

## Chapter 215 Your Wife Is So Lucky

While Janessa worked, she felt overcome with terror, a heaviness she could not handle. Larry could have easily given James Bond a run for his money, Janessa could have sworn that Larry was spying on her.

It upset Janessa that her attempts at hiding her private information seemed to fail where Larry was concerned. Larry would somehow manage to find it all out. You would swear that Larry possessed a crystal ball.

Janessa wondered what she could possibly do.

Janessa was totally oblivious to all that was occurring around her. Her mind was fully engaged. It is no wonder that Janessa did not hear Corbin calling out to her. "Janessa. I called you several times. You did not respond. Why?" asked Corbin. Even the question Corbin asked ever so loudly seemed to pass over Janessa's head. Corbin had to bang the desk as a final attempt to resuscitate Janessa back to earth.

Startled by Corbin's commotion at her desk and evident agitation, Janessa asked, clearly panicked, "Ah, what did you say?" Janessa had once again allowed herself to fade away with these thoughts. She knew she had to get a grip immediately. She had to remind herself constantly that she was at work and had to focus on the work at hand. 'Did Corbin notice anything? That Rayan was not in the office? That I am irate as a result thereof and that I am deep in thought and the person I am thinking about is Rayan.' thought Janessa. Her cheeks turned a fiery red as she realized that Corbin most probably had noticed.

As if on cue, Corbin answered one of the many questions that were lingering in Janessa's mind. "Mr. Lu will not be coming in today. He cancelled all of his meetings. Please ensure that you reschedule these meetings for a new date," said Corbin decidedly. 'In order for me to reschedule, I would have to be made aware of when he would be returning to the office. How do I ask without sounding desperate to have him back in the office?' thought Janessa. Clearly realizing this himself, Corbin volunteered the information. "Mr. Lu should be back in the office within three days, I think." Corbin knew that it was uncharacteristic of Rayan to just evaporate into thin air, especially when it came to his presence in the Lu Group office. Rayan never took any chances; he always availed himself. Corbin was unsure how long it would take before Mr. Lu was back in the office.

"Tell me Corbin. Do you have any idea whatsoever why Rayan, oh sorry, Mr. Lu, did not come into the office today?" Janessa finally blurted out. Rayan had always been a workaholic, even when he and Janessa had been married for about three years. Rayan never missed an opportunity to work. Janessa could not understand what was so important this time around. Unless Rayan had changed in the time that they had been apart. She highly doubted it though. It must have been such an important incident to have made Rayan miss a day of work.

Janessa recalled a time when Mrs. Lu, Rayan's mother, had been gravely ill. Rayan only visited his mother once at the hospital. He had gone to the hospital just to assess the situation and then he came straight back to work.

Janessa could not believe she had become so fixated with this Rayan issue but she could not help herself. She knew she had to find out what had caused Rayan to miss work or the unknowingness would haunt her the whole night.

Corbin also did not know what had caused Rayan to miss work. "How would I know what happened to Mr. Lu? I spoke to him earlier and judging from his tone, whatever it is that is keeping him away sounds serious. He did not want to disclose what was going on and when he would be returning," said Corbin distressed. Corbin, like most employees, enjoyed his daily dose of office gossip. He nevertheless, never indulged in gossip pertaining to Rayan.

Janessa was not surprised that Corbin would choose not to divulge any details pertaining to Rayan. Everyone in the Lu Group knew how loyal Corbin was to Rayan. "No one here seems to know where Rayan is, neither do you Corbin!" Janessa snapped. Janessa lowered her head in disappointment. 'If Corbin truly did not know where Rayan was. Who else would possibly know?' Janessa thought.

'What about Sarah? She might know!' Janessa continued, contemplating.

