

Chapter 247 What Are You Doing Here

"Rayan. What are you doing here?" Janessa asked before she could stop herself. A strange feeling crept inside her chest as she stared at the man, though she maintained a look of nonchalance on the outside.

'Shouldn't he be at the villa right now?' she thought, her mind racing. 'Why is he here?'

"Why, am I not allowed to be here?" he retorted as he sauntered over. "How else would I see such a wonderful scene if I don't come here? Miss Qiu is really skilled at acting. I never even knew that, despite having known you for so long." Of course, Rayan was in no position to say any of this, but his mouth was running off with the turmoil he felt upon seeing Janessa with Rylan.

"It has nothing to do with you," she said, turning away and looking at Rylan, who had already returned to the queue.

Her actions only fueled Rayan's anger.

He remembered his conversation with Corbin back at his office, and his face darkened.

When Corbin had delivered some documents to him earlier, the assistant had casually mentioned Janessa's absence.

"Miss Qiu called to say that she has other matters to attend to, so she won't be coming in tomorrow, either."

"Where is she right now?"

"She seems to be in the hospital. I heard that her friend was ill." After giving out the information "unintentionally", Corbin left the office.

Rayan strode out of his office soon after.

He had initially thought that Janessa would be happy and grateful to see him, but they ended up arguing the moment they saw each other.

The more he thought about it, the hotter his fury burned. Without a word, Rayan grabbed her hand and dragged her toward the exit.

"Let go of me! What do you think you're doing?" Janessa was still struggling with her heels, so she took care not to flail so hard for fear of hurting herself.

"Janessa?" Just then, Rylan turned around to check in on her, only to see her being forcibly taken away by Rayan. He rushed after them.

Unburdened by his casual wears and sneakers, he quickly caught up to them. "What are you doing, Rayan?" he demanded, seizing the other man by the arm.

"None of your business. Let go!" Rayan glared at Rylan, his eyes flashing dangerously.

"Let go of Janessa first. Can't you see she can barely stand on her feet? Can you even call yourself a man after this?" Rylan looked her up and down with a worried expression, then took her arm and tried to pull her behind him.

He made sure not to pull too hard, though, because Rayan was still clutching her other arm.

"Don't worry, Rylan," Janessa said calmly. You can go ahead and finish the formalities. I have something to discuss with him anyway." She didn't want there to be any conflict between these two men.

At the end of the day, they were still business partners. If a rift came between them, it would have a negative impact on both companies.

Rylan bristled at her words. "But he—"

"Don't worry. I'll be fine. He's still my boss, remember? He won't do anything to me." Janessa patted Rylan on the shoulder in an attempt to reassure him.

"Okay, if you say so. But I'll be close by. If anything happens, call me right away." He wasn't planning on letting them out of his sight.

Rylan moved to a spot that put him out of earshot, but gave him a perfect view of Janessa and Rayan.

"Rylan? Seriously?" Rayan echoed sarcastically once they were alone. "Since when have you two been using first names?" His voice held the slightest hint of jealousy.

He had never imagined that these two would start calling each other without "mister" and "miss" in such a short time.

"Mr. Lu, is this what you came here for?" Janessa asked, though she kept her eyes averted. She didn't have the guts to face him. Even just standing this close to him made her recall all that had happened in the bar yesterday.

She thoughtlessly touched a finger to her lips.

"I have some important business, of course. Tell me Miss Qiu, as my assistant, how come you didn't ask me for permission when you took a leave of absence? Don't you know that disappearing without permission would be counted against your performance record?" At that moment, Rayan became the cold and domineering boss who ruthlessly criticized his employees.

But Janessa was undaunted. She raised her chin and replied, "I may be your assistant, but my immediate superior is Corbin. He's the one who arranges my workload, so it's only natural that I come to him for permission." Indeed, Corbin had told her on her first day to come to him if she encountered any problems with work.

Wasn't it supposed to be Rayan's instruction, too?

Regardless, the fact remained that Corbin was her direct superior. As far as policies went, she hadn't done anything wrong.

As such, Rayan had no right to blame her for this issue.

"Well, I'm the one who assigns every single duty that goes around the CEO's office," Rayan countered. "You've been working there for more than half a year already; do you still not know this?"

He was practically fibbing now, but if he hadn't come, then he wouldn't have had the chance to speak with her.

"You..." Janessa took a deep breath to steady herself. "Mr. Lu, I've known since my first day in your company that all my work is arranged by Corbin. If you need anything from me, you should call him and relay your orders. Right now, I am on my free time. I apologize, but I'm afraid I can't talk to you any further." Janessa mustered all her strength and managed to shake off Rayan's grip. Then she turned around and walked away from him.

"Janessa, wait. Do you even still take me as your boss?" Rayan quickly clamped a hand on her shoulder and held her in place.

"Like I said, Mr. Lu, I have personal business to attend to. Can you please stop making trouble out of nothing? Just go back and enjoy your time with your first love, and don't bother me again, all right?" It was getting burdensome. Ever since Rayan had found out about Gracie's schemes, it seemed like Janessa ran to him more often.

He had always taken Gracie's side on everything, so he couldn't possibly be doing this on purpose. Had he broken up with her then? But Janessa had never heard news of it.

She scowled as she pondered Rayan's purpose for showing up in front of her frequently.

"Personal business?" he growled. "Like what, having a date in the hospital with him? I must say, you really have a unique style in choosing a place." As he said this, he craned his neck and shot Rylan a glare.

"Don't go too far! I'm warning you." Janessa clenched her hands into fists, trying hard to stop herself from beating Rayan up.

He used to say these exact same words to her before their divorce.

He had treated her cruelly according to his whims, without a thought for how she might feel. Now that they were no longer husband and wife, why was he still unwilling to let her go?

Just what had she done wrong in her previous life? Why did she have to be entangled with a man like Rayan?

"What are you getting so worked up for? You dare to do it, yet you don't want other people to talk about it? You looked like you love each other so deeply just now. Why don't you just admit it?" Rayan drew closer as he spoke, until he was looming over Janessa, their faces just a few inches from each other.

"You... I don't want to talk to you now. If you persist on stirring this matter up, you will definitely regret it in the future."

"All I did was talk about your obvious relationship with Rylan Feng. Why are you suddenly so angry?"

Janessa finally snapped. She slammed her foot on his, making sure to dig her stiletto heels on his toes.

"This is only a small punishment for your impudence. I'm warning you, Rayan. Don't you challenge my patience any more than this!"

She spun around and left without a backward glance.

Rayan was bent over his injured foot, his face twisted with pain.

Rylan had seen it all happen, and he rushed forward as soon as Janessa walked away from the other man. They left the scene side by side.