

Chapter 217 Twins

"Here, drink some water while you wait. I'm sure they'll be done with the surgery soon. Don't worry too much." Ryan handed a bottle of water to a still sobbing Alana, her mascara smeared down her cheeks. She looked up at him in confusion.

"Who are you?" She had been too distressed, she'd barely noticed that someone else had come along with Janessa.

Alana belatedly thought that she had been rude and impolite after blurting out the question.

But why did this man feel familiar for some reason?

"I'm a friend of hers." Rylan gazed over at Janessa tenderly as he said this, and that one look was all anyone needed to know that he was in love with her.

Janessa cleared her throat. "This is my friend. He drove me here. Have a seat, Rylan." She knew he didn't intend to leave anyway; it would be better if one more person stayed with them during such a difficult time.

He padded over and obediently sat beside them.

Alana lowered her head and wiped whatever tears were still on her face. She then quietly took out a compact mirror from her purse and touched up her appearance before raising looking at Rylan again.

This man was absolutely gorgeous. Moreover, he was rather obedient toward Janessa.

'Oh, I remember! Isn't he the man who drove Janessa home that day?

But she said there was nothing between them. The way things look now, though...'

"Hey, tell me exactly what your relationship is," she muttered, turning to Janessa. "Why is he here?" Alana was still worried about Leona, of course, but she was also concerned about Janessa. Especially now that one of her prospective suitors was here. If Alana didn't assess their dynamic carefully while she had the chance, how could she possibly give her friend sound advice in the future?

"I told you, there's nothing. We just had dinner tonight. He was there when you called me, so he took the initiative to drive me here. Don't read into it too much, okay? And don't say anything to Leona later." Janessa knew Alana had difficulty keeping secrets. She might as well nip it in the bud now, lest she relayed her presumptions to Leona and start a whole other narrative.

If that happened, Janessa and Rylan would be trapped in Alana's made-up story, regardless of its truth or lack thereof.

"What? Why would you say that? You're actually hiding something, aren't you?" Alana narrowed her eyes. The longer she stayed with them, the more she could feel the underlying tension between Janessa and Rylan.

"Of course not. Stop with this nonsense. I have no plans of getting into a relationship at the moment. I even rejected your brother's feelings, what makes you think I would accept another man?" Janessa countered seriously.

Gordon was practically the only male person she was close to. If even he didn't make the cut, how would any other man?

Sure, she had gone out with Rylan on a few dates, but that was only because she had deliberately wanted to piss Rayan off. Over time, she had realized that Rylan was a valuable friend, and she wanted to keep it that way.

Janessa just wanted to be friends with Rylan, although he obviously had other plans. The messed-up situation gave her a serious headache sometimes.

"All right, all right. Just remember, no matter whom you chose, whether it's my brother or this other handsome guy we have with us now, the important thing is that you're happy." Alana leaned back in her seat and didn't pry anymore. It wasn't her place to meddle, anyway. Whatever went on in a relationship was only between the two people involved.

"Who is the family member of Leona Chu?"

The doctor called out as he emerged from the operating room. Both Janessa and Alana got to their feet and hurried over to him. "Here, Doctor! We're her friends. How is she doing?"

"You were too reckless. If you hadn't gotten her on time, we would have lost two little lives. For now, the babies are saved, but you must be extra careful in the future. If something like this happens again, both mother and children will be in danger." The doctor turned and left as soon as he finished explaining the situation.

"Who will take care of the admission procedures?" a nurse asked. "The patient needs to stay under hospital observation for at least two days." She took out a form and looked at the three people in front of her expectantly.

"I'll do it," Rylan volunteered. "You two should go check on your friend. Just send me the ward number, and I'll swing by once I'm finished." He smiled at them and followed the nurse down the hall.

Janessa and Alana watched him go, relieved at his quick thinking. Another nurse came to usher them to Leona's ward, where they found her still unconscious from the anesthetic she had taken.

"It's okay," Alana choked out as she took Leona's hand. "Everything's okay now."

Janessa nodded and walked to the other side of the bed, tucking in Leona's blanket more securely.

Then something occurred to her—"Do you remember what the doctor said just now? He said there were two babies, didn't he? I wasn't just hearing things, right?"

"I think so? I don't really remember." Alana tried to recall the doctor's words, but she had been so overcome with relief that everything else had barely registered in her mind.

"No, I'm pretty sure I heard him say 'two babies'," Janessa mused out loud. "Does that mean Leona is pregnant with twins? If so, then we will have two children running around soon enough." And if she was indeed mistaken, there was still one other person who had been there to hear the doctor's words. She could just ask Rylan later and confirm it for them.

As if on cue, the man himself piped up, "That's right. That's exactly what the doctor said. Here you go. The admission process has been completely taken care of. I believe they want to monitor her for a few more days." Rylan came in and just heard what they were talking about, so he answered directly.

"Thank you," Janessa replied, taking the form and placing it in the drawer by Leona's bed.

They spent the rest of the evening keeping watch in the ward, and only left when the nurse came to send them away.

Ever the gentleman, Rylan offered to drive the women home. When they arrived, Alana got out of the car first. "You two probably have something else to talk about, so I'll go upstairs first. Take your time, Janessa."

"Your friend is very smart," Rylan remarked sincerely as Alana skipped toward the building.

"Thank you so much for what you did tonight. God knows how busy and messed up I would have been if you hadn't been there." Though Janessa felt that words were inadequate in expressing the full extent of her gratitude, it was all she could offer at the moment.

"Listen, Janessa. I know you can't find it in yourself to accept my feelings now, but I really hope we can be friends, at least. Helping out a friend in need shouldn't be a big deal. I don't want you to feel like you have to distance yourself from me. I'm not forcing you to do anything you don't want to, so just treat me as a normal friend of yours, okay?" This was the first time Rylan had ever called her by her name with so much seriousness.

It was rather strange, hearing it come out of his lips.

"I..."

"Well, it's gotten so late. Go on and get some rest. You still have work tomorrow." There was a hint of disappointment in his voice when he said this. He had initially thought that they might deepen their relationship tonight, since Rayan hadn't shown up to disrupt their outing. But as things stood, it seemed like they were even farther apart than they had ever been.

"All right. You should head home, too. Have a good night." Janessa let herself out of the car, took a few steps forward, then came right back. She knocked on the window and motioned for Ryan to roll the glass down.

"What's wrong? Did you leave anything behind?" His eyes instantly flew to the passenger seat to see if she had forgotten anything.

"I'll treat you to dinner some other time. I'll cook the meal myself. But don't think too much of it, okay? It's just my way of saying thank you for tonight." Janessa made sure that her tone was light and neutral. This was the best option she had. If they went out for dinner, Rylan would most certainly keep her from paying the bill, and her debt would remain unsettled.

"Okay, I'm looking forward to it."

"Yes, well, I hope my cooking can live up to your expectations. Bye now."

Rylan waited until she was safely inside before driving away, a pleased little smile on his lips.