

Chapter 343 Is It Really A Coincidence

As soon as Janessa stepped out of the cinema, she took out her phone from her purse to check the time. Unfortunately, her phone's battery had run out. After finding out the time from Leona, the two of them decided to grab a drink at a nearby cafe. It was still pretty early, and they had nothing better to do.

"I haven't been to a cinema in such a long time! I've forgotten how fun it was to watch a movie on the big screen. It's also nice to see that Chris is still an amazing actor after all these years. If it weren't for him, the movie would've been pretty mediocre, don't you agree?" As Leona had anticipated, Janessa didn't hesitate to sing the praises of Chris as soon as they sat down.

Almost all of Janessa's close friends knew how much she adored the famous actor.

Some even thought that she had an unhealthy obsession with the man. Probably because whenever Chris was involved in a project, she would always watch it as soon as it came out.

"I was expecting you'd say something like that, Janessa. You don't have to go through the trouble of telling me how great your beloved idol is anymore. You've been doing it for countless years now," Leona replied in a half sarcastic, half annoyed tone. Coming from a rich and influential family, Janessa had the connections to get in touch with any domestic superstar if she really wanted to. However, she was already satisfied with supporting her favorite actor from behind the scenes. And if she wanted to show a little extra love for the man, she'd just post something positive about him on her social media accounts.

Idols like Chris usually behaved very differently in front of a camera compared to day-to-day life.

She feared that if she got a little too close to him, she'd end up disappointed by what she found out.

Leona shared the same sentiment, hence why she never egged her friend to meet him in person. In recent years, the entertainment industry had gotten quite complicated. To the point that only the most famous actors and actresses had managed to keep their careers afloat.

Very few people wanted to be involved in such a cutthroat environment, especially Janessa. She already had too many things to worry about.

"By the way, I heard the cinema's going to give away free posters of Chris in a few minutes. Do you want to stop by and grab one?" Leona asked with a smug look on her face. She knew Janessa wouldn't be able to resist her offer. But to her surprise, Chris's most loyal fan actually declined.

"Don't be silly, Leona. I'm not the kind of person who'd rob a little girl's chance of getting a poster of their favorite movie star. Who would I be if I did such a thing?" After letting out a cheeky giggle, the two friends continued their merry chit-chat while sipping drinks.

Half an hour later, Leona suddenly cleared her throat, put on a serious expression on her face, and looked Janessa dead in the eye.

"What's wrong, Leona? Is something bothering you?" Janessa asked with a hint of unease. Throughout the span of their friendship, Leona only stopped smiling if something troublesome was going on.

"I'm perfectly fine. But I heard the Shen family is going through a bit of trouble recently. It's actually why I came to see you today." Despite being on bad terms with the Shen family, Janessa and Leona couldn't just stand by and watch them suffer. Alana was the last piece of their trio. Feigning ignorance to her family's difficulties would've been a disservice to their long-standing friendship.

That said, there was still one glaring issue preventing them from helping out the Shen family. They didn't actually know where to start.

"What happened? Is Alana in trouble?" The topic of their conversation made Janessa realize that she hadn't heard from Alana in quite some time.

"Crap! I've been so busy dealing with Larry and those documents that I've completely forgotten about Alana.

It's been a week since I last spoke to her. I really hope nothing bad has happened to her.'

"A few days ago, when I spoke with her on the phone, she said she was just fine. But judging from the sound of her voice, something was obviously troubling her. I can't help but worry about her."

Leona paused for a moment to sigh. "I wanted to let you know the moment we met. But when I noticed you were in a bad mood, I didn't think it was the right time. I'm only comfortable telling you this now because you seem like a new person whenever you watch a movie with Chris in it."

Since Leona was a little girl, she had always been an extremely empathetic person. If something was bothering a friend or a loved one, she could easily tell just by observing the subtle changes in their behavior.

She was so good at reading people that she could tell that Janessa was also dealing with something troublesome just a few seconds after seeing her in person.

But as for what was going on, she didn't bother to ask or even guess in her mind.

