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Chapter 228 A Special Dinner

Because of the day's debacle, Rayan was in a foul mood for the rest of the afternoon. It was fortunate that there were no more documents in need of his signature.

Otherwise, Janessa just might suffer another bout of his anger.

Later, when she was about to get off work, a message from Rylan came in. "Oh kind and beautiful Miss Qiu, will I be lucky enough to share a special dinner with you tonight?"

Janessa stared at her phone screen for a while, puzzled by his meaning.

What was he talking about?

"A special dinner?"

"Someone promised me a meal specially prepared by caring hands."

'Ah, that's right.' She had indeed promised to cook for Rylan. But wouldn't it be awkward to do that now?

She had been rather complacent when she'd made the offer because Leona and Alana were still around. Now that Janessa lived all by herself...

She shook her head. A promise was still a promise, regardless of a change in circumstances.

"Okay, I'll stop by the supermarket to buy some ingredients. Let's meet up at my place." Janessa tidied her desk and picked up her purse. Just as she was about to rise from her seat, however, she caught a glimpse of Rayan zooming past the hall like a gust of wind. He was probably going downstairs, too.

Janessa plopped back in her chair, and waited for another ten minutes before finally leaving the office.

As soon as she walked out of the building, she spotted Rylan's ostentatious car parked right beside the gates of the Lu Group premises.

'It's just a meal, ' she grumbled to herself. 'Why did he bring such a conspicuous car?'

"What are you doing here?" she called out as she approached the man.

"To pick you up, of course. Come on, let's buy the ingredients together." Rylan's tone was smooth and easy, as if they had done this kind of thing many times in the past.

Needless to say, his words would be easily misunderstood by others.

Janessa managed an awkward chuckle, then she hurried inside his car, embarrassed at being a temporary spectacle. Around them, people were gawking at and pointing at Rylan's flashy car.

He didn't seem to notice the stares, though. He slid into the driver's seat and happily cruised through the streets and to the nearest supermarket.

Once inside, Rylan wordlessly pulled a shopping cart and obediently followed behind Janessa as they wound through the shelves.

"Is there anything you don't want to eat?" she asked as she inspected some vegetables on the shelf. To any stranger, it sounded like a normal conversation between couples, one where they asked what the other wanted for dinner.

Rylan liked this setup very much. He beamed at Janessa and said, "Nope. I can eat anything."

"All right, then let's have braised spareribs, sweet and sour fish, spicy sliced beef, and..." she drifted off as she took inventory of the ingredients in their cart. What else could she make with these?

She turned to ask Rylan for some ideas, only to find him staring at her with a strange look in his eyes. "What are you looking at?"

"Nothing, I just thought you look a bit like my mother. She used to do this while shopping, too." He sounded so serious for some reason.

"Oh, please!" Janessa rolled her eyes jokingly. "I certainly don't have a son as clingy as you." She looked at the shelves again, then decided to buy some vegetables. She should make some wax gourd soup to finish the menu. 'There, all set.'

They made quick work of their shopping, and soon enough they were ready to pay the bill.

"Hey," Rylan said all of a sudden. "How come you didn't buy some snacks? Girls like snacks, don't they?" He cocked his head to the side, surprise written on his face.

All the women he knew were fond of munching on snacks at odd hours of the day. As far as he could tell, they always kept snacks within reach at all times, even if they constantly complained about gaining weight.

"I'm fine. I seldom eat those anyway." To be precise, it wasn't that Janessa didn't like to eat snacks. She just found it troublesome to lose the additional weight that they brought.

Rylan clicked his tongue. "A girl should look like a girl." He knew why she was holding back, and he didn't like it. In his opinion, it shouldn't be a big deal whether a woman liked to eat or not. In fact, he preferred girls with good appetites, and detested the skinny ones the most. After all, no man in his right mind would want to hold a pile of bones in his arms.

Rylan liked plump and curvy girls.

With that, he grabbed Janessa's hand and pulled her toward the snacks section. As they passed by the first shelf, he noticed her gaze lingering on some of the chips.

He knew right away that she also enjoyed snacking on bits of food.

"No, thanks," Janessa said stubbornly. "I don't want to eat these things, I really don't." Janessa didn't want to eat snacks, but she couldn't refuse Rylan.

"Well, I want to eat them." Rylan paid no attention to her as he strode along the shelves and plucked snack after snack without even looking at the items or the price tags. In less than two minutes, their shopping cart was filled to the brim.

Janessa thought that was the end of it. But Rylan had already grabbed another empty cart, and was already piling it up with another load of snacks.

"What are you doing? Are you planning to open your own mini-grocery store?" Janessa blurted out, confused and worried about the sheer amount of junk food.

She had only invited him to dinner, for goodness' sake!

"Well, I accepted your proposal." Rylan turned away to grab a third cart, but Janessa rushed to stop him.

"Even if you want snacks, you don't have to buy so many! They're only going to waste."

Seeing how adamant she was, he finally relented.

"Fine, let's go pay."

Janessa nodded and asked him to go first. As Rylan trotted to the cashier, she surreptitiously grabbed a few of the snacks from the cart and thrust them back into the shelves they passed by.

There was no point in buying so many; she could never eat them all. So Janessa threw the snacks back to the shelves casually.

By the time they finally arrived at the cashier counter, the snacks in the shopping carts were significantly less than before.

It was too late when Rylan realized what she had done.

Yet despite Janessa's efforts, they still ended up with four large bags of food.

"You bought too much," she said glumly. She thought back to the cashier's expression when they placed their purchases on the counter. Janessa couldn't help but cringe in embarrassment again.

'Never have two adults buy so much junk food in one go, I believe, ' she thought.

"Wait for me here," Ryan said, nonplussed. He placed the bags at Janessa's feet and jogged out of the supermarket.

He was gone before she could ask where he was going. Janessa glanced down at the shopping bags and sighed.

Before long, Rylan came back with two burly men.

"Just these four bags," he said lightly, pointing at their purchases.

Without a word, the men bent over and effortlessly picked up the bags.

They didn't break any sweat at all.

"Who are they?" Janessa asked cautiously.

"People who assist in moving heavy stuff. Let's go." Rylan and Janessa breezed out of the supermarket, while the two huge men followed close behind.

'Is that part of the supermarket's customer service?' she thought incredulously.

Their so-called "helpers" deposited the bags into the trunk of Rylan's car, and tagged along all the way to Janessa's home.

They were just as efficient in unloading them, too. Janessa went straight to her unit, all three men in tow.

The lights were on when she opened the door.

"What the..."

"Step back!"

Rylan moved quickly and pulled Janessa behind him, entering the apartment first. As soon as he stepped inside, he saw a woman wearing a facial mask, lounging on the couch.

Both she and Rylan cried out in unison.

"Ah!"

"Ah!"

"Who are you? How did you get in here?" the woman demanded in a shrill and panicked voice. Rylan whirled around to stare at Janessa, bewilderment written all over his face.

After hearing the woman's voice, Janessa patted Rylan's shoulder and stepped forward. "It's okay; everything's okay."