

## Chapter 246 Call Him By His Name

The cars screeched to a halt in front of the hospital.

The staff had been informed in advance, so a handful of doctors were already waiting by the entrance when they arrived. As soon as the car doors opened, they hurried over and helped Janessa take Alana out of the vehicle.

One of the doctors was a muscular young man, and he easily took Alana in his arms and carried her to a stretcher.

They were very careful about it, having been informed that the patient was the young lady of the Shen family. That made Alana the young boss of the hospital itself. If anything happened to her under their watch, every single employee would be in trouble.

"Careful, careful! Take her to the VIP ward as soon as possible."

Janessa tried to keep up with the medical team as they dashed through the hallways, but they were too fast. Not to mention the fact that she was wearing high heels.

"Ugh, why did I wear this today, of all days? Damn it!" She limped forward, still following the direction the doctors were headed, albeit much slower this time. Then she heard two male voices call out her name.

"What happened to you, Janessa?"

"Janessa, what's wrong?"

Gordon and Rylan asked simultaneously as they sidled up on either side of Janessa.

"I'm fine, nothing happened. The staff moved too fast and I couldn't keep up." She was rather embarrassed about her predicament. The attention should be on Alana, who was ill and unconscious.

Why were these two men fussing about her?

"Don't worry, I'm sure Alana will be fine," Gordon said gently. He was still worried about his sister, but he didn't think it could be anything more than a normal fever.

"If you're too tired to walk, I can carry you to her ward,"

Rylan said out of the blue, shocking the other two.

Janessa smiled awkwardly. "No, thanks. I can still manage. I'll get there soon. You guys can go first."

"Why do you look so troubled?" Rylan quipped. "I was just kidding. Don't get so worked up. Anyway, I noticed some color returning to Alana's face on the way here. She should get better in no time. Don't worry." He laughed then, perhaps to lighten the atmosphere, and his eyes turned into twin crescent moons.

Janessa and Gordon exchanged a glance, unsure of what to say.

The trio made their way to the emergency room. When they got there, the doctor's had already managed to lower Alana's temperature. At the sight of Gordon, the doctor hurried out into the hall and approached them.

"Mr. Shen, everything is fine now. Miss Shen only caught a common cold. It was fortunate that you managed to bring down her body temperature on your way here, or her condition would have worsened to pneumonia. For now, her fever has already broken. However, Miss Shen still needs to be kept under observation for another night. If there are no further problems until then, she can get discharged tomorrow."

"I see. Thank you so much, doctor."

The three friends finally relaxed after hearing the news. They heaved a collective sigh as the doctor hobbled away to take care of his other duties.

"I'll go and complete Alana's admission procedure," Janessa offered. "You two can go and check on her first."

"I'll go with you," Rylan said almost instantly, and she found that she couldn't refuse him this time. 'Well, whatever!'

They walked together to the registration desk, and the entire time, Rylan kept his eyes on Janessa.

"Why do you keep staring at me?" she finally asked. "Is there something on my face?" She felt embarrassed about calling him out on it, but she feared that if she didn't say anything soon, she might melt under his gaze.

"No, I just wanted to ask you something."

"Go ahead, then." Janessa paused and turned to face him. Only then did she realize that Rylan was wearing a plain white shirt, jeans, and white sneakers. He looked casual and youthful.

She had been worried about Alana all the way and didn't notice Rylan at all.

"I heard you address Gordon by his first name. How come you're still so formal when it comes to me?" Rylan had been wanting to bring this matter up for a while now.

Janessa had always called him Mr. Feng, or by his full name, Rylan Feng.

He wanted to be addressed more intimately.

"Well... Don't you think it's a little inappropriate to call you by your first name?" Janessa had already considered this in the past, and she had come to the conclusion that there was no better way to address him.

"What I'm saying is, just call me Ry. That's what everyone in my family calls me." Rylan's reply was quick, as though he had expected her initial response.

'Ry?'

If she addressed him this way, it would appear as if she was much closer to him than to Gordon.

"No, I still don't think it's appropriate. I'm not your family, after all." But what Janessa really wanted to say was that she disliked the nuances that went with the intimacy of calling each other by their pet names.

"Don't feel embarrassed. My family all call me like this." Rylan took out his phone and showed her the chatting records with his grandfather.

Sure enough, his grandfather called him by that. Ry...

"See? I wasn't lying. Now, go on and try calling me like that." Rylan put a hand next to his ear and leaned close to Janessa.

"Stop it. There are a lot of people here. I still need to finish Alana's hospitalization formalities." No matter what he said to try and convince her, Janessa was determined not to give in.

In truth, it shouldn't really be a big deal, and she knew this, too. The problem was Rylan's attitude toward her—they both knew it wasn't just innocent friendship. And if she relented to his request now, he might assume that she was giving him the green light to take pursuit.

"Janessa?" he prompted beside her.

"Look, let me make it clear to you once and for all. I know what you're trying to do, so let's both take a step back, and I'll start calling you by Rylan, okay? But even if I call you by your first name, we will still be friends—just friends. We are business partners in the professional world, and we are simply friends in our private lives. I hope you can understand this." She didn't hesitate at all; she nipped it right at the bud and left no room for Rylan to dream for something more.

"I know," he said with a hint of disappointment, but his face cleared in the next second.

It was just a name, anyway. And it was also a good start.

For all they knew, another chance might open up for him and Janessa to get together.

"If that's the case, then that's good." Janessa cleared her throat. "Rylan. There, are you satisfied now?" She hadn't known Rylan for a very long time, but he always acted like they were friends for years. She wasn't used to it.

"Okay, let's go!" Rylan beamed at her, his warm smile giving off a feeling of dancing in the spring breeze.

Janessa could only shake her head and roll her eyes helplessly. Before they knew it, they were finally at the registration desk.

A lot of people were queuing up, and they arrived to be the last in line. Rylan looked down at Janessa's heels and pointed at the waiting area, where rows of benches were located. "Go and sit. I'll wait in line. I'll call you over when it's almost my turn."

"What? No, I can't let you queue by yourself. The line is so long."

"All the more reason for you to sit and wait. Your heels will give you trouble if you stand for too long." Rylan placed his hands on her shoulders and ushered her to an empty seat, forcing her into it.

"I'm a man, and your friend. Why won't you let me do this? Alana is my friend, too."

Now that she thought about it, Alana and Rylan did get along very well.

Convinced, Janessa sat back and decided to wait obediently.

"Fine, but if you get tired, just text me, and I'll replace you in line."

"Ah, just hearing those words makes me think it's worthwhile to die of exhaustion if it meant you would care for me so much."

"Bugger off!" Janessa punched his shoulder playfully. Whatever warmth she had felt just now disappeared. Just when she had finally begun to relax around him, Rylan just had to ruin everything with his innuendos.

A few feet away from them stood a man, who had been watching their exchange since the beginning.

The force of his stare caused Janessa to turn in his direction, and when she saw him, she felt like she had just been caught in the middle of a clandestine tryst. She instinctively shrank back into her seat.

"It seems that I have interrupted you."