

## Chapter 201 Haven't Been Here For A Long Time

An eye-catching luxury sports car parked in front of the Lu Group's building, causing quite a commotion.

Most of the company's employees saw the car as they walked out of the building. However, not a single person had ever spotted the driver or who was getting picked up.

Of course, no one could resist taking pictures of such an impressive piece of machinery. Additionally, almost everyone couldn't stop spouting guesses about the mysterious driver's identity.

When Janessa stepped outside, she was surprised to see the crowd. She had no clue what was going on. But she guessed that someone was probably proposing right in front of the Lu Group's building.

With this in mind, she started walking briskly towards the crowd, hoping to catch a glimpse of a potentially romantic scene.

Unfortunately, there were so many people that she couldn't even squeeze her way through.

After a few more tries, she shook her head, admitted defeat, and headed towards her own car.

A few steps in, the crowd suddenly moved.

She turned around and noticed that everyone was swarming in her direction.

'Are they shooting a zombie movie or something?'

At the thought of this, Janessa quickened her pace. After walking a considerable distance, she looked back and saw that the crowd slowly split into two.

It seemed like they were clearing a path for someone. A few seconds later, a tall man emerged from the opening.

"To the beautiful, smart, and kind Miss Qiu, may I please have the pleasure of going out to dinner with you tonight?"

It was Rylan, carrying an extravagant bouquet of roses.

As soon as he handed over the flowers, the crowd broke into thunderous applause.

Janessa never would've guessed that Rylan was the reason behind all the commotion. But what really caught her off guard was becoming the woman of the hour all of a sudden.

Since Rylan was the face of a big company, refusing him in front of so many people would undoubtedly embarrass him.

That said, she didn't want to go out with someone that she barely knew.

It was quite a head-scratching dilemma.

"Janessa! Don't you think it's a little inappropriate to act like a lovey-dovey couple right outside my company?" Rayan shouted from the company's main entrance. As usual, he sounded bitterly cold. However, there was an undeniable hint of jealousy in his voice just now.

As soon as the CEO made his presence known, the crowd scattered like a flock of frightened sheep.

Some went about with their business. But the majority hid behind a corner, waiting for the situation to unfold.

A few days ago, Gordon came to the company to see Janessa. Now, Rylan was doing the same. Her luck just kept getting better. It seemed like a lot of handsome and successful men couldn't get enough of her.

"Are you blind, Rayan? I haven't even done anything yet!" Deep down, Janessa wasn't in the mood to argue with Rayan. But after hearing what he had to say, she decided that enough was enough.

Even though he was the big boss, he had no right to get involved with her business after work.

"Janessa, have you already forgotten what I told you?"

Rayan's response lit a raging fire in her heart. If he had kept quiet, then she would've declined Rylan's offer and gone straight home. But now, she wanted to go with Rylan just to get back at Rayan.

'I know you told me to stay away from Rylan. But I'm done listening to you! I'm not your puppet!'

Let's see if you can stop me!'

With that in mind, Janessa accepted Rylan's roses and gave them a maidenly sniff. With a kittenish smile, she said, "They smell wonderful. Thank you so much!"

Hoping to spite Rayan even more, Janessa thought about calling Rylan by his first name. But since it was their first time meeting outside the office, she was a little shy to do so. In the end, she decided to keep quiet and wait for Rylan to make the next move.

"So how about dinner? It's my treat! Let's eat a lot, so you have more than enough energy for work!" As soon as Janessa nodded, Rylan went in for a hug, sandwiching the bouquet of roses between them. Next, he grabbed her hand and escorted her back to his car with the biggest smile on his face.

"You!" Rayan peevishly murmured to himself. He knew how stubborn Janessa could be. But he honestly didn't expect her to accept the flowers, let alone get in Rylan's car.

'Do you even know who Rylan is? You've just met him!'

How could you be so naive? Did no one teach you not to get into a stranger's car?'

Like a gentleman, Rylan opened and closed the car door for Janessa before walking over to the driver's side. With one hand on the door, he took off his glasses and said, "Mr. Lu, if you keep forcing your employees to work like a horse for no reason, then I wouldn't mind adopting them into my own company. You know, I've got quite the record. Not a single employee has left my company in five years. So if I were you, I'd start treating them with a little more respect." Rylan wasn't trying to outdo Rayan in front of Janessa. He just couldn't agree with how his friend was treating his workers.

After that, Rylan got in his car and drove away. Meanwhile, Rayan stood still and watched his ex-wife leave with another man.

While admiring the roses in her arms, Janessa caught a glimpse of Rayan's face through the side-view mirror. He looked so angry that she couldn't help but giggle.

Despite having his eyes on the road, Rylan still saw the smug look on her face. That alone was enough for him to figure things out. He was sure that the only reason she agreed to go out with him was to spite Rayan.

'Seems like there's still unfinished business between them.'

That said, Rylan wasn't a man who gave up without a fight. Yes, Janessa wasn't that interested in him yet. But on the bright side, she didn't want to be with Rayan either.

"By the way, thank you, Miss Qiu!"

Busy looking out the window, Janessa didn't quite hear what Rylan had just said. So with a blank stare, she asked, "I'm sorry, but what did you just say?"

Janessa's inattentiveness, accompanied by her adorable face, made her look like a cute little girl. As a result, Rylan couldn't help but act like a little boy as well.

"Ha-ha, I just said thank you. You just wanted to hear it again, don't you?"

His impression of a child wasn't too convincing, but it worked like a charm. Janessa couldn't stop giggling.

Needless to say, her decision to go out with him was a rash one. But since Rylan was considerate enough to lighten up the mood, things turned out to be quite pleasant, even if he was teasing her.

"Why are you thanking me? I haven't done anything," Janessa asked with a baffled look on her face. But after seeing her reflection on the car window, she quickly composed herself.

"Why wouldn't I be grateful? You just saved me from a whole lot of embarrassment! If you refused me in front of all those people, my reputation definitely would've gone down the drain." Despite being the head of a big company, Rylan completely forgot to consider the consequences because he was so excited to see Janessa.

He thought that she would definitely go out with him. Even if she didn't like him that much, she would at least accept his offer out of politeness.

Having no clue how to respond, Janessa went back to looking out of the window before changing the topic. "Where are you taking me?"

"Don't worry, you'll know as soon as we get there," Rylan replied with a confident smile despite the awkward situation. He knew that his surprise was guaranteed to please the fair lady beside him.

But since their journey would still take a while, he started fiddling with the radio, hoping to find the perfect song to ease the tension.

A few seconds later, he landed on a station playing a song from a famous movie. It was titled "My heart will go on" from the movie Titanic. It was one of Janessa's favorites. She loved it so much that she would play it on repeat at home from time to time.

Slowly but surely, Janessa started humming to the song. Seconds later, Rylan joined in by singing the lyrics. His happy-go-lucky attitude was the perfect ice breaker. Janessa couldn't help herself and eventually sang along, creating a fuzzy and warm atmosphere.

They were so caught up in the moment that they were still singing when they arrived at their destination.

After stopping the car at the valet parking, Rylan got out and handed the valet his keys before escorting Janessa into the restaurant.

"Why did you bring me here?" Janessa was surprised to be in her favorite restaurant again. It had been so long ago since she last ate there that she almost forgot about it.

"I heard from someone that you really enjoy the food here. Was I mistaken? Are you not fond of this place anymore?" Sometime after their first encounter, Rylan hired a private investigator to find out everything he could about Janessa.

'She seems a little upset. Did the investigator miss something?'

"It's okay. I'm just not used to this place anymore. I actually haven't been here for three years."