

## Chapter 393 It's Not Up To You

Alana knew that Rayan wasn't playing games. He meant everything. It was just utterly flabbergasting. How could she betray Janessa to save her family?

Suddenly, it was as if a light bulb lit up in her mind. 'I can't let him find Janessa no matter what! I can't have her live a miserable life because of me!'

From what Alana could gather, the love in his eyes was non-existent. All she could see was the anger in his heart. He was irate about how easily he was fooled.

It was a difficult decision. After all, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was an offer one couldn't possibly refuse. Rayan's arrangement put Alana in quite a difficult position.

There wasn't much time left for her family.

She was on the horns of a dilemma. Making the choice between her family and a clean conscience was almost impossible.

"I know that you understand that this kind of offer doesn't come by too often. You only have one chance," Rayan persuaded. It was only a matter of time before he found Janessa.

He had a hunch that Alana knew Janessa's whereabouts, so he orchestrated this plan to get ahead.

Rayan was a talented man. He knew how to play with people in the palm of his hands.

"Rayan, you should give up. I can't give you what you want. Janessa is my best friend. You're not looking for her because you love her. I can't help you with anything," Alana answered. If only he didn't ask her threateningly, she would have had second thoughts.

However, his words motivated her not to budge. After all, Janessa was her best friend. Alana's family was in a wreck, but Alana understood that no matter how bad her family's situation was, Janessa had nothing to do with it. She didn't deserve to be thrown under the bus.

He had a cigarette in between his fingers as Rayan's eyes lingered on Alana.

His gaze went up and down, trying to gauge her stance. It only made Alana even more determined to stand her ground. She straightened her back, unwavering.

She meant every word she said, so she couldn't care less about his threats.

"Damn... What a faithful daughter. Byron, you have a faithful daughter, don't you?" As if on cue, he took his phone out from his pocket and nestled it on his lap.

Byron Shen was on the line! Byron was the head of the Shen Group. He was Alana's father as well.

Alana was certain that the man on the phone was her father.

The caller ID could easily be faked but she saw her father's number on the phone.

"You really are a horrendous man!" Alana did not see that coming.

Byron had been having trouble sleeping for the past couple of days because of the problem in their company. His hair looked so much whiter. Alana had never once helped with the redemption of their family business. Now that Byron had found out about her unwillingness to take the offer, he was more irate than ever.

"Mr. Shen, believe me when I say that I want to help your family with all my heart. However, I don't think your daughter wants to help me find my wife. I can't really do anything about it," Rayan said. The tone of his voice was casual, but everyone knew that his words held so much weight. He had the power over the destiny of the Shen family.

For years, their family had been part of the elite circle. Suffering such a tragedy was a hard pill to swallow for Alana.

"How could you do this, Rayan?! Janessa was right for choosing not to be with you. I don't regret not helping you find her. You don't deserve to be the father of her child!" Alana was so upset. She couldn't help herself from screaming at Rayan without even a second thought.

"Shut up, Alana!" her father exclaimed from the phone. Her outburst made Byron feel anxious. "If you dare say one more word, I will disown you!"

"But, dad...."

Alana trailed. A frown appeared on Rayan's lips. With utter impatience, he said, "Mr. Shen, I think you should deal with your family's matter in private. There's something else I have to do. My offer stands unless I find Janessa first," Rayan said with finality. He gave Byron a choice.

If Byron really wanted to save their business, this was his only chance.

In A City, if Rayan didn't allow anyone to help Byron and his family, then no one dared to offer their help.

Byron knew very well that Rayan would be the one to determine his family's fate. He did not dare say anything more in fear that Rayan would withdraw his offer.

"I understand. Please give me more time. I know I'll be able to talk my daughter into it."

With those final words from Byron, the conversation ended.

All of the anger in Alana's heart burst out in the open. In frustration, she picked up a pillow from the couch and threw it at him.

However, it looked as if Rayan had anticipated her actions. He effortlessly dodged her attack.

Upon descending the stairs, he sat in the car and lit up a cigarette. He then proceeded to call Corbin.

"Keep a close watch on Alana. I'm certain that you will find Janessa if you follow her."

Rayan concluded the call with that command and drove away.

Alana was at home, sitting. Her mind was in shambles. She was infuriated at Rayan for threatening her and her father. On top of that, her father's attitude broke her heart.

From the very start, her parents had disapproved of Janessa and her brother's relationship. Later on, when the two of them had gotten together, Alana's family refused to give Janessa the financial help she needed. Now that Janessa was caught in a jam, Byron wanted to put her as a sacrifice so he could save the Shen family.

The Shen Group held a special place in Byron's heart. After all, their family had been running it for over a century.

Alana was racking her brain for her next step. She knew very well that Rayan wouldn't give up until he figured out Janessa's whereabouts. 'I know he has eyes on me. For the sake of Janessa's safety, I shouldn't keep in touch with her,' she thought to herself.

The ringing of the doorbell interrupted Alana's train of thoughts.

"Who is it?"

"It's your father. Open the damned door!"

It was, indeed, her father's voice. For a moment, Alana hesitated to open the door, but she ended up doing so anyway.

Byron was standing right on her doorstep but she refused to let him in.

"You can say whatever you want to say from where you are. You are not welcome in here." She knew that her father wanted her to sell out her best friend for his own interests.

Alana refused to give in to her father's wishes.

The stress had caught up on Byron's face. He now had a beard on his chin. His daughter's behavior put him in a fit of rage. Since his phone call with Rayan, all he could think about was how upset he was with Alana. To make matters worse, she wouldn't even let him into her home.

'How I raised such an ill-mannered daughter is beyond me.

Great... This is just great! I have such an amazing daughter,' he sarcastically thought to himself.

"What a devoted daughter you are, Alana." Byron gritted his teeth in anger. He badly wanted to teach Alana a lesson.

"If all you want is for me to double-cross my best friend, you should give up now. She took care of me for many years. Janessa is the only person who knows me inside and out. I would never betray the most important person in my life."

"Is she really more important than your own parents? Your parents who brought you into this world?"

"Yes! She was there for me when I was feeling down and lonely. Where were you then? All you ever think about is how to protect the Shen family. You've always put the company first. She has helped me through a lot. I would never betray her."

The hardship of the past was long gone. During those times, only Janessa was there for her. Alana wanted to stay home but there was nobody in her family who truly cared for her.

There would be times when they would sympathize with her, but Alana knew better. They always had an ulterior motive.

Dealing with them was exhausting.

"That's not for you to decide." Byron seized the opportunity. With all his strength, he pushed her aside and walked in.