Even though the idea of enquiring from Sarah did not appease Janessa much, she was, at this point, quite desperate and was willing to ask whoever was willing to answer her. Janessa knew that Sarah would definitely know. Janessa worried that the fact that she and Rayan were no longer together would be the reason why Sarah would not be willing to share any details with her. She was no longer Rayan's wife after they had parted ways, and Sarah was no obligated to tell her anything.

"Focus on your job now Janessa! It is not our place to worry about Mr. Lu and the choices he makes," Corbin said rather sternly. Janessa was aware that this was Corbin's way of subtly reminding her that Rayan's affairs had nothing to do with her anymore. Corbin saw how worried Janessa was about Mr. Lu's disappearance. "I have a lot of work to do today but please come to me if you need anything. I will not arrange any extra tasks for you today," offered Corbin. Corbin marched back to his office after his act of kindness.

Watching Corbin walk off into his office brought with it the realization for Janessa that it was probably best that Rayan had not come into the office. Previously, Janessa never had a chance to access the crucial company documents. Since Rayan had not come into the office, it meant that Corbin would have his hands full and this gave Janessa an opportunity to extend a helping hand to Corbin.

Then Janessa would have the long awaited opportunity to be privy to the crucial company documents.

As if by the waving of a magic wand, Janessa felt her spirits lifted, with a sense of hope and a new-found energy in the pit of her stomach. She handled her work more fluently thereafter.

Janessa was, sure enough, correct in her anticipation of how things would unfold. Rayan's absence from the office paved the way for Janessa to learn a lot of what she did not know. As she had thought, Corbin could not handle a lot of the problems that arose, without Rayan there to hold his hand.

This moment was for Janessa the best thing that had happened to her in a long time.

While Janessa was relishing in her pleasure of this moment, an anti-climax presented itself in the form of bad news.

Janessa was on her lunch break, about to go downstairs, when a very sudden, unexpected call came in from Sarah.

"Mom, what's wrong?" she answered worriedly.

"I think it is important that you know what I am about to tell you," said Mrs. Lu.

What Sarah wanted to tell Janessa sounded very critical, her voice carried with it some pity and this worried Janessa.

"Mom, what happened? You are making me worried," asked Janessa anxiously.

"Gracie is pregnant," Sarah finally blurted out. "You know that I was always hopeful that you and Rayan would ultimately deal with your problems and remarry. I guess that will have to be put on ice for now," Sarah stated, sounding defeated. "Janessa, you know that I have always been on your side," Sarah continued. "I am afraid though, that even though I wish to be on your side this time, I cannot because the baby in Gracie's belly is our flesh and blood; the baby is a part of the Lu family and I cannot put you before it..." It was evident that Sarah wished to utter something else but stopped herself before continuing on. Although Sarah could not finish, Janessa could read between the lines, and understood the unspoken words.

Janessa had been married to Rayan for three years, while failing to fall pregnant. As soon as Janessa and Rayan were in the process of divorcing, Janessa found out she was finally pregnant, but unfortunately, she lost the baby in the end.

Janessa could not help but think that everything was happening the way it was meant to be happening, according to fate.

"Mom, I understand what you mean and I completely empathize with you," Janessa expressed. "Thank you," Janessa said before hanging up. Now, at least Janessa had some clarity regarding why Rayan had not pitched up for work that morning, it was all about Gracie and her pregnancy.

Janessa was cognizant of the fact that Rayan informing his parents about the pregnancy, must have meant that he was set on marrying Gracie.

It was a good thing, Janessa was aware that this was what Rayan had always hoped for, marriage and children with the love of his life. She knew that the right thing to do was to be happy for him but she could not help the soreness she felt in her heart.

The Lu family villa was the epitome of wealth, luxury at its finest.

Gracie woke up to find a handsome Rayan still lying beside her.

She had long been awaiting the day when things would be this way and Rayan would finally be by her side, with the promise of forever.

Gracie's hand tenderly outlined the features of Rayan's face, until finally landing on his chest.

The moment Gracie's hand landed on Rayan's chest, it awoke him and he grabbed Gracie's hand.

