

Chapter 307 The Orphanage

It took another week for Janessa to fully recover. Naturally, Alana had to take care of all the necessary procedures for her discharge.

Alana was unusually quiet on their way home, like she had something in mind.

Janessa didn't pry, either. They arrived at their place in companionable silence, and Alana took on the task of taking care of her roommate. She even tried to assist Janessa to the bathroom.

Alana acted like a mother hen, constantly fussing over Janessa.

"The doctor instructed you to get a good rest even though your wound has already healed. You are not allowed to go to the Lu Group, do you understand? You can't risk your own health for the sake of Rylan's company. I forbid it. Are we clear on that?" She nagged and nagged, but received no response. She turned around and only found Janessa dozing off on the couch.

Alana padded over and slapped her friend's ass. "Janessa, have you heard anything I just said?" she asked as she plopped beside her.

"I know, I know. You've said the same thing so many times, I can practically memorize it word for word. No, seriously. I can repeat them to you verbatim." Janessa flashed her a cheeky smile.

It wasn't that she didn't take Alana seriously, but the fact that her friend was acting very strange today upset her.

She seemed oddly aggressive about having Janessa stay in the apartment.

"Really, Janessa!" Alana rolled her eyes. There wasn't much else to say since she had practically said everything by now.

"Tell me, is something bothering you? You haven't been acting like yourself these last couple of days." Janessa had tried to ask about this before, too, but Alana was being evasive. In the end, she had chosen to let it go.

They might be very good friends, but they were still entitled to their own privacy.

"What do you mean? I'm fine, I'm just making sure you don't overexert yourself. Okay, I'm going to bed now. You can just order food delivery for dinner, but don't mind me. I want to catch up on sleep." Alana yawned loudly before heading straight to her room.

Janessa narrowed her eyes as she watched her friend disappear through the door, but said nothing more. She laid back on the sofa and watched some TV.

Time passed in the blink of an eye. Alana hadn't been with her family for a year, so she moved back home a week before the New Year's Eve. This left Janessa all alone at her apartment.

Now that her roommate wasn't around to nag, the place was very quiet.

Janessa spent her days cooking and lounging around, occasionally surfing the Internet. She had never been this idle, not even when she was still in the Qiu family.

"I'll be visiting the children this coming Spring Festival," she murmured to herself one day. "Why don't I go to the orphanage today and see how many there are? Then I can decide on the things to get them and how much I'll need. It will be bad if I somehow end up short on presents."

With her mind made up, Janessa changed her clothes and exited the apartment for the first time in a while.

She had just finished locking her door when she turned and bumped into someone.

"Where do you think you're going?" Rylan stood there, carrying a small basket of fruits. He saw her get out of her apartment as soon as he stepped out of the elevator, and he instantly rushed over before she got anywhere else.

"I wanted to go to the orphanage first and see how many children there are," Janessa replied without batting an eye. She glanced at the fruits Rylan had brought.

She had planned to make the trip quick and short, but it seemed like she would have to cancel it altogether now that Rylan came to visit.

"I'll come with you, then. I also wanted to get them some presents." Janessa thought it was rude to turn him down this time, especially after what he had just said.

"All right, let's go together." Rylan looked down at his fruit basket and pointed at the door of her apartment.

"I went to the hospital to see you, but you were already discharged. That's why I have this with me. I didn't expect that you were already back home." He had been busy with the company lately, and hadn't gotten the chance to slip out until today.

He had gone to the hospital, but Janessa wasn't there anymore. Now that he had gone to her home, she was about to leave.

"Oh, right. I'm sorry. Why don't you come in and rest for a bit?" Janessa opened the door again and ushered Rylan inside.

There were a lot of fruits at home. As for the fruit basket that Sarah had given Janessa last time, she distributed it to the nurses in the hospital before she was discharged. Her fridge had almost been full just this morning, and now, there was no space left.

"Thank you for filling my fridge," Janessa piped up as she placed a glass of water in front of Rylan.

"You're welcome. If there's anything else you need, just call me. I'll come and bring it to you right away." He patted his chest proudly.

"Well, we should probably head out. It won't be good if we get there late." And just like that, they were outside again.

Janessa decided not to drive and joined Rylan in his car instead. They had a pleasant conversation the entire way, and before they knew it, they had already arrived at the orphanage.

Rylan had called the director, Mr. Patrick, in advance, and the man was waiting to greet them as soon as their car screeched to a stop.

"You are here, Mr. Feng. And who might this be?" Patrick's gentle eyes were clouded with confusion when he saw Janessa.

She looked familiar somehow, but he couldn't recall where he had seen her before.

"This is the person who originally planned and organized the activity, Miss Janessa Qiu." Rylan gestured back and forth as he introduced the two. "Janessa, this is Patrick, the managing director of the orphanage. You can discuss all the details of the event with him."

"Thank you very much, Miss Qiu. After hearing that you want to celebrate the Spring Festival with us, the children were all overjoyed." In truth, however, Patrick had yet to share the news with the children. He didn't want to set them up for another possible disappointment.

Even so, his gratitude toward Janessa was sincere. If it weren't for her, he wouldn't know what to do for the upcoming holidays.

Last year, Patrick had contacted a renowned philanthropist in hopes that they might celebrate the Spring Festival with the kids at the orphanage. The person had agreed, but seemed to have forgotten it in the end, because they had never shown up.

Needless to say, the children were aggrieved. They felt cheated.

As for Patrick, he had been indignant and resentful. In his eyes, if a person had no word of honor, then they were automatically unreliable with all other aspects.

As it was, he hadn't held out much hope when Rylan had first called to inquire about the idea of a celebration. To him, Rylan was just another guy out to deceive them.

But now that Rylan and Janessa had come, some of Patrick's faith was rekindled. Perhaps these two were different from that other person.

"Please come in. I'll take you to see the children." Patrick led them inside and through several hallways, explaining the state of the orphanage as they went.

Janessa looked around and absorbed every single detail. She couldn't help but feel distressed for the children after seeing the kind of environment they were living in.