

Chapter 304 Don't Forget About Our Appointmen

"Are you feeling better?" Rylan came into the room and pressed his palm against Janessa's forehead to make sure her fever was gone. Once he was satisfied with her temperature, he finally breathed a sigh of relief and sat down.

"How did you know I had a fever?" She could have just had a common cold. How come he knew to check her temperature before anything else?

But Rylan only shook his head and said nothing as he opened the lunch box he had brought.

"Hey," Janessa prodded curiously. "Answer me."

"I called Alana. She told me you contracted a fever this morning and that you would probably like some porridge." After saying this, Rylan placed a bowl of porridge on the hospital table and offered it to her.

It looked bland and tasteless, but Janessa considered it a feast.

She had been hungry for a long time, so any food she could get was more than welcome.

She made a move to take the bowl to her lap, but Rylan was quicker. He pulled the table over and placed it right in front of her, then put the bowl on the table gently.

He really wanted to feed her, too, but their relationship didn't permit him to do so. If anything, he might only disgust her by acting overly familiar. And so, Rylan sat quietly and watched her eat.

As for Janessa, she didn't pay him much mind and proceeded to gobble up the porridge happily. She finished the bowl in a handful of minutes.

"Would you like more?" Rylan asked right away. He had come prepared, having brought two servings of food with him.

"No, no." Janessa waved her hand. "Thanks, but I'm already full."

Now that she had eaten, her spirits had been lifted, and she became livelier. She didn't seem like a hospital patient at all. And all this time, Rylan had been worried that she might not have enough appetite for a proper meal. It appeared that he was wrong.

People did say that patients who had good appetites recovered more quickly. This should be a good thing.

Soon enough, Janessa was up and about, walking around the ward. She had just eaten, after all.

The small act may not lengthen her life span by much, but it was a healthy habit nonetheless.

"By the way, are you done with your work? You must be very busy at the end of the year, right?" Janessa had no idea what to talk about, so she opted for the safest topic she could think of.

It wasn't as if they could talk about personal matters. Nor were they inclined to exchange gossip about other people.

In Rylan's eyes, however, this casual conversation was just a roundabout way to kick him out.

"Do you want to get rid of me that badly?" he asked in an awkward and somewhat sullen tone.

Janessa immediately realized her mistake. Her careless words had hurt his feelings, and she scrambled for excuses. "No, not at all! I was just worried that I might be causing you trouble by keeping you away from work like this. You'll blame me if you end up working overtime during the Spring Festival, anyway. And I'm sure a lot has gone pending since our trip abroad. I don't want to become the object of your future grievances."

"I was just kidding. I haven't taken care of everything yet, but I can still spare some time to keep you company." Yet deep down, Rylan could feel that Janessa was slipping farther and farther out of his reach.

To be more precise, she was drawing closer to another man who was not him.

He had fallen head over heels for her the very first time he had seen her at Lu Group. And Rylan had always taken love seriously.

He had been in such a hurry at the time that they could only exchange a few words of courtesy, but Janessa had captured his heart since. It wasn't just her intelligence or her looks that had attracted him, but her very spirit.

A woman who had that kind of fire was irresistible to any sane man. Only Rayan was foolish enough to turn Janessa away.

Not that it meant anything at this point. Janessa was undoubtedly veering toward Rayan now, despite their miserable past.

It only made Rylan want to try his luck again.

"Do you have plans for the Spring Festival?" He was aware of the discord within the Qiu family. Janessa had lost her parents and didn't get along with any of the relatives she had left. She would probably be spending the holidays on her own.

Rylan had the sudden impulse to invite her over to his home. It was just him and his grandfather, anyway, plus some servants. Still, Janessa was one of the few people who were truly close to him.

"As a matter of fact, I'm going to the welfare institution. I want to celebrate the festival with the children staying there." Her tone had grown serious. She wasn't just making up a white lie to discourage him; she really wanted to go. Janessa didn't want those poor kids to feel like society had abandoned them in what was supposed to be a festive occasion.

"That sounds brilliant. Do you think I can come with you?" Rylan clenched his jaw. Even he knew that it was an abrupt request, but how could he let her go by herself? Besides, the welfare institution was sitting at a remote area in the outskirts of the city. He would only worry about her if she went on her own.

"But don't you need to celebrate the holiday with your grandfather? Stop joking around. I'm sure he wants to spend the Spring Festival with you. Don't hang out with me, or your grandfather might think I'm some sort of siren luring you away from the right path." Janessa sounded self-deprecating this time, but she meant every word. She didn't want to go with Rylan.

She had always made an effort to avoid spending too much time with him, but in the same way, he had always shown up whenever she needed help. It was like the universe was playing a trick on her.

"It's all right. My Grandpa is getting old, so he will be in bed before the clock strikes six in the evening. Once he's tucked in, I'll come see you. I'll bring gifts, too. That's settled, okay?" Rylan wrapped up the subject in a hurry, afraid that Janessa just might refuse him outright.

Of course, he respected her decisions, but he didn't intend to back down on this one. He wanted to be with her every chance he could grab.

Unbeknownst to him, this once-in-a-lifetime chance would eventually be taken away as well.

But that was still to come. For now, Rylan was looking forward to the Spring Festival with joy and excitement. He was already picturing out the children, singing and dancing around him and Janessa. It would surely feel as though they were part of the same, big family.

Just thinking about it filled his heart with warmth. If this fantasy were to come true, he would definitely be the happiest man alive.

"Well, if you insist. Just call me, and I'll bring the kids to greet you when you arrive." Janessa could see no way to dissuade Rylan, so she might as well let the matter go.

After that, they chatted about anything and everything they could think of. The hours passed and soon, it was dusk. Alana appeared in the ward in the middle of their discussion about politics.

"Oh, you're still here!" she exclaimed. "I would have brought you dinner, too, if I had known." Alana was carrying two bags in her hands, and the smell of food wafted around the ward before she even set them down.

"I wasn't hungry before, but now that you've brought food, I feel rather famished." A single bowl of porridge was a meager meal, after all, and Janessa had eaten it at lunchtime. If she hadn't snacked on an apple in the afternoon, she might have recognized her hunger sooner.

"That's okay. You two settle down and eat. I'll head out now." Rylan stood and picked up his suit jacket, then walked to the door. Just before he stepped out, he turned around and flashed a meaningful smile at Janessa. "Don't forget about our appointment."