"You are awake!" exclaimed Gracie, in complete surprise.

"Yes, I woke up when you did," said Rayan, with a broad smile across his face.

'Did this mean that Rayan knew that I touched him while I assumed that he was sleeping?' wondered Gracie in total bewilderment.

Although Gracie was a little stunned at being caught out by Rayan, it did not faze her, instead she leaned even closer to Rayan and lay her head on his chest.

"Rayan, is it really true? I am in total disbelief," Gracie stated, almost mawkishly.

"It is true," said Rayan, reassuringly.

"I remember, as if it were just yesterday, that day you brought me here for the first time. We were still in college and would sneak in here on the weekends. Then when we went back home, we would pose as complete strangers. Then, making the biggest mistake, I suddenly left. When I came back, thinking we would figure things out and work on our relationship, you were already living with someone here; you had moved on," said Gracie, trailing off.

As Gracie uttered these words, she became oblivious to Rayan's existence in the room. She uttered these words softly, as if she were speaking to herself, in hopes that the words would somehow reach Rayan.

"If I had believed in our love more, maybe it would not have taken me this long to attempt to fix things." Gracie realized that the way everything had panned out had been because of her own doing. It took them so long to find their way back to each other and get married, like they had once hoped. Gracie knew there was no one else to blame for this but themselves, or rather herself.

"Well Gracie, everything happened just as it was meant to happen, and it is in the past now. Let us rather focus on forging ahead, together," said Rayan, trying his best to console Gracie. Rayan held Gracie in his arms for what seemed like an eternity. While they were in each other's embrace, Rayan could not comprehend why an image of another woman kept creeping into his thoughts.

Gracie, still being immersed in happiness, was not even aware that Rayan was staring into space. She would have never even imagined that Rayan was thinking about someone else other than her. She chose to tell herself that the father of her baby was really Rayan, and she now firmly believed it.

Like a lion stalking its prey, Gracie was not aware that danger was stalking her, looming in the dark, waiting for an opportune moment to pounce on her.

That day, Rayan did not go to work. He had planned to go shopping with Gracie. They had not gone shopping together for a long time. This visit to the shopping mall had definitely become long overdue.

Rayan and Gracie never shied away from public displays of affection, and this day was no different. They walked hand-in-hand, with beaming smiles plastered all over their faces. Gracie being pregnant had felt like a dream for them, shopping for baby supplies really started to make it feel like reality.

The shop assistant had worked in the shop long enough to be able to discern the rich from the poor. Immediately after seeing Rayan and Gracie, it dawned on the shop assistant that it was the moment to increase the levels of enthusiasm to ensure that the rich couple felt welcome enough.

"Sir, madam, how old is your kid?" asked the shop assistant enthusiastically.

Rayan did not think much of being referred to as sir. He had been addressed in that manner since he was a young man, after all he had been born into wealth. Gracie, on the other hand, felt so jubilant being referred to as madam. That day had been the most exciting day for both of them. It surpassed all the other days Gracie and Rayan had gone out together. That day's excitement was rooted in the fact that Gracie had been referred to as madam.

It was evident that everyone around them considered Gracie Rayan's wife now.

"It has not been born yet. We just came to have a look for some baby supplies," Gracie said as she touched her belly, with a smile wide enough for everyone to see.

The saleswoman had worked in the store for many years, therefore, she had mastered the art of reading peoples' minds. She knew all of their needs, even before they expressed those needs.

"Sir, your wife is so lucky to have you by her side during this time. I can tell that both of you are new parents and it seems that you may not know much about baby products. If you two do not mind, I would be willing to explain some things to you and give you some advice about some of the things you may need for the baby," the saleswoman stated, feeling happy to have such rich clients. "The most crucial thing is that all the knowledge that I share with you now will come in handy when taking care of the child in the future, especially if you decide to have more children," stated the saleswoman.