

Chapter 358 Men Can Just Change Their Minds On A Whim

As soon as Gracie showed Rayan the photo, his face turned ghastly pale.

"Why is Janessa with another man? And why does she look so happy with him? This can't be! Is she cheating on me?"

In utter disbelief, Rayan snagged the photo away to take a closer look. Unsurprisingly, Gracie didn't mind letting him have it. Because seeing his heart crumble into pieces made it a worthy exchange.

"Hmm, Larry was right. Showing Rayan this silly photo was more than enough to break his spirit. It looks like it won't be long till he comes running back to me, ha-ha!"

"The man you're looking at is Larry Chen, a big shot CEO from overseas. I'm not sure what they're doing in the photo. But if you ask me, it looks like they're celebrating something."

Gracie gave a vague explanation, hoping the lack of answers would eat Rayan alive.

"Crap! I don't know what to think! Are they just friends? No—if they were, she would've told me about it. Is she... Is she in love with this man? Seeing how happy Janessa was in the picture made it hard for Rayan not to think of the worst thing possible.

As the final nail in the coffin, Gracie took out a compact CD player and placed it on Rayan's desk. Without calling his attention, she slid in a CD and pressed play.

A few seconds later, the sound of a man and a woman whispering to each other could be heard from the CD player.

In an instant, Rayan recognized that it was Janessa speaking. And after what Gracie just showed him, he couldn't help but dread what he was about to hear.

"I can't get the core file right now. But don't worry, I'm a woman of my word."

"You'll have it soon. It's no use to be anxious."

"Fine. But you could've said this over the phone, you know? Rayan could walk in on us at any moment. I wouldn't want him to see me with you."

The recording went on, but Rayan had heard enough. His confusion turned into pure, unadulterated rage, and his mind kept repeating the words, 'I wouldn't want him to see me with you.'

Ever since he accused Janessa of being an unfaithful partner, he'd been ashamed of himself for having very little faith in her.

And now, all those times he'd been hard on himself became fuel his anger.

'I can't believe it. I was right all along. This can't be a coincidence. There's no other explanation. Damn that woman!

I've let myself be blinded by love once again. I made excuses for you for far too long! I've given you everything I can offer, yet you choose to still make a fool of me. I might be the stupidest man in the world right now, but enough is enough!"

"Oh, Rayan, I'm so sorry things turned out this way. She doesn't deserve a man like you. That's why I kept my eye on her and waited for her to show her true colors. I'm sorry it took me so long to tell you the truth. But I knew you wouldn't believe me until I had enough proof. I hope it's not too late." Hoping to capitalize on Rayan's moment of weakness, Gracie tried her luck and gave him a hug.

To her surprise, he nestled his head into her chest instead of turning her away.

Gracie realized that it was finally her chance to win him back. So she started stroking his head while uttering words of comfort. "Don't worry, Rayan. I'll always be here for you. From now on, I'll make sure no one can hurt you anymore."

After a short while, although Rayan still doubted Janessa's infidelity, the alcohol in his system led to his emotions getting the better of him. Suddenly, he stood up from his seat, grabbed Gracie's hand, and dragged her along outside.

Rayan walked at a brisk pace. His long strides, as well as their difference in height, made it hard for Gracie to keep up with him without running.

"Slow down, Rayan! Where are you taking me?" Gracie asked with a hint of concern in her voice.

Unfortunately for her, Rayan wasn't in the mood to listen. He didn't slow down for her and continued his way to the elevator.

Corbin stepped out of his office and saw that Rayan was heading in his direction. He quickly returned to his desk, grabbed some documents addressed to his boss, and walked out again to wait by the door. When Rayan was just about to pass by, Corbin politely called his attention. But his words fell on deaf ears, leaving him dazed and confused while watching his boss get into the elevator.

After getting out of the elevator, Rayan dragged Gracie to his car then told her to get in the passenger seat.

She knew that Rayan could go ballistic at any moment with the slightest of provocation. However, letting him drive in his current state could lead to a bigger disaster. So when he took out his car keys, she jumped in front of him and tried snatching them away.

