

Chapter 224 Be Wise In Choosing Whom To Follow

Janessa proved to be too overbearing for the woman. Her task had been to keep Janessa from entering the property, but if she hindered Mr. Lu's business while doing so, then she would ultimately be done for.

"What's wrong? Why aren't you saying anything? Can't decide yet?" Janessa asked slowly, her tone mocking. She cocked her head to the side and eyed the other woman silently.

It was obvious that this woman had been bribed to do this, but whoever was behind this must not be that clever. Otherwise, they wouldn't be risking the fate of the entire Lu Group like this just to satisfy their own self-interests.

"I..." the woman started. "You..." Since she had already received her pay, it was only right and proper that she saw her task to the end. Besides, she still had to work in the villa in the future. After all, it was a well-paid job, and it was not very tiring. There was still extra money to make if she pleased the lady of the house. Why not?

'But what if this woman wasn't lying? If she really is Mr. Lu's assistant, then I would be offending the master of the house if I delayed his business matters any further.'

The self-proclaimed doorkeeper found herself in a pickle. What should she do now?

She was still weighing her options when a male voice came from behind her.

"Miss Qiu, please come in. Mr. Lu has instructed me to direct you to his study as soon as you arrive at the villa. You are to find him there." It was Willie. He approached them with a smile, and opened the gates without even glancing at the woman guarding the gates.

Janessa nodded and strode past the entryway. She had already gone a few steps forward when she suddenly turned back and leaned over to the woman. "One must be wise in choosing whom to follow," she whispered in a warning tone. "Money is not everything."

The woman's eyes widened, and she stared at Janessa in shock. She seemed taken aback that Janessa knew about her underhanded transaction.

Of course, Janessa had already witnessed her fair share of devious scheming. In any case, the documents were of the utmost priority. She needed to get Rayan's signature on them instead of dawdling with some mindless pawn.

Willie saw and heard everything, but he kept his silence. There were just some things he must not interfere with, things he must pretend to be oblivious of.

Janessa walked across the grounds with her head held high. She looked up at one of the windows upstairs and smirked before following Willie inside.

Behind the curtains of the said window, Gracie angrily threw her phone on the bed and kicked away the stool she had been sitting on. "That useless hag! Can't even stop a single damn person!"

Rayan wasn't in the study when she came in, so Janessa sat on the sofa and waited patiently.

She had been there all of two minutes when the door finally opened, revealing Rayan in regular home clothes.

It was rare for him to dress so casually. He was constantly attending various social activities, anyway, so he was in a suit practically every day.

But now he was wearing a simple housecoat, his hair somewhat disheveled. It swayed lightly along with his movements, and lent a soft and almost gentle aura to his otherwise aloof bearing.

This wasn't what had caught Janessa's attention, however. That housecoat looked familiar.

'I think I might have bought that one at some point.'

Sometime during their marriage, she had gone out shopping and found a set of her favorite lounge clothes. They were comfortable and simple, which made them perfect for her personal tastes.

She had wanted to buy them on the spot, but they were being sold as a limited edition set for couples. They weren't even available as individual items.

Janessa had already made up her mind to get them for herself, so she had ended up buying the whole thing—one set of clothes for a man, and a matching set for a woman.

With their circumstance being what they were, she had never told Rayan about the purchase, much less the fact that she had put them in his closet.

Nor had she ever imagined that he would wear them one day.

"What are you looking at? Where are the documents?" Rayan plopped himself on his massive chair and narrowed his eyes at Janessa.

"Ah, I apologize. Here they are. Corbin said you need to sign them immediately." She placed the folders on his desk according to priority, even as she inwardly chastised herself.

'Stop thinking about ridiculous things. So what if he's wearing something you bought?' He had probably just grabbed the first thing he saw in his wardrobe. There was no point in making a big deal out of the matter.

"Fine." Rayan picked up the documents and reviewed them thoroughly before affixing his signature. As he was handing them back to her, he noticed that Janessa's eyes were fixed on his body. Or, more specifically, his clothes. He wondered if there was anything particularly special about them.

"Janessa? Do I look nice in these clothes?"

That snapped her back to attention. "Hmm? Oh. No. Thank you for your time, Mr. Lu. Please carry on with your private affairs. I'll be taking my leave now."

She grabbed the folders and turned around, trying to suppress the urge to sprint for the door. But his voice stopped her in her tracks just as she was about to open the door.

"Wait a minute. I have something to ask you." Before she knew what he was up to, Rayan had already walked up to her. He pressed one hand against the door, effectively locking it tight into its frame, while his other hand went to her shoulder.

He gazed down at Janessa, their faces so close, their breaths mingled with each other.

"What is it? And stay away from me!" She tried to push against his chest, but she was no match for his strength. He didn't budge an inch.

Janessa stared up at him like a deer caught in headlights. Just what was he trying to do?

"Is there nothing you want to say after stepping foot on this villa again?" Rayan asked, his voice sounding even deeper than usual.

'What does he want me to say?'

She had already returned to this place many times since their divorce; she was numb to it at this point.

Her face twisting into a sneer, Janessa averted her eyes to the window. "Is there even anything worth reminiscing from my time here?"

These walls had brought her nothing but suffering and bottomless pain. In truth, she wouldn't have willingly come back to this villa, but luck was never on her side. She didn't have a choice but to return again and again.

"You speak as if you're denying the three years you spent here. This was once your home." Rayan's fingers slowly traveled from her shoulder and down her arm. His eyes looked a little crazed.

"Let me go, Rayan. I'm not your wife anymore. This is inappropriate." As Janessa spoke, she watched and waited for the perfect moment to land a kick on his groin area.

But Rayan had seen it coming, and he was well-prepared. His hand shot out and caught her ankle before it made contact.

"Is Rylan aware of your violent tendencies?" he taunted. "Or is he clueless, since he never had a chance to do something like this with you? I bet he won't be able to satisfy you anyway." Even though he was the one who had brought it up, Rayan found himself in a state of unease as he pictured Janessa entangling with Rylan.

"You degenerate! How can you say such foul things with a straight face? Do you fear nothing at all?"

What kind of person would even think of these scandalous thoughts about their peers?

"Are you mad because I was right? Don't think I didn't notice the way you were looking at me since you arrived. It's obvious you miss those days when we..." Rayan scoffed and rolled his eyes. "Judging by your track record, I'm very certain that Rylan could never satisfy you." Unfortunately, I can't satisfy you either." With that, he finally released her. His face was bright with triumph, and a smug little smirk was dancing on his lips.

Janessa knew better than anyone that his words weren't only groundless, but also pointless, to boot.

Nevertheless, she couldn't help the faint melancholy that came over her. Was she really so loose and promiscuous in Rayan's eyes?

'Let him think what he wants to think. My relationship with Rylan is none of his business anyway.'

Janessa raised her chin and shot Rayan a look of defiance. "You have never satisfied me, either." She mustered all her strength to push him away then, and the documents she had been carrying fell into a heap on the floor.

Janessa quickly bent over to pick up the papers, paying no mind to the man who was losing his balance and was about to fall as well. She gathered the documents and rushed out of the villa. If only she had control over her fortunes, she would make it so that she would never have to come to this place again for the rest of her life.