

Chapter 231 He Really Had No Chance

Downstairs Janessa's apartment, Rayan was smoking beside his car. He created circular smoke rings with each exhale.

Smoking was like a game to Rayan. He strove to win, therefore, he even perfected the game of smoking. Rayan was always different from others, even when, like in this instance, it pertained to smoking.

"You did not leave?" Running downstairs, Rylan felt awkward seeing Rayan leaning against the car, waiting for him.

Rayan blew circular smoke rings which faded away with each and every exhale.

"If I leave, your attempt to catch me will backfire." Rayan had seen through Rylan's mind, for they were practically the same person.

Glancing at each other was enough to make one aware of the other's needs, without any spoken words.

"It seems you know what I want to say to you, even before I have said it." Like lions clawing at each other, fighting to take over the pride, Rayan and Rylan fought whenever they met each other.

The two men's eyes were overflowing with rage, it was clear that a war was about to ensue.

"Men don't say. They settle problems through other methods. Don't let me look down upon you." Rayan threw down the cigarette butt and thereafter stepped on it to put it out.

After putting out the cigarette, Rayan kicked the air victoriously. Rayan did this almost to portray that if he wanted, he could easily stamp on Rylan and Janessa's relationship and put it out.

Getting riled up by this tacit threat, Rylan clenched his fists, trying his best not to allow his temper to get the better of him.

"Tell me then; what do you want to settle this? You seem like you are ready to fight me," said Rayan, with a smirk on his face. Rylan stood still and stared at Rayan, with his nostril's flaring. Rylan could not conceal the disgusted look he had on his face.

"Would you like for us to go somewhere and sort this out, like men?" asked Rayan, attempting further to get Rylan riled up. Opening his car door with one hand, Rayan stared at Rylan. It was as if he was waiting for Rylan to nod and say, "Challenge accepted."

Rayan looked at Rylan disdainfully, he saw himself as superior and Rylan as inferior.

"Of course! Let us go," said Rylan, evidently irate. "I have had enough of you. I feel full with anger and the only way I can digest it, is if you and I sort this out today!" continued Rylan. Rylan said this while simultaneously jumping in his car.

With a scornful smile, Rayan got into the car and then rushed off.

Rylan's car followed Rayan's closely.

When Janessa drew the curtain, she saw their cars pulling away and driving off. She became disconcerted because she realized that the two cars were following each other.

"Do not concern yourself too much with that, Janessa. Men solve things differently from us women," said Alana, attempting to console Janessa. "Please come here, Janessa. I have something I need to ask you." Alana was laying on Janessa's bed. While waving to get Janessa's attention, she began taking off her gown.

"Hey, hey, why are you taking off your clothes?" asked Janessa, clearly bewildered. "I am a woman, just like you Janessa. Why would you even be so shocked at me taking off my clothes in your presence?" Janessa had an innate urge to cover her chest, since seeing Alana stripping made her feel stripped herself.

"What were you thinking anyway? I obviously have clothes under my gown. I would never leave my body completely bare for you to gawk at!" said Alana, laughing hysterically. Alana was being truthful. She completely removed her gown to unveil clothes underneath it.

Only then did Janessa feel relaxed enough to lay on the bed. She then sat up, with eyes open wide and arms outstretched, Janessa asked Alana, "Why? Why did you suddenly return?" Janessa was shocked at the way her voice began to quiver.

Janessa really wanted to say was, "I thought you didn't want to be my friend anymore."

Janessa eventually decided against it and did not say that out loud.

"I..." mumbled Alana. Alana's smile relented and she then leaned against the headboard, as if needing its support. She exhaled sharply, trying to garner the right words to say and then she slowly began to speak.

"Actually..." Alana managed to say. "I realize that all you are doing and all that you did before was for my own good," declared Alana. "I really could not find a way to forgive you at that time. I needed more time to forgive, heal and eventually understand why you had done it," continued Alana. "You knew how much Eric meant to me, yet you chose to hide the news from me." "Not only that, you decided, with a complete disregard for my feelings for Eric, to take all the things he sent to me and kept them away from me. I..." Alana said trailing off, while overcome with a recollection of something. "I was terrified because you were the one he loved and I was afraid that I would lose my best friend and the man I loved altogether," revealed Alana. "I..." Alana became indistinct. Choking on her sobs, Alana had become greatly overcome with emotions.

Alana regretted what she had done. That day replayed vividly in her mind. It was simply too much and she could not just accept what had happened like it was nothing.

"That is why I dared not tell you," Janessa professed. Alas! Janessa felt herself begin to have some empathy and sympathy towards Alana and a sense of understanding for her feelings.

