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Chapter 353 Begging For The Sake Of Another Man

Imani's face twisted into a terrible expression.

In the beginning, when Aydin's charge of the Qiu Group had yet to be challenged, the company had been flourishing. Imani was aware of this, and she made sure to flaunt it to others by her endless shopping sprees. It didn't matter how much she spent, because neither of her parents had even bothered to stop or scold her.

And when she ran out of budget, her father would swoop in to the rescue and supply her with more cash. Soon, however, Aydin began to stop giving Imani more than what she just needed. And when he had, it was just a tiny margin compared to the copious amounts of cash he used to spoil her with.

Imani had been upset and full of discontent, of course, but she had no choice but to grin and bear it.

"I didn't want to say something so hurtful, Imani, but you're the one who forced my hand. It's none of your business which company I want to help, or whose help I'm trying to enlist. Now, if your father can't keep the Qiu Group from floundering, I'll make sure that he'll pay for his blunder even in his next life." With that, Janessa turned around and left with the cook.

Imani just stood there for a moment, stunned at everything she had just heard. But then she thought, 'If it's the company's fate to fall apart, then there's nothing to be done.' When she got home, she didn't tell Aydin that she had run into Janessa, let alone the things Janessa had said.

Sure enough, when the old man learned of it later on, he was so consumed with rage that he almost wanted to kill his own niece.

finally ready. Exhausted, she padded over to the sofa and waited.

Realizing that she had no idea what time Rayan would be coming home, Janessa gave Corbin a call and checked. She was only

Meanwhile, Janessa got to work on preparing dinner as soon as they returned to the villa. After a few hours, the ingredients were

met with disappointment, however.

Corbin told her that Rayan hadn't come to the company at all today.

Was he avoiding her on purpose?

Now, this surprised Janessa. Rayan hadn't mentioned anything when he had left this morning.

When the clock indicated the end of business hours, Janessa went back into the kitchen to prepare dinner.

When she was finished, she sat at the dining table and waited, her eyes glued on the clock.

I will call you down the moment Mr. Lu arrives."

The young madam had been busy all day, shopping for ingredients and poring over recipes. More importantly, she had spent hours

After a while, the cook scurried out of the kitchen, wiping her hands on her apron. "Miss Qiu, why don't you go upstairs and wait?

upon hours on her feet, cooking at the stove top. And still, Mr. Lu had not come home.

Sometimes, the cook would wonder why their master would divorce such a marvelous and capable woman back then.

She had no idea about the couple's past, but she had always sympathized with their individual plights.

here." After all, this was something Janessa had always done, back when she and Rayan hadn't divorced yet. It was just that, after living by herself for a year, she felt strange to be doing the same things all over again.

At some point in the evening, Janessa found herself stretching out on the sofa and watching TV.

"No, it's all right, but thank you. You've been working hard, too. You can go home and get some rest. I'll take care of matters

It was almost ten o'clock when a man finally went through the front door. It was raining heavily outside, and his raincoat was dripping on the foyer rug.

Rayan could barely walk a straight line, but when he spotted the sleeping figure on the sofa, he went over without a second

Janessa was curled up into herself like a little kitten. As far as he knew, this position was a psychological response indicating that

the person lacked the sense of security.

"What exactly do you want?" Rayan whispered as he reached out to caress Janessa's cheek.

Why in the world would she feel unsafe around him?

thought.

He had a tender expression, a far cry from the cold mask he wore when he persisted in giving her the silent treatment.

In truth, Rayan had already made up his mind to reconcile with Janessa the moment Corbin had analyzed the photos for him.

He hadn't been angry since then, not really, but he was afraid that Janessa might not feel the same.

His touch pulled her from her sleep, and Janessa's eyes blinked open.

Rayan hurriedly pulled back his hand, and his face was once again aloof and distant.

plucked the dishes and brought them to the kitchen before taking them back out in an orderly manner.

"No..." Rayan tried to say, but she was already up and about before he could get the words out.

"Ah, you're home? I'll go and warm up the food for you!" Janessa sprang to her feet and moved to the dining table. She expertly

Left with no choice, he discarded his raincoat and sat at his place at the dining table. He had already eaten dinner, but he didn't want to upset Janessa.

course.

The moment he was done eating, he gracefully put down his chopsticks and met Janessa's eyes. "All right, tell me what you want.

Neither spoke throughout the meal. And despite his reservations, Rayan ended up finishing two bowls of rice. In silence, of

Rayan knew her very well, and he was aware that she wouldn't cook for him without reason. Besides, they had yet to make up

since yesterday's fight. To his credit, though, Rayan admitted to himself that it was his fault he couldn't fully trust Janessa.

You prepared all this for me. I'm guessing it isn't because you want to watch me eat so much in one sitting."

But he wasn't entirely wrong, was he? No sane man would remain calm and unaffected after seeing his girlfriend hanging out intimately with her ex-boyfriend.

A bitter taste invaded his tongue.

"I was hoping you could lend some assistance to the Shen family. Please save them, Rayan. I don't want my best friend to end up

Nonetheless, he was willing to forgive Janessa. Rayan braced himself, only to feel his heart sink again at her words.

in the streets." An ominous silence filled the room, and for a moment, the air felt heavy to breathe.

within his right to feel outraged.

"What did you just say?" Rayan demanded through gritted teeth. "Did you seriously just ask me to save your boy toy?"

He felt like an idiot, thinking that he might have wronged her with his earlier outburst. Now, it seemed that he was more than

He wondered briefly just how long he had been acting like a fool around this woman.

trouble? I can't just stand aside and do nothing.

"Rayan, listen to me. It's not what you think at all. You know how close I am with Alana. How can I not help her when she's in

She never thought she would even have to explain to herself like this.

When it came to friendship and love, Janessa was the type to value friendship more.

They both knew that Alana was Janessa's best friend. Of course, she expected Rayan to understand her.

Obviously, she was wrong. Janessa's lips curled downward in disappointment. Rayan didn't believe her, and he wasn't even willing to listen to what she had to say. He was just so set on his own presumptions.

Love was really so delicate.

"Oh I'm well-aware how close you are with Alana. I'm also aware that she's the sister of Gordon Shen. Who knows if it's really

your best friend you want to help, or if it's your ex-boyfriend all along. Maybe you're just putting on a show of being best friends to cover up your little affair with your boy toy."

"Rayan, what do I have to say to make you believe me? Gordon and I are just friends, nothing more. I'm doing this for Alana."

"For Alana, huh? Yeah, right! Mark my words, Janessa, I will never help the Shen family out of their rut. And I won't let anyone else help them, either. I'm fairly certain there's no one in A City who's brave enough to go against me."

"Oh, so you're begging me now? You've never begged me for anything before. Now you're doing it for the sake of another man."

"Just tell me what you want me to do to change your mind! Please."

Rayan felt like his world had turned upside down even as he said those words out loud. He felt like an utter, miserable loser.

No matter what dispute she was involved in, Janessa had never taken the initiative to throw in the towel and give up. But she was

doing it now. For Gordon.

"Rayan, can't you trust me? Won't you trust me at all?"

At last, he got to his feet with so much force, it sent his chair tumbling back to the floor. He strode to his study without another word or a single backward glance.

"Rayan, wait! I'm telling you, I'm not doing this for Gordon. I just want to help my friends however I can. Can't you please—"

Janessa wasn't able to finish what she was about to say. In the next second, she lost her footing and fell down the stairs.

"You made me dinner just to plead for others..." Rayan was like a madman now, muttering furiously, his emotions out of control.