owe you a sincere apology, Janessa. I wish I could find a way to make it up to you."

Janessa kept quiet and continued staring outside. She wasn't against the thought of accepting Shelby's apology. However, she

Deep down, she still resented Shelby for all the bad things she had done to her.

didn't know if it was the right thing to do.

she was inches away from breaking down and crying.

Shelby leaned against the wall and stared blankly at the opposite one.

purse, she sent Rayan a message telling him to leave without her.

"I know you can't guarantee to forgive me. After all, you were almost fired by the company because of me. But I swear, I never wanted to hurt you in any way. It may sound like I'm making things up, so please believe me. Someone's threatening me. They told me they would hurt the man I love if I didn't follow their orders." Shelby was having so much trouble sharing the truth that

"Who's doing this to you?" Janessa asked with a puzzled look on her face. After hearing something so horrendous, her mind raced to think of who could be behind it all.

"I have no clue. All I know is that if I disobey orders, the man I love will be in danger."

Under the threat of losing her beloved one, Shelby had no choice but to obey, no matter how cruel the orders were.

"That's all I have to say, Janessa. Please, always be careful. I'm sure they'll never give up trying to hurt you. As long as Mr. Lu is a part of your life, you'll never be safe." Shelby bid her farewell. Even though her life seemed like it was out of her control, she still wanted to do the right thing.

"Wait a second—why would you share this information with me?" Janessa was at a complete loss. If Shelby went out of her way

to warn her, wouldn't she be endangering the man she tried so hard to protect?

"You should be able to figure it out sooner or later. But for now, just think of it as my way of making amends. Anyway, I'm

leaving now." After that, Shelby left with a peaceful look on her face. It was probably because a heavy weight was just lifted off her shoulders. Janessa watched in silence as she walked away. But now, she thought of her in a much better light.

That said, she also couldn't help but feel worried about what she just found out.

Having no clue how to fix her problems, Janessa set them aside for now and continued with her day. When she stepped out of the company building, she was surprised to see Rayan's car still parked outside.

"Why are you still here? Didn't you receive my message?" she asked as soon as Rayan stepped out of his car.

Rayan. So as soon as she got in the car, she closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

Who was behind all of this? Why was someone going through such lengths to ruin her life?

"What took you so long? What are you, a turtle?"

Sure enough, he waited here just so he could mock her in the face.

"I crossed paths with an old acquaintance, so we talked for a short while." For the time being, Janessa didn't want to argue with

Needless to say, she was utterly exhausted.

Unfortunately, there were still too many things to think about before she could give her mind a much-needed break.