It was hard for anyone to accept such an occurrence all of a sudden. The return of Alana clearly was a vindication for Janessa. It meant she was forgiven for what she had done.

After days of Alana's departure, coming home and finding Alana at home filled Janessa with so much of hope and happiness.

Janessa would have never been able to forgive herself if she had lost her best friend as a result of her actions. Their friendship was so strong, it had always seemed like any problem that presented itself would always be a triviality that could be sorted out.

"I now actually realize that it was not your fault." Alana, trying to hold back her tears, found herself balling her eyes out.

"Alana!" exclaimed Janessa, while reaching out to Alana.

"I now see how you and Eric were doing that for my own good. I just could not accept it, but now, I will forever realize that you both had my best interest at heart. I moved away from home seeking to escape the hold my mother had over me. I thought that since Eric had not contacted me, he would at least contact you. I believed that his calling you would mean that I could get information pertaining to him from you. I had, for a long time, been struggling with this. I really wanted to know more about Eric, like what was going on with him, but I dared not ask. I was afraid."

Alana lowered her head in dismay and planted her head on her hands. She had always regarded Janessa as her one true best friend. Alana always knew Janessa to do right by her and did everything for her good. Still, Alana couldn't help but suspect Janessa to have been doing something with Eric behind her back. That thought troubled her.

"I know what you're afraid of but you have to believe me now when I tell, once again, nothing ever happened between me and Eric," said Janessa reassuringly. "You fell in love with an amazing man, at first glance. Fate had brought the two of you together. It may feel like it did not work for you and him but I believe that you and Eric will meet again one day," Janessa continued. "When Eric becomes a better man and fixes his ways, I believe that nothing will ever be able to stop your amazing love for each other," said Janessa, as she rested her hand on Alana's shoulder. Although Janessa attempted to console Alana, she was not certain about whether or not Eric would wait for Alana and fix their relationship. Janessa was, at that point, saying anything to lift Alana's spirit.

Janessa was cognizant of the fact that there would be many probabilities in the future, one of them being that Eric and Alana did not find their way back to each other.

"We have spent enough time babbling about me and Eric. Let us talk about you now," said Alana, with a smile returning to her face. "Tell me, why did you decide to cook for Rayan today? Do you..." Alana continued, with a laugh interrupting her line of questioning. "...like him? Do you like Rayan, once again?" asked Alana excitedly. Alana felt slightly nervous after asking this question. She knew, better than anyone how badly things had ended between Rayan and Janessa. There were still a lot of pent up emotions between Rayan and Janessa.

"I do not like him," said a shriveled Janessa. "Though I am aware that it is impossible for me and Rayan to be together for the rest of our lives, watching him leave surprisingly made me feel pity for him," continued Janessa, also surprised at this revelation as it left her lips. "I was married to Rayan for three years and could never understand why he was the way he was but now, I suddenly understand why he is the way he is. His family had never trusted him and the decisions he made. He had a very dire need to prove himself right to his family. It seemed Rayan could never win. He did not like the person he had at home and the one he liked, was forced to leave. He did not have a person or a place that made him feel secure. Rayan did not even have a person to hug him to make his bad days feel bearable. Without the power that was a by-product of the wealth, Rayan had nothing. He was just an impoverished man.

I never want to see Rayan starving or in need of anything. Where I can extend a helping hand to him, I will do so. It is truly no trouble for me. I used to cook for him when we were married for three years. I see no problem with me cooking for him just this once."

Janessa had not realized that she knew so much about Rayan, or even understood him this much. She could not understand how she managed to look past the barriers that Rayan had built up, to be able to see through his heart.

"What about Rylan?" Alana asked, flabbergasted. "What do you think?" retorted Janessa.

"I have explained to you before that I am not in the mind frame of dating and marriage. Falling in love is not something I am looking forward to at this juncture in my life. I think you forget that I was once married and I do not intend to dabble in marriage any time soon, or at all. Marriage is not something to be taken lightly. Without warning, it can go from the happiest thing in your life to a tomb that attempts to bury you alive." Janessa was uttering these words almost nonchalantly, as she lay on the bed. She was sad that she had gone through all she had but she realized she was wiser because of it.

"Alana, whether it is Gordon or Rylan, nothing will change the fact that they are just my best friends. I hope you understand this clearly now and never attempt to assume that either one of them is my boyfriend."

Alana nodded in agreement. She finally saw that Janessa had made up her mind and that she was not interested in either one of the men. Alana's brother definitely did not stand a chance.