

Chapter 271 A Video Clip

When Rayan's meeting called for a half-time break, Corbin rushed beside him and whispered something in his ear. After hearing the assistant's words, Rayan declared an extension of the break and strode out of the conference room.

He went straight into his office, where Alana was pacing anxiously.

"You have something urgent to tell me?" Rayan asked right off the bat. He knew that she and Janessa were best friends. What had she come here for?

If Alana had any problems, shouldn't she come to Gordon for help?

But Rayan kept his thoughts to himself and waited for her to speak.

As for Alana, she was quite taken aback by Rayan's bluntness. If she had known that he would be so cold to her, she wouldn't have come. Unfortunately, Gordon was currently away on a business trip. He wasn't answering any of her calls. She had no other person to turn to except for Rayan.

Annoyed by his rudeness, Alana pursed her lips, reluctant to speak her mind.

"What's the matter?" Rayan prompted, sounding a little impatient this time. His brows were knitted with traces of disgust, too.

Alana debated with herself for a while more before deciding to just tell him everything.

In any case, there was no other person in A City who could help her with her problem.

She took a deep breath and began talking. "Janessa's is now your ex-wife, so I understand if you might not want to help her with this matter. Even so, a part of me is expecting that you will spare her just this once. It isn't easy to stay in a foreign country to begin with, and now she's run into some possible trouble. I hope you can find it in your heart to be generous."

In addition to the fact that she was intimidated by Rayan, Alana was also worried about Janessa's reaction in the future. She knew her friend would flip out if she discovered that Alana had asked Rayan for help.

It would be best if Janessa wouldn't be angry. Nonetheless, even if she would, Alana would only hope that Janessa would forgive her for trying to do the right thing.

"What's happened to her?" Rayan demanded, his tone changing from annoyance to concern. It was like he had changed into a different person in the blink of an eye.

Alana couldn't be troubled with it, though. What she needed right now was assurance that he could help Janessa.

Dispensing with her earlier hesitation, she explained the situation and told Rayan everything she knew.

"I told Janessa to buy me several things on her trip..." she said, planning to start from the beginning.

"Just get to the point!" Rayan had neither the time nor the patience to listen to trivial details. He only wanted to know what had happened to Janessa.

A bad feeling had hovered above him these past two days. He had been constantly distracted, worried that something bad would happen to her while she was away.

Now that he had heard Alana's purpose in coming to his office, his apprehensions turned into full-blown distress.

"I... I asked her to buy some stuff for me. We had a video call last night. It was the middle of the day on her side, and she was preparing to head out. Our chat was brief, and I fell asleep after hanging up. When I woke up this morning, I saw that she sent me a video clip, but this one was weird. It looks like she was cut off just after recording. It gave me a bad vibe, and I can't help suspecting..." Alana glanced up, afraid to say the words out loud. But when she saw Rayan's thunderous expression, her thoughts just burst out of her lips.

"I suspect that something has happened to her." Alana said the last sentence after observing Rayan's reaction.

She knew how bad their marriage had been, of course, but after that one time when Janessa had cooked for Rayan, she couldn't help but think that the couple still shared something special between them.

And that was why, after failing to contact her brother multiple times, Alana had resolved to turn to Rayan for help.

"Show me the video." Rayan's worry had been nagging at him before Alana had even finished speaking. Still, he needed to watch the video himself, just to make sure that their hunch was valid.

"It's here on my phone." Alana fumbled for her device and showed him the clip.

It was indeed short, just a little over ten seconds.

They couldn't even make anything out of it. With the phone still in his hand, Rayan moved over to his desk and used a cable to connect the phone to his computer.

His fingers flew over the keys as Alana watched from the sides. She had no idea what he was doing, but she didn't dare to stop him.

Since Rayan seemed invested in the matter, surely he would do everything to get to the bottom of it.

So Alana watched and waited in silence.

Rayan was brilliant and efficient. A moment later, rows upon rows of data flashed on his screen. A tab was open to the video Janessa had sent.

He had slowed it down by several degrees, which made it easier to discern what was happening in the clip.

After carefully peering at it for a few seconds, he finally found a clue. There was a mirror displayed on the shop window just behind Janessa. When she had begun recording, the mirror was within the frame of her mobile camera.

And through the mirror, they could see a man slowly approaching Janessa from behind.

Although there was no other conclusive evidence, it was obvious that she had been followed all the way to this spot.

In the last few seconds before the video ended, the reflection showed the man reaching out for Janessa. His hand even appeared in the frame as she continued to record.

"I'm afraid you're right," Rayan rasped after a while. His desire to fly over to Y Country had grown beyond reason now.

"Then what should we do? All I know is that Janessa traveled to Y Country. I don't have the specific details of their accommodations." Alana wasn't lying—she really didn't know. Janessa had been so secretive, only telling her that she had landed safely and not to worry.

She hadn't even told Alana the city they were in.

"Whom did she travel with?" Rayan already knew the answer, but he still had to ask.

"She... She left with Rylan. You know, the other guy who was there when we had dinner at our place." Alana was oblivious to the fact that the two men already knew each other, so she tried to elaborate.

"I see. You can go back now. I'll take it from here."

Alana blinked, not quite believing that she had managed to persuade Rayan without much effort.

She looked at him anew, perhaps even with some admiration.

However, her past knowledge of this man and all the emotions that came with still proved to be stronger.

"Mr. Lu, I know it may be appropriate for me to make this request, but I want to go with you. I'm really worried about Janessa." She couldn't just sit at home and wait after confirming that Janessa had been kidnapped. If she could, she would be on the next flight to Y Country.

"It could be a very dangerous situation. Just stay here and wait for my news. Janessa will be fine." How could he let anything happen to Janessa? Rayan would bring her back safely, no matter what it took.

He didn't say these words out loud, though.

It was enough that he knew.

Alana stepped forward and tried to protest, but Rayan was already busying himself with something else. He didn't even look at her again. Left with no choice, Alana gingerly picked up her phone from his desk and trudged out of his office.

In any case, she had faith that he would bring back Janessa safe and sound.

Once Alana was gone, Corbin walked into Rayan's office. "Mr. Lu, the board members are waiting for you to resume the meeting."

"What time is the flight you booked for me?" Rayan's hands never stopped working as he spoke.

"At three o'clock this afternoon."