

Chapter 361 Two Stubborn Mules

Before Alana left the apartment, she gave Janessa one last reminder not to turn on her TV or go online on her phone.

She looked back repeatedly before going through the door, too, as if to check that her friend was doing as told.

'I can practically recite her words verbatim at this point,' Janessa mused, exasperated.

But people had an innate, perverse curiosity. The more they were told not to do something, the more they wanted to do it. And Janessa was no different.

To her credit, she did try to resist at first, cracking her book open and stretching out on the sofa. After a while, however, she had to admit that none of the words had registered in her mind. Her eyes flew to the TV up front. Surely it wouldn't hurt to watch a bit of television, would it?

It would only be for a moment, anyway, and the screen was a good distance away. There should be no problem with radiation or anything like that.

With her mind made up, she tossed her book to the side and picked up the remote control.

The television flickered to life, and Janessa proceeded to watch some snippets of random TV series on various channels. Nothing seemed amiss, except perhaps for the frequent appearance of Courtney on most of the channels Janessa had surfed past.

"Ah, we are all women. Why do we argue with and make things difficult with each other?" It didn't take long for Janessa to grow bored with the same old, inane plots in these melodramas.

Having given up on the TV, her attention next went to her phone, which was lying idle on the coffee table.

"It should be fun to play for just a few minutes," Janessa told herself before reaching out for the device. She looked up what was trending online, but didn't find anything interesting. Soon, she was putting the phone down, too.

"How dull. I wonder why Alana was so adamant about staying away from the Internet earlier."

If she hadn't known any better, Janessa would have presumed that her best friend was hiding something related to her. But since Alana didn't tell Janessa, she had to figure out another way to know it.

Janessa was determined to find out what it was, if only to prepare herself for what was to come.

As it turned out, there didn't seem to be anything at all. Finally, she could concentrate on her reading without worrying about the unknown.

Pregnant women dozed off pretty easily, and Janessa fell fast asleep before finishing her book.

The sudden ringing of her phone jolted her awake.

Understandably irate, she sat up and answered the call without checking who it was.

"Hello, who is it?"

"Did you just wake up? I can't believe you're still as slow and lazy as you were back in school." A deep, male voice came through the line.

Janessa's eyes shot wide open. She pulled back her phone, and when she saw the name flashing on the screen, she couldn't help but huff.

"And what's wrong with being lazy? Do you have a bone to pick with me, Errol?" She snapped, her irritability having turned up a notch higher.

"Ah, you're still as feisty as ever. I like it." Errol had always been like this, constantly bombarding her with expressions of love at the oddest moments. He had caught her off-guard more times than she cared to count.

"All right, if you have nothing important to say, then I'm hanging up." Whatever had happened between them was all in the past now, and there was no point in bringing it up again.

Janessa had no interest in digging up something from so many years ago.

"Wait, I do have something to say. Why do you think I'd call you otherwise? Remember to come to our class reunion next Saturday, okay? And take your boyfriend with you!" Errol's tone turned derisive as he added the last sentence.

"I'm not sure if we will go. I'll tell you when we have decided," Janessa said and hung up.

She wasn't even speaking to Rayan anymore, how could she take the man to her class reunion?

Taking a deep breath, she opened her WeChat conversation with him. He seldom used the app, saying that it was a waste of time to type and send out messages. He preferred to call the other person directly.

But after they got together, Rayan seemed to have grown used to messaging.

"Are you free right now? I have something to talk to you about." No sooner had she sent the messages than she was scoffing in disbelief. She had expected Rayan to ignore her or refuse her outright, but she had never imagined that he would just blacklist her.

Janessa felt helpless as she looked at the red exclamation marks under her messages.

If Gracie hadn't inserted herself back into the picture, maybe it wouldn't have turned out this way.

Maybe Rayan would have lent Janessa an open ear, and after a thorough and honest explanation, maybe he would have believed her.

Well, there was nothing for it now. Since she couldn't send him a message, she might as well call him. But Janessa only heard the operator on the other end, telling her that the call could not be connected. She tried with the rest of Rayan's contact numbers and was met with the same result.

So he had also blacklisted her phone number.

Did he despise her so much that he wanted to sever any contact with her?

Janessa ran a hand over her belly and sighed. "I'm sorry, baby, but I think your father has abandoned us. He isn't answering my calls, and even blacklisted all my contact information."

Nevertheless, she could try to get in touch with him through their mutual acquaintances.

Of course, the first person she called next was Corbin. As it happened, the man was in Rayan's office at the time. Corbin mistakenly answered the call before ending it in the next second.

Knowing what he had done, Janessa angrily threw her phone on the other end of the sofa. Then she grabbed her book and resumed reading.

Meanwhile, in the CEO office of the Lu Group, Corbin was slipping his phone back into his pocket.

"Who was that just now?" Rayan asked coldly. "Why didn't you answer?" His assistant had looked rather overjoyed when his phone rang. Was it his sweetheart calling?

Corbin blinked nervously, unsure of whether to tell Rayan the truth or not.

It was obvious that his boss had been avoiding Janessa these past few days.

Corbin cleared his throat. "It was no big deal. A friend might want to ask me out for dinner. I'll deal with it later after I'm finished with work." As he said this, he busied himself with the documents on the desk and segregated them into folders.

"By the way, Mr. Lu, the general shareholders' meeting is coming up soon, but Zeke has yet to express his support for you. Would you like me to set an appointment with him to confirm this matter? It would be better to ascertain his stand as early as possible."

Corbin knew that securing Zeke's shares was a matter of importance. When he looked back at Rayan, however, he could see that his eyes were clouded with something else.

"Mr. Lu? Mr. Lu." Corbin tried to call his attention several times, but Rayan seemed to have drifted off far away. Even when he finally came back to his senses, he still looked a little dazed.

"I'll deal with Zeke myself. You can take care of the rest." After saying that, Rayan leaned back against his seat, closed his eyes, and pinched the bridge of his nose. He was exhausted.

Corbin wanted to ask why Janessa hadn't come to work, the question already hanging on the tip of his tongue. But when he saw Rayan's weary expression, he had no choice but to keep his curiosity at bay.

'I can just ask Janessa when I call her back later.'

Corbin turned to take his leave. He was almost at the door when Rayan spoke again. "If your workload is too much, you can have some assistants transferred over from the Secretarial Department."

They had done the same thing before, but Rayan had driven the women away himself as soon as Janessa had returned from Y Country.

Corbin wasn't sure for how long these new women could hold out this time around.

"I understand," he murmured before silently exiting the office.

Judging by the way Rayan was acting, it was as though Janessa was never coming back to the company.

"These two stubborn mules!" Corbin had always been optimistic about their relationship, and had even been looking forward to their happy ending. Were they actually going to break up now?