

## Chapter 385 Can We Still Be Friends

As soon as Rayan came out of the apartment, he went directly to the Lu Group. But, Janessa was no longer an employee of the Lu Group, so she had no excuse to go in.

It would be difficult to show off their love in the company.

So Janessa opted to stay in the apartment when Rayan went to work.

The main reason why Janessa wanted to see Rayan was to expose Gracie's true color. Their affection would be a result of having the two of them in the same room.

However, she still didn't have any solid evidence to support her claims. It then occurred to Janessa that the last time she had met Shelby was in a cafe. Perhaps she could find something to help her there.

When Janessa rushed to the coffee shop to check the surveillance video, she couldn't help but be disappointed after talking to the owner.

It turned out that the surveillance videos there were only kept for seven days. After a week, the files were deleted to give space to new ones. Janessa's meeting with Shelby had been a long time ago. There was no possibility that the video was still there.

Without the footage, she didn't know how to prove that she was innocent.

Janessa then remembered the private detective who had helped her uncover the truth last time.

Hiring a private detective did cost a lot, but Janessa could afford it.

So she asked the private detective for help, but it was still a dead end. Finding evidence concerning that meeting was going to be near impossible.

Good thing was that Janessa found the real mastermind behind everything, Larry. With Gracie's little connections and means, it was impossible for her to execute such a plan.

Larry, on the other hand, was different.

Janessa didn't know much about the man, but her gut told her that he had a grudge against the Lu family. Otherwise, why was he causing so much trouble? Did the Lu family know Larry by any chance?

Janessa then asked the private detective to do a thorough investigation on Larry. She knew there was something there, and they just had to find it.

When Janessa left the cafe, she saw a familiar car parked by the roadside. At first, she thought she was mistaken, but the number plate proved her right.

When the person in the car saw that Janessa was staring at it, he rolled down the window. "It's nice to meet you here, Janessa."

Rylan just stared at her through the car window. He felt as if he had been caught doing something wrong.

He hadn't done anything worth feeling guilty about, so why was he so nervous?

Rylan took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. But every time he saw Janessa, it was like he forgot how to do just that.

Since she had told him she was pregnant with Rayan's child, Rylan was always restless and worried.

Although his grandfather had agreed when he pursued Janessa before, if his grandfather ever found out that Janessa was pregnant and the child wasn't Rylan's, he would never allow them to be together.

Rylan had no idea how he was supposed to face Janessa, and his emotions were still too raw for him to figure it out.

He wanted to be with Janessa, but he didn't want to raise another man's child. He knew it would be difficult to marry her, but he was sure that the person he loved with all his heart was Janessa. Rylan couldn't dare imagine a life without Janessa in it.

These two choices kept flashing in Rylan's mind constantly. He was tired of feeling so helpless, but he didn't know what to choose in the end.

"Why are you here?" Janessa was actually surprised to see Rylan.

The last time they met at the ball, Janessa had already made everything clear to him. Since she hadn't seen Rylan for some time, Janessa had thought that he had finally understood what she said. But by the way he looked that day, she could guess that he hadn't figured it out yet.

"And here I was thinking you made up your mind." There was a hint of disappointment in Janessa's tone. Rylan was a good man. There was no doubt in that. Although sometimes he came off as frivolous, he was actually a very sensitive person.

Janessa didn't want to hurt him just because of his affection for her.

But she could never love him back and there was no future between them, so ending it as soon as possible was for the best.

"Janessa, I know what you mean, but I don't want to let you go." From the first time Rylan saw Janessa, he had fallen so deeply that there was no hope of ever coming back. But life fooled people around sometimes...

Janessa couldn't think of anything to say. Moreover, it wasn't a good idea to have such a talk in the streets. She remembered the cafe next to them and invited Rylan for a cup of coffee.

The coffee shop Janessa chose was renowned for having the best customer service. The first floor was an elegant big hall which had been designed to accommodate many people comfortably. Each table was a distance from the next, giving the customers a sense of privacy.

The owner had thought of just the proper social distance. If everyone sat too close to each other, it would be inconvenient for them to talk about private issues freely.

So the cafe arranged their seats like that bearing the customer's comfort in mind.

On the second floor, there were free private rooms with even more elegant designs. Customers were offered both good ambiance and privacy as they enjoyed their drinks and accompaniments.

Janessa picked a nice place on the second floor for the two of them to talk.

"How did you find such an interesting place?" Rylan had been amazed by the unique designs and art as he went up to the second floor. They made him feel at peace just by looking at them.

"I found it while I was shopping with my friend some time ago. Order whatever you like. Today's my treat," Janessa said generously as she sat down in the lounge.

Rylan's hand froze as he went for the menu. Looking at it made him think for a while. The situation itself seemed off in a way.

He came from a rich family. So why was Janessa paying the bill for him?

Rylan ordered a cup of mocha, his favorite coffee, and some snacks.

Janessa just smiled. Treating Rylan at the cafe was nothing.

When the waiter left, Janessa turned to the man who seemed to be looking at everything except her.

"Rylan, I thought I had made myself clear that night. Let me finish first!" Janessa said when she saw Rylan was about to interrupt her.

She continued firmly, "I know how it feels to like someone and be rejected by them. But still thank you and other friends who offered me great friendship which makes me know that there are still some people who care about me.

I won't force you to forget anything. Neither will I tell you to get into another relationship to forget me. I just hope that you can have an open mind. What is destined to be yours will always find a way to get to you. Just be patient. The perfect woman for you will come soon. Don't worry." Janessa didn't want to give him any false hopes about her ever loving him.

Rylan's heart was broken. He had always known what Janessa's final answer would be. But as long as she never confirmed it, he could continue to play dumb.

But now that she had made her stand clear, Rylan had to face it.

"Okay then. So from now on, we are just friends. Nothing else." Rylan smiled bitterly. He should have known he had no chance whatsoever with her.

All his efforts were useless. In the end, they would just be simple friends.

"Can we still be friends?" Rylan felt reluctant to think of it as over, but he had to leave it as it was this time.

"Of course, we will always be friends, best friends."

Janessa smiled knowingly. Rylan had really given up this time. She could see it in his eyes.