Despite being best friends, Leona respected Janessa's boundaries. She didn't mind waiting until Janessa was ready to open up about her problems. And if she never did, Leona knew that there was a perfectly reasonable explanation for doing so.

"I wouldn't have minded if we talked about something this serious right of the bat. But still, thank you for being considerate. Anyway, back to our main concern. Have you figured out a way how we can help the Shen family?" Even though Janessa was eager to lend a hand, she couldn't just ask what they needed over the phone.

The Shen family had made it clear that they wanted nothing to do with her. If it weren't for Alana's overwhelming stubbornness, she probably wouldn't even be able to be her friend.

"Leona, maybe you should give them a call. I would do it myself, but I'm not really on good terms with them right now." Janessa spoke casually. But deep down, she was dying to find out what was actually going on.

If Alana was actually in some sort of trouble, the last thing she wanted was to be too late to help her out.

"I've already given them a call. But they refuse to share any information about the issue. Luckily, Nolan caught wind of what happened and shared it with me. Apparently, their foreman used subpar construction materials for a project which ended up causing a pretty big accident. To make matters worse, the foreman has gone into hiding. The Shen family has no choice but to shoulder all the blame. And they also have to pay a hefty fine. Although they can afford it, I'm sure losing that much money in a blink of an eye would leave them in an unfavorable situation."

After telling Janessa everything she knew, Leona let out another heavy sigh. Business wasn't really Leona's strong suit. So she didn't know if it was appropriate to ask Nolan for help. To top it off, the Gu family had no reason to just lend a helping hand to the Shen family.

"What? That's a horrible thing to do! I'm pretty sure that they've had the same reliable foreman for years. What could be the reason for his sudden change?" Janessa couldn't help but be confused. Back when she was still on good terms with Mr. and Mrs. Shen, they couldn't stop talking about how lucky they were to have a dependable foreman.

At first, she thought that the married couple was just joking around. But after hearing it enough times, she eventually started to believe them.

"That's what I thought as well! Oh, I almost forgot to tell you the most important thing! Alana sold her cake shop and went back to work for her family."

They both knew how much Alana despised the idea of working for her family's company.

But now that they were in a tough spot financially, she had no choice but to do so.

"I feel bad for Alana. But I'm also glad she's showing her maturity. I really hope everything turns out well for them," said Janessa.

At that moment, Janessa started considering giving Gordon a call and asking how she could help.

Luckily, her phone was dead, and she quickly realized it wasn't the best idea.

"We should ask Alana to hang out with us soon. I'm sure she'll be fine. Don't forget that she's a strong woman. We shouldn't worry too much. I'm sure they'll figure out a way to get through this hurdle." Janessa tried her best to ease Leona's concerns. Her best friend gave birth not too long ago. So leaving her stressed out wouldn't be good for the baby.

"I know Alana's strong. But I don't think I'll be able to stop worrying about her anytime soon."

"Come on, don't think like that. You have a baby at home to take care of. If Alana needs something, I promise I'll be by her side, ready to help her out. I'm sure everything will be back to normal sooner rather than later."

After that, Janessa and Leona stood up from their seats and bid farewell. While wandering aimlessly along the street, Janessa started thinking to herself, 'Was it really just the foreman's fault, or is there something else going on behind the scenes?'

Because of Larry, it was hard for her to believe that everything going on was just a coincidence. Despite being just a rich old man, he definitely had the capabilities to mess with her life.

'Did the Shen family's trusted foreman get sick, causing him to get temporarily replaced with a new one? Or did he let himself get consumed with greed, botch the project midway to make some money, and run off to live a happy life? Everything's going too smoothly. It's hard to tell if Larry really had something to do with it. I guess I'll just have to be on guard at all times from now on. No matter what happens, I definitely won't let that silly old man ruin my life!' After wallowing in her thoughts, Janessa started considering whether she should warn Gordon or not when she came home.

But after thinking how Rayan would react, she realized it wasn't worth the trouble. 'Gordon's probably already figured out that something shady is going on. He'll be fine.'

"Taxi!" she hailed a cab and headed for home to rest her weary head.