"No, Rayan. I won't let you drive drunk. Just tell me where we're going, and I'll take you there."

Somewhat startled by her actions, Rayan quickly raised his keys to a height she couldn't reach while keeping her at bay with his other hand.

It was true that he had a drink earlier. However, it was such a small amount that it wouldn't have affected his ability to drive. But when he saw the look of genuine concern on Gracie's face, he couldn't help but give in to her demand.

Reluctantly, he handed over the keys, walked to the other side of the car, and got into the passenger seat.

After getting in, Gracie started the car then calmly asked, "So, where are we headed to?"

While waiting for a response, Gracie noticed that Rayan had lost a lot of weight since she last saw him up close.

'Hmm, he's probably been stressed out of his mind ever since he saw that picture of Janessa and Gordon. I have to hand it to that photographer I hired. He took some really nice shots. I guess I also have to thank Janessa for being so, so predictable. The moment she heard that the Shen family was in a bit of trouble, she jumped in headfirst and fell right into my trap. That stupid bitch is truly no match for my brilliance.

In one fell swoop, I managed to take her down, as well as those annoying Shen siblings! Ha-ha-ha!"

Right after singing praises of herself in her mind, she noticed that Rayan was actually getting teary-eyed. After their breakup, she swore to make him suffer for what he did to her. But now that it was actually happening, she couldn't help but feel sorry for hurting him.

All of a sudden, memories of their time as a couple flooded her mind. 'Barring the very end, there was never a day you weren't smiling when we were still together. If only you had stayed with me, then you wouldn't have gotten this thin.

I guess it doesn't matter. I'm sure once this is over, you'll come running, begging me to take you back.

And when that happens, I'll fatten you up to your heart's content!"

Without warning, Rayan smacked his fist on the dashboard, bringing Gracie back to reality. "Let's go!" He angrily shouted while entering the address of the seaside villa on the car's navigation system. When she saw where he wanted to go, her eyes widened in shock.

'For crying out loud! Did you really get another house there?

I've always told you that I wanted to live near the sea! But you kept saying you didn't want to buy another house because you already had two!

That's so unfair! I won't forget this, Rayan!"

Despite having the need to lash out, Gracie set her feelings aside for now and followed his instructions.

But as a result of her bad mood, she started driving like a getaway driver after leaving the parking lot. According to the navigation system, it should've taken half an hour to reach their destination. Amazingly, Gracie did it half the time.

Right as she was about to open the door, Rayan suddenly burst into laughter.

"What's so funny? Is there something wrong with the way I drive?" Gracie was bewildered to see that Rayan had somewhat of a smile on his face. Ever since what Gracie did was exposed, Rayan had never smiled at her again. And for it to happen now was quite concerning for Gracie.

"Oh, I just thought that you'd make a great race car driver." After responding, Rayan got out of the car and slammed the door behind him. When Gracie got out as well, she saw that his expression was back to being miserable like before.

'Wow, I didn't know he could change faces that fast.

I guess men can just change their minds on a whim.' After letting out a subtle sigh, Gracie realized that Rayan had left her behind. So she quickly made her way to the front door.

Once there, she saw a shocking yet somewhat satisfying sight. Rayan was grabbing Janessa by the neck and pinning her against a wall.

Most people believed that the best way to tell if someone was lying was to ask them a question while looking them dead in the eye. At that very moment, Rayan took these words to heart and gave Janessa a death stare.

Janessa squealed, "Stop it, Rayan! I swear I haven't done anything wrong! I was only trying to protect you! He threatened—"

Before she could finish explaining, Rayan threw her across the floor like she was a pile of trash.

"Get out! I never want to see you again! You're no longer part of the Lu Group! Don't bother coming to work tomorrow!" He shouted with all his might. Then once he started getting teary-eyed, he turned around and headed upstairs.

Janessa looked battered and bruised. And to be expected, Gracie showed no sympathy for her. She even stood in front of her just so she could look down on her. "You finally got what you deserved. You're lucky Rayan was feeling merciful today. If not, you'd be dead already."

After that, Gracie turned around to leave as well, stomping her high heels on the way out.