

## Chapter 218 None Of My Business

Janessa rose early the next day. She prepared a pot of nutritious soup and took it to the hospital.

"Oh, you're awake. How are you feeling?" she asked upon entering the ward and finding Leona staring up at the ceiling.

She still looked weak as she lay in the middle of the hospital bed, though—her face pale, her lips practically bloodless. Even so, she managed a brief little smile when she saw Janessa.

"I'm fine. I just feel a little tired," Leona said, her hand instinctively going to her belly.

Once she felt the bulge, she heaved a relieved sigh.

Janessa shot her a look of helpless understanding. She knew her friend was worried about her babies more than anything. She quietly transferred the soup she had made into a small bowl, then sat on the edge of the hospital bed. "Don't worry," she comforted Leona as she blew on a spoonful of the soup. "You're babies are doing all right."

"Babies?" Leona echoed with a stupefied expression. It was said that some women lost a bit of their common sense when they got pregnant. Maybe that was happening to her, because she couldn't comprehend what Janessa had just said.

Janessa tried not to laugh at Leona's obvious bafflement, but her trembling shoulders betrayed her.

"Stop laughing and explain it to me clearly. Do you mean... Am I..." Leona couldn't quite find the right words to say, but her eyes were sparkling with excitement, and both her hands were now cupping her belly.

"That's right," Janessa smiled. "Now, here, have some soup. I made it especially for you." She proceeded to feed Leona, who was so delighted with the unexpected news that she drank without any complaints. After two mouthfuls, however, she paused and looked up at Janessa with wide, bright eyes.

"Tell me again. Is it true? Am I really having twins?"

"Calm down first. The doctor who performed the surgery on you said so himself, so it must be true." There was a nagging thought at the back of Janessa's mind that she couldn't totally dismiss—the possibility that the doctor had been wrong.

If so, she practically just got Leona's hopes up without proper confirmation.

If things turned out that she wasn't actually carrying twins...

"Well, I believe the doctor," Leona said, her face switching from disappointment to determination, then ultimately, joy.

"It doesn't matter whether it just one child or two; I will love and treasure them regardless. I only hope that they are born safe and healthy." That was her only wish—that her child would grow safely and away from any kind of harm.

"I'm sure all three of you will be just fine and dandy,"

Janessa chimed in. Deep down, she was praying the children to be born and grow up as soon as possible. It might in a way make up for her own regrets in life.

"There's something I want to tell you, Janessa. But you can't tell anyone else, not even Alana." Leona had lowered her voice, and her gaze darted nervously toward the door.

"Of course. Go ahead, what is it?"

"I've been stubbornly avoiding this topic, and you've been gracious enough not to call me out on it, but I know you're curious about the identity of the father. The thing is, he doesn't want the child to live. That's why I decided to turn to you for help. I never expected to bring you trouble in the process."

Janessa couldn't fully understand what Leona meant, but she said nothing and waited for her friend continue.

"Do you remember Nolan Gu? He was once rumored to have had something to do with you..."

Janessa knew the man all too well. The cooperation with the Gu Group had seriously caused so much trouble, and Nolan came to her out of the blue, while later caused the explosive news to spread like wild fire without so much as a warning.

She would never forget the man.

'But wait... Why is Leona talking about that guy? No way...'

"Leona, are you saying..." Janessa drifted off, confused out of her wits. "The man that Leona has been so reluctant to leave all these years was Nolan all along?"

But... How could they be together?

"Our relationship must come as a shock to you. Terrible fate. After all, we are entangled with each other. We broke up and got back together countless times over the years, but this time, we are well and truly done. It's a good thing that I now have a baby to focus my attention to."

"Wait, so he isn't aware that you're pregnant?"

"No, he doesn't know about this. I never told him, which is why I want to leave this city. Please buy me a train ticket to somewhere far away from here. The farther, the better. I want to set out, just me and my babies, and settled down in a new place where he can't find us."

"I understand," Janessa nodded. She wasn't going to ask any more questions, or persuade Leona against her plans. Her friend had already made up her mind, and Janessa wanted to respect her decision.

By the time Alana arrived to take over guardian duties, the two women had already come up with a plan.

"Well, I leave Leona to you. I'm going to work." Janessa had stood up and grabbed her purse just as Alana spotted the soup on the bedside table. She narrowed her eyes at Janessa.

"You made soup for Leona, but why don't you ever cook some for me? I'm actually quite weak recently, you know!" Alana went up to Janessa and nudged her, acting like a spoiled little girl.

"Oh please. I'm sure you've already finished the rest of the soup back home." Janessa knew her roommate well; she was a greedy little glutton. There was way she would ignore the soup in the kitchen once she saw it.

"That doesn't matter! I know you just don't want to cook for me. Well, never mind that. Nobody loves me, after all!" Alana picked an apple from the fruit basket and went to sulk in a corner.

Janessa shook her head and left the room without another word.

Leona had been admitted to the Obstetrics and Gynecology department, so there were pregnant women everywhere. Most of them already had protruding bellies, but there were also those who only came for the initial pre-natal examinations. Needless to say, there was a good amount of men in the corridor as well—supportive husbands who had come to accompany their wives.

Janessa was walking leisurely along the corridor when she saw two familiar figures by the doctor's office not too far away.

Rayan and Gracie were here.

Janessa had already known that the woman was pregnant, of course. But seeing the two of them here and now, looking all affectionate and intimate with each other, she couldn't help but think of her own child.

If it hadn't been for Gracie... If Rayan had only chosen to answer her call... Her mother wouldn't have died, and her child...

'Keep calm and hold back your anger,' Janessa told herself. 'You can't fail now. So what if they love each other so much? Gracie is bound to leave him one day, once she's taken everything she wants from him.'

Janessa took a deep breath to steady her emotions. Then she turned on her heel, intending to use the stairs and avoid any confrontation, but she was too late. Gracie's awful voice came from behind here.

"I didn't expect to meet you here! What are you doing in this place? Are you here to check if your body could afford to get pregnant again?" Gracie sauntered over, her hand conspicuously stroking her belly. She was gloating.

"Does it have anything to do with you?"

Janessa countered. She recognized the threat of her situation, and she instantly stepped back to put some distance between her and Gracie.

Janessa had watched this kind of scene play out on TV dramas a hundred times. She had to be careful not to come in contact with the pregnant villain.

"You don't have to act all cautious around me," Gracie sneered. "My baby is very important. I wouldn't even dream of risking its life just to squabble with you."

"Then why did you come for me in the first place?" Janessa raised an eyebrow. She knew Gracie for what she truly was. Though she looked weak and vulnerable on the outside, she had nothing but evil and malicious thoughts inside her head.

"You're angry, aren't you? Back then, Rayan refused to even take a look at your child, but now that I'm pregnant, he stays by my side every single day."

The corner of Janessa's lip twitched. 'So she wanted to provoke me.' She couldn't deny that Gracie had succeeded with her intention, but she didn't have to let it show.

"Your pregnancy is none of my business. You're much too self-important; stop flattering yourself. Should be more careful with what you're talking... and doing."