

Chapter 279 Trauma

Why was Gracie calling her again? And why was she asking her about Rayan? Had she finally gone insane?

"Are you out of your mind? Why did you call me if you wanna know where Rayan is?"

Her questions were met by snide laughter from the other end of the line. Janessa could hear the sneer in Gracie's voice when she spoke. "Maybe you're the one who's crazy. This is Rayan's phone! Now tell me where he is. What did you do with him?"

Taken by surprise, Janessa accidentally bit into her chopsticks as she put a piece of meat in her mouth.

This was Rayan's phone?

She pulled it away from her ear to get a better look. Sure enough, it wasn't hers.

Their phones were of the same brand and model. When she had been discharged from the hospital, the staff had given her all of Rayan's stuff along with hers. She had probably put his phone in her purse and forgot all about it.

As luck would have it, she just had to answer a call from Gracie.

"Hey! Say something. You dare to get together with him, yet you don't want to admit it out loud? Where are you, Janessa? Tell me right now." Gracie was still as impertinent as ever, ordering Janessa as though she were her servant.

"What can you even do when he has me by his side? If you want to know so badly, you can find his whereabouts yourself." With that, Janessa ended the call and blacklisted Gracie's number.

She couldn't just turn off Rayan's phone, after all. If anything happened at the company, Corbin would need a way to contact the CEO.

"What's wrong?" Rylan asked.

"Nothing. I just received a call from some crazy, old hag. It ruined my mood." It was a good thing that she was already finishing up with her meal when Gracie had called. Otherwise, her dinner would have also been ruined.

Rylan hummed tentatively and said nothing more.

They went back to the hospital shortly after. Rylan accompanied her all the way to the door of Rayan's ward. "Thank you for everything," Janessa said, turning to him. "You should head back and get some rest. I'll stay and watch over Rayan."

"It hasn't even been a day since you got out of the hospital. Why don't you head back and sleep comfortably? I'll stay and watch him. If Rayan wakes up, I'll be sure to call you right away." Rylan had been hoping to return to the hotel with Janessa, but a part of him also knew that it was only wishful thinking.

"No, you should go. You've been busy these past few days looking after us." With Janessa's insistence, Rylan had no choice but to leave.

There was a small lounge near the ICU ward for the family members to rest. The nurse was moved when she saw the way Janessa looked at Rayan through the window.

"Please don't worry too much, Mrs. Lu. Mr. Lu will be just fine." Obviously, the nurse thought that they were still husband and wife.

"Actually... no, never mind. Thank you. I'd like to go inside, please." Janessa wanted to correct the other woman at first, but eventually changed her mind. Titles didn't matter at this point. Her main concern was Rayan's recovery, and how soon he might wake up.

Just as she had done the day before, Janessa sat next to his bed and chattered away about their past.

"You used to be so aloof and mean to me. I was really surprised when you came to save me. Why did you come alone, though? Why didn't you fight back even once? You were such an idiot. What if the police came too late and Noble really beat you to death?" Without her knowing, tears were already streaming down her cheeks.

A drop fell on Rayan's hand. It was hot and wet, and the sensation coursed through his veins. His fingers moved.

"Rayan? Rayan can you hear me? Are you conscious? If you can hear me, please move your fingers again." Janessa stared at his hand with disbelief. It couldn't have been an illusion.

The disbelief quickly turned into hope and excitement.

She held her breath and fixed her eyes on his hand. Just when Janessa was starting to think she had just imagined it, Rayan's fingers twitched again.

His movement was more forceful than the last time.

"Doctor! He has regained consciousness." Janessa rushed out of the ward and called the medical staff on duty.

A doctor checked Rayan's vitals, then turned to Janessa with relief. "Mr. Lu is showing signs of waking up, but it appears like something is holding him back. This is a psychological response. For him to fully regain consciousness, he needs to overcome the trauma that's holding him back first."

After explaining the situation a bit more, the doctor left the room.

Janessa gazed down at Rayan, wondering what could possibly be keeping him from returning to reality.

"What is it? What are you agonizing over? Won't you let me know? Come into my dreams and tell me." Shortly after, her exhaustion took over. Janessa settled on the chair and leaned over the side of the bed, holding Rayan's hand as she drifted off to sleep.

It might have been the force of her desire or simply desperation, but she did see him in her dream.

It was like watching a play through a wall of glass, though. Janessa couldn't get inside, much less talk to him.

"Rayan?" she called out. Her emotions took over, and she slapped the glass repeatedly, trying to get his attention.

However, no matter how hard she tried, there was nothing for her to do in the dream but to stand by and watch everything unfold.

On the other side of the glass, a much younger Rayan was walking with a young girl trailing behind him. She wasn't pretty, but she was wide-eyed and looked innocent.

It was no wonder that she was so devoted to him.

"What's wrong with you today?"

"It's nothing."

The scene changed. This time, Rayan was handing the girl a tall cup of milk tea.

"Behind you! Someone is about to attack!" Janessa understood then. This was the incident of Rayan and Ally's abduction.

Noble's words seemed to have embedded deeply in Rayan's heart, and the guilt was eating away at him. This was what was stopping Rayan from waking up.

Janessa watched helplessly as a thug knocked Rayan out. The scene changed again, showing Ally being taken to another room while Rayan was taken away. The last thing she saw was Ally's look of resignation as the door closed on her face.

And then everything went black. After a few seconds, Janessa was looking at the corner of the street again, with Rayan asking Ally what was wrong.

The horrible montage repeated over and over. Janessa couldn't bear to watch any more after seeing it twice, but it still kept playing.

Janessa jolted awake. She reached out and gently touched Rayan's forehead. "It's not your fault. Noble has been nursing his obsession because of his sister, but he was wrong to pin the blame on you. You can't torture yourself like this. You have to wake up."

She couldn't tell if her words reached him or not, but sweat slowly beaded on his face.

"Don't worry, Rayan. I will help you get through this!" Psychological traumas like this needed to be nipped in the bud in order to be resolved.

Janessa gave Rayan's hand another gentle pat before leaving the ward.

It had gotten pretty late. Her plan would have to wait until tomorrow.

She went back to the hotel and took a long shower before collapsing on the bed.

Rayan's phone rang again in the middle of her slumber. Groggily, she reached for it on her night stand and answered without thinking. A vicious cursing assaulted her over the line. Janessa was wide awake in an instant.

"Janessa, you bitch! Where the hell did you take Rayan? If anything happens to him, I swear I will make you pay! And how dare you block my number? Just wait until I find you. I'll teach you a lesson you'll never forget!"

Gracie's shameless arrogance lit up Janessa's fury. "Then why don't you come here and see whether Rayan will receive you or not. But, of course, you'll have to know where we are first."

Then Janessa turned off the phone and went back to sleep.