

## Chapter 216 Don't Worry

When Janessa got off of work, she met with Rylan, who had come to pick her up.

She had been in a bad mood for most of the day, and she didn't dare to drive while distracted. The moment she spotted Rylan's car, she got inside without any fuss.

He looked at her with wide eyes as she slid into the passenger seat, taken aback by her sudden willingness. It usually took him a lot of coaxing before she allowed him to drive her home. What could have possibly happened? She was looking particularly miffed about something.

Rylan hurried inside his car, put his seat belt on, then turned and stared silently at Janessa.

She had been looking at her phone all this time, seemingly lost in thought. Feeling his intent gaze, she looked up and met Rylan's eyes. "What's wrong, why are you staring? Are there flowers on my face or something?"

"No flowers needed. You're much more beautiful than any artisanal bouquet I've ever seen."

"You're such a smooth talker. Please take me home. I don't want to drive today."

"How about we stop by somewhere for something to eat?"

"I don't think you need to eat anything, though. Sweet-talkers like yourself only need honey and you're all set." She had been glum since this morning, so she found this light banter with Rylan rather refreshing.

He always made her relax, for some reason. Being with him brought a sense of comfort and freedom.

And that was why Janessa had expressly chosen to get into his car.

"I found this excellent restaurant," Rylan said casually. "You must try it, I insist. After all, good food is an effective way to make one's troubles disappear." He was clearly trying to tempt her by means of food, which only proved how well he knew Janessa. His scheme worked.

Rylan drove to a popular snack street, going through seven turns around unassuming alleyways, and finally stopping in front of a small restaurant serving hotpot kebabs.

"Sir, party of two here!"

Rylan called out as they entered the shop. He appeared to be familiar with the owner, and even managed to order without looking at the menu.

Janessa followed him to a corner table silently and took in her surroundings.

Several people were already seated around them, most of them young couples and groups of friends. They were eating and chatting in earnest.

"This is the excellent place you were talking about?" she asked. There was a big hot pot in the center of each table, where sticks of food were simmering in the broth. People were taking turns plucking kebabs that were done cooking.

She eyed the hotpot with some consideration. It was the first time she had seen such a setup.

Rylan just smiled and said nothing. He fetched two square dishes wrapped in plastic bags, handed one to Janessa, and began to mix the seasonings. He was skilled at it, too, measuring the condiments by eye. When he was done with his, he made another one according to her taste.

His zeal endeared him to Janessa, and when he picked up the vinegar bottle and put it down again, she couldn't help but laugh. He looked so cute.

"Why are you laughing? I know it looks simple enough, but the taste is definitely going to blow you away. Here, give it a try." Rylan handed the seasoning he made for her and placed one of the cooked kebabs on her plate.

"Are you sure about this?" Janessa asked warily. The more she looked at the food, the less appealing they seemed.

Seeing her hesitation, Rylan shrugged and started eating by himself.

For the next few seconds, she didn't touch her food. She looked around and saw that everyone except herself was eating with gusto.

"Is it really delicious?" she asked again. It took another beat or two before she finally decided to have a bite.

If all these people were enjoying the food, then it must not be all that bad. Furthermore, the remaining empty tables had been filled soon after their arrival.

Her mind made up, Janessa picked up the stick on her plate and took a bite.

Sure enough, she instantly fell in love with the food.

She even ate more than Rylan did. In the end, she was too full, she had to catch her breath.

"Are you finished?"

"Yes, I don't think I can eat anymore." Janessa wiped her lips with a napkin, feeling more satisfied than she ever had in a long time. If only she hadn't eaten some snacks before she got off work; she would have gobbled up more kebabs.

"Sir, we're paying now!"

"Hey, I'll pay for today," Janessa protested, grabbing Rylan's raised hand. But he was quicker, and had already handed the owner a hundred dollar bill before she even finished speaking.

The other man made some calculations behind the counter and returned to give them their change.

"What the... it costs less than a hundred dollars?"

Janessa marveled to herself, though she waited until they were outside before she said anything. "How come it's so cheap when the food was so delicious?" she asked Rylan, her eyes wide with disbelief.

He paused in his tracks and turned to look at her, his expression serious. "It doesn't matter whether the food is expensive or not. The point is that if you enjoy it, then it's worth every penny. In the same way, even if it costs a lot more, if you don't enjoy the food, then it's worth nothing at all. Don't let yourself be bothered by the trivial matters that you face every day. The important thing is that you find the things that make you happy, and that you enjoy them to the fullest."

Although Rylan didn't ask Janessa why she was unhappy, he could tell at a glance that Janessa had something on her mind.

Although the place they had just had dinner was not a five star restaurant, the point was that there were many people eating and the food was good.

"Yes, you're right,"

Janessa agreed, though she knew deep down that there were times when she just felt upset for no special reason. It was troublesome, actually.

The two of them were walking back to his car at a leisurely pace when her phone suddenly rang. She glanced at the name flashing on the screen, and immediately had a bad feeling.

"Hello, Alana. What's wrong?"

"Janessa, you have to come! Leona had an accident! She fell and is now in the operating room!"

"Send me the address. I'll be right there." And just like that, her mood plummeted all over again.

Rylan took the initiative, wordlessly grabbing her hand and depositing her in his car. He took her phone and looked at the address Alana had sent, then drove to the hospital as fast as he could.

They rushed into the facility and asked for directions to the emergency room.

When they got there, they found Alana freaking out by the door of the operating room. She looked absolutely distraught as she paced back and forth across the hall.

"Alana, what happened? How did Leona get into an accident?"

Alana promptly burst into tears. "It's my fault! It's all my fault. I went into the kitchen to wash some fruits, and I left a trail of water on my way to the living room. Leona must have slipped on the spilled water and lost her balance. It's all my fault. Why can't I do anything right? I mess up even the simplest things! It's because of my carelessness that Leona fell and got hurt!"

Alana sobbed and continued to berate herself over and over.

"Don't overthink things. I'm sure Leona will be just fine." Janessa was very worried as well, but she couldn't bring herself to blame Alana. All she could do for now was wait and hope that Leona's surgery was a success.

She put her arms around Alana and guided her over to the benches. Then she turned to Rylan. "I'm so sorry, but my friend..."

"It's okay. You don't have to explain anything, I understand. What would you like to drink? Surgeries on pregnant women usually take some time; I'll go buy you two some water while you wait."

"It's okay. You can go and head home. I'm not sure how long we'll be waiting here." Janessa didn't want to send Rylan away after all his help, but she couldn't exactly bother him with her friend's personal affairs.

"Don't worry about that. Keep your friend company. I'll be right back." He turned and left before she could protest, and Janessa could only shake her head helplessly as she watched him go. She headed back to where Alana sat and tried to comfort her weeping friend.