

Chapter 375 Nolan Is Getting Married

"How can I ever forget you? I got so caught up with taking care of my baby, that's all. I never had enough time to spare for anyone else." A hint of loneliness flashed across Leona's eyes as she spoke, but it was gone in the next second.

Janessa blamed it on the stress of motherhood, thinking that her friend's son must have been making a lot of trouble lately. "Well, children are naughty by nature. I'll drop by at your house soon to see the little devil!"

The smile on Leona's face seemed to freeze at that. She took Janessa's hand and said, "No, my baby is too noisy and fussy at the moment. We'll be holding a party when he turns a month old, anyway. You can come see him then."

"Oh, how nice! We missed a lot of celebrations before. We can finally throw a party his time around." Janessa peered at Leona.

A nagging voice at the back of her head kept telling her that something was definitely wrong. Her friend was acting too strangely.

But what could have happened? Janessa couldn't quite figure it out.

The Leona she knew always had a bright smile on her face, and her eyes sparkled constantly. Even back when she had made up her mind to leave Nolan, Leona wasn't as somber as she was now.

Did something happen with the Gu family, perhaps?

Janessa ushered Leona into her bedroom. These days, she got tired easily, and she found that she only ever felt comfortable in her own bed. Lying down helped ease a lot of her tension, since it alleviated most of the pressure from her lower back.

"All right, Leona," she said once she was finally settled on her pillows. "Is anything the matter with you?" Leona had yet to drop her smile since she had arrived, but it only looked forced to Janessa.

Her question appeared to have triggered something, though, and Leona went into a daze for a few seconds before snapping back to her senses. "Ah, it's okay. I'm fine. I guess I'm just tired from taking care of the baby. I actually came here to catch some break."

She was lying.

Janessa knew all too well just how devoted Leona was to her child. Even when she had no one but herself, Leona had never complained about the difficulties of raising her son. How could she speak of it now, when she had the Gu family to support her?

It was clearly just an excuse.

Janessa softened her expression as she asked in a soft voice, "Don't you trust me? You can always tell me if there's something bothering you. Two heads are better than one, you know. I would rather share your burdens instead of leaving you alone in distress."

No sooner had she finished speaking than Leona threw herself into Janessa's arms and burst into tears.

Janessa reached out and patted the other woman's back. Neither said nothing for a while, and only the sound of Leona's sobs could be heard in the entire apartment.

She didn't begin to quiet down until half an hour later, and the choked sobs turned into mild sniffing.

"There, there. If you cry any more than this, your eyes will end up swollen." Janessa took the box of tissues from her nightstand and handed it to Leona. Within a matter of seconds, a pile of used tissues was sitting on her bed. Janessa shook her head helplessly.

"Thank you, my friend." Leona seemed to have finally calmed down. When she looked up, however, her eyes were bloodshot, and her nose was red.

"There's no need for that between us. Now, won't you tell me exactly what happened?"

Janessa had been waiting patiently, knowing that she couldn't force Leona to open up when she had an emotional outburst.

Leona sighed and lay back on Janessa's legs. She fiddled with her hair, and when she spoke, her tone was light and casual, as if she were musing to herself instead of talking to another person.

"Nolan is getting married."

'Well, isn't that a good thing?' Janessa thought.

By all rights, this marriage should be the happy ending destined for Nolan and Leona. So, why was her friend devastated instead?

Was the bride not Leona?

"What do you mean, Nolan is getting married?" Janessa demanded. "Don't you mean to say that you're getting married? Or is it that he's marrying another girl?"

The response she got for her query was yet another bout of weeping.

"It's just as I said. Nolan is getting married, and the bride isn't me."

"Who is it, then? Has he gone insane? You already have a son, yet he dares to treat you like this? I never thought Nolan would be so spineless! The Gu family are nothing but bullies!" Janessa was filled with so much outrage that her words just spew forth unchecked.

'How could Nolan do such a thing?!"

"Well... I know he doesn't want the marriage, but his family is pressuring him." Leona swallowed her tears and stared up at the ceiling with her glassy eyes.

Unfortunately, Nolan did need that other woman in order to strengthen his position.

Leona came from a poor background and therefore had nothing to offer him to further his social standing.

Truly, a romance with the rich and powerful was nothing more than a pipe's dream for the likes of her. Leona had always known this, but she had still hoped. She had foolishly thought that her story was different, that she and Nolan would conquer the odds and still be together in the end.

Yet now, despite having given birth to his child, it looked like she still hadn't earned the right to be his wife.

She looked back on her youthful naïveté, and how she had believed that true love was enough to make everything okay. Obviously, she was wrong.

"To be honest, Janessa, I'm rather envious of you. Even though you and Mr. Lu got divorced in the past, you still managed to find each other again. Now, you're in love and able to rekindle your past. As for me... I don't think I'll ever be worthy enough to stay beside Nolan, even if I spent the rest of my life trying!"

The marriage thing had already been settled, after all. There was nothing anyone could do about it. Nevertheless, Leona wanted to vent out her grievances.

Perhaps, in this way, she might feel better, if only a little.

"We..." Janessa began, then caught herself. She sighed as she thought of the state of her relationship with Rayan. She mustered a bitter smile.

Evidently, Janessa and her two other girlfriends all had the same problem.

Their loves were all doomed. Well, at least they were all on equal ground.

"Tell me what Nolan thinks of the matter. Has he agreed to marry that woman?"

"He protested at first, of course. But I don't know what his mother told him. They spoke privately, and then he changed his mind just like that.

He didn't even bother explaining to me. I have no idea what he's thinking."

Leona thought that she deserved an explanation, at the very least, but Nolan didn't even give her that.

"How could Nolan be so irresponsible? He already has a baby with you! How could he just go with another woman? What about their relationship, then? Do you know what's going on between them?"

If they had just gone on a blind date, then there wouldn't be much to worry about yet. But if they had gone further... Well, the situation would turn out to be a lot trickier.

In any case, if Nolan had dared to have sex with that woman, then that only gave Leona another reason to stop loving him altogether.

There was no use hanging on to such a heartless man, anyway.

Leaving him would be the best choice, and Leona would certainly be better off without him.

As these thoughts raced in Janessa's head, she could help but draw parallels between Nolan and Rayan.

Men were all scum, for sure. They just forgot all about their commitments as they embraced new lovers, as if their current relationships didn't exist at all. Given time, they were bound to leave their girlfriends for their mistresses.

"I don't know," Leona whispered, trying to hold back a sob. "I guess they just had a blind date, and that was that!" She didn't have much to say on the subject, as she had practically been left in the dark about it.

"Then tell me this, have you actually given up on Nolan?"

This wasn't Leona's style at all. If it was in the past, Janessa was not sure whether Leona would kick the other woman out, but at least she knew Leona wouldn't act like a coward as she was now.