

## Chapter 351 Her Wish Comes True

The Shen Group's circumstances were more dire than Janessa had initially thought. After they paid the compensation demanded of them, they ended up with an enormous debt. As things stood, it looked like they would lose even their working capital.

It was clear to her that there was only one person in all of A City capable of helping the Shen family—Rayan.

But given their fight and the way he had acted yesterday, the chances of Ryan helping them was slim. Janessa knew that Rayan detested her relationship with Gordon, no matter how innocent it was. It was very likely that he wouldn't be willing to extend his assistance.

What could she possibly do at this point? She couldn't just stand by and watch as the Shen family sank into their demise.

Not that she was in any position to enlist Rayan's help with a snap of her finger. They had been giving each other the silent treatment since their argument last night. And the fact that Janessa still had no idea who had taken those deceptive photos pissed her off even more.

If she went to him now and made her request, Rayan would undoubtedly think that she was doing it for Gordon.

Rayan was definitely not an option, at least for the time being.

Well, what now?

Janessa was in a quandary. She wasn't sure if she could ever come up with a favorable solution to the Shen family's predicament.

"Don't think too much about it, Janessa. For all we know, this may not have anything to do with you at all. Maybe my father accidentally offended someone powerful. Otherwise, why would that person be ruthless toward us?"

"No, I will help you get through this. I promise." Though Rayan was out of the question, they still had to try some other way. They just needed someone else, someone just as powerful, if not more, and everything would turn out fine.

Janessa thought long and hard and looked back to her list of friends. She didn't have a lot of them, but there must be someone among those people who could help them.

"Look, you don't have to feel responsible for this, Janessa. It doesn't even matter whether you are involved in the attacker's motives or not. Since it has already come to this, our family will just have to live through the storm and come out on the other side. This challenge could serve as an instrument to strengthen our familial bond. There's always a silver lining to these challenges in life." Alana's voice was calm and soothing.

Despite her brave words, though, she did nurse a fear for what was to come. Still, she had every confidence that her brother would be able to pull them through this hurdle.

"No, Alana," Janessa replied in a serious tone. "I want to look into this matter and find out whether it really has something to do with me or not. So, in a way, I'm doing this for myself. Helping you is just a boon."

"Janessa, really, I—" Alana began helplessly, but her friend cut her off right away.

"Enough of this talk. Let's go and have dinner. Whatever happens, I know your family will be fine as long as we work together."

They had a peaceful meal, and afterward they decided to go for a walk by the river.

The cityscape at night was truly breathtaking, but Janessa had never gotten the chance to admire it before. In the past, she would spend her hours slaving away at work, and by the time she left the office, she was too exhausted to even consider stopping and watching the view.

Tonight, however, the scenery before her was simply dazzling.

A balmy breeze blew through the trees, providing a tranquil atmosphere as it rustled the branches and leaves.

"By the way, Alana, how are things between you and Eric? Has there been any new progress lately?" It went without saying that whenever Janessa met up with Alana, she would always think about Eric.

The man was a little slow and clueless when it came to girls, but Janessa still felt optimistic about his budding romance with Alana.

She thought them to be very well-matched, and hoped fervently that the two would eventually end up together.

"Why are you suddenly asking this? We... We're just fine." Alana tried to avert her eyes. Janessa had this uncanny ability to read her mind, and she didn't want her friend to see through her at the moment.

But of course, her evasive reaction only revealed her true feelings. Janessa had already guessed that they were, in fact, not fine.

"What happened? Tell me. You were doing great last time." Janessa had presumed that Eric would take the initiative to contact Alana first, thereby acknowledging the unspoken emotions between them.

But judging by Alana's attitude just now, it seemed that Janessa was utterly mistaken.

What could have happened between them this time?

Janessa already had enough of a mess on her plate at present. The company's affairs were draining her, and then there was the silly quarrel with Rayan, and now this. Life had really been beating down on her as of late.

"Well, the truth is..." Alana paused and looked toward the rushing waters of the river. She took a deep breath before continuing.

"The truth is that after that week, we rarely ever talked anymore. It's like he's forgotten me all over again. My heart just grows heavy with each passing day."

Janessa frowned. She couldn't figure out why Eric was acting this way, either.

Since the very beginning, it had always been Alana and Eric. She had only stepped into their matter by mistake.

Hopefully, the couple could get through this without any further misunderstandings.

"Well, this might be for the best. Once my family's troubles are over, I can just go to him without anything else burdening me. Maybe what we need is to see each other and settle the matter face-to-face." But Alana was not as confident as she let on. After all, throughout their entanglement, she had always been the active party, while Eric had remained passive and distant, even.

The thing was, she didn't want to wait for him any longer. She had grown weary of it, having given Eric plenty of time to sort himself out already.

"That's true. Perhaps, the more hardships you experience now, the smoother your relationship will be in the future." Janessa took Alana's hand and looked at her with sincerity. "I do hope you can be together as soon as possible."

As it happened, a music fountain performance was set to be held at eight o'clock that night.

During the event, it was customary for people to make wishes on coins and throw them into the river.

A lot of them were already doing it. Janessa quickly fished for two coins from her purse and gave one to Alana. "Come on, let's make a wish, too. I don't care whether it's real or not, let's just take this as a good omen."

She didn't believe in such superstitions, of course, but Janessa did believe in the power of hope. As long as one believed in the fruition of their dreams, they would never cease to work until they became reality.

Alana shot her a teasing look, but she did take the coin Janessa had offered. "I never thought you were this childish!"

"Ha! And yet, you're making a wish, too!"

Alana rolled her eyes and said nothing more. She clasped the coin between her hands and closed her eyes to make her wish. Then, taking a deep breath, she flung the coin into the river.

The piece of metal instantly disappeared into the dark depths.

"It's a waste, isn't it?" Alana muttered after a moment. "So much money discarded just like that. Oh, but workers clean the river regularly, don't they? They must be very happy with their finds." With all the coins tossed into the waters, there was probably a massive fortune just sleeping at the rocky bottom of the river.

"Hey! If you disrespect the river spirit with your cynicism, it won't grant your wish." Janessa narrowed her eyes at Alana, only for the latter to stick out her tongue. Between the two women, it was Alana who believed in making random wishes on all kinds of things. Needless to say, she didn't want people to know about this.

She was quite capricious like that.

She was even willing to make a little white lie to save her image.

"You know—" Before Alana could finish her words, they were interrupted by the shrill ringing of her phone.

"It must be my parents, asking me to go home early as usual. They've been particularly nitpicky recently..." She took out her phone from her bag and gaped at the screen. "What, what? How is this possible? No way!" Alana was practically hopping from one foot to another. How could her wish come true so fast?

Janessa leaned over to see what had gotten her friend so excited all of a sudden. Then she saw Eric's name flashing on Alana's screen.

"Hurry and answer it right now, or he's going to hang up! Okay, you should be good now. I'll just go and take my leave."

But Alana was already fumbling with her phone, eager to answer the call. She barely even heard anything Janessa had said.