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Chapter 404 Like A Hypocrite

The villa sat next to a magnificently vast sea.

The sound of crashing waves was constant and soothing at night, and it proved to be the perfect lullaby in such a setting. When morning came, one could wake up to the sight of the sun rising on the horizon, its rays casting over the water and making it glimmer. It was a life fit for the gods.

Janessa slowly walked up to Rayan. He looked so lonely, even from a distance, that she struggled with the urge to reach out and embrace him. In the end, however, she could only close her hands into fists and keep them at her sides.

With their current relationship being what it was, any form of intimacy was unacceptable.

Janessa reminded herself of this again and again as she sidled up next to Rayan.

She was definitely much smaller compared to him, but they both exuded the same powerful and intimidating aura.

"Is there anything wrong with the Lu Group?"

Janessa's tone was nonchalant, as if she was only asking about the weather. Even so, her mere presence brought Rayan relief, like a warm blanket that was draped over him.

He had always worn a mask whenever he was around other people. At first, he did it to protect himself, but it had become a habit

over time. And yet, his cool exterior always crumbled when he was with Janessa. It had been this way since they'd come home from abroad. He was simply at ease as long as he knew that she was near. He attributed it to Janessa's familiar yet unique scent, something that made her stand out from the rest.

"It's no big deal," he murmured. "Don't worry." But Janessa could tell from his glum expression that the matter was, in fact, a very big deal.

"Larry is very cunning," she said calmly. "His actions are quick and decisive, which is why his enemies are often caught off-

guard. It's not easy to dig up any information on him here. I've tried investigating his background before, but I never learned

anything useful. You had better find other avenues to get information on him. Try looking into other sources, too. There's nothing to be found in the city."

Janessa wasn't sure whether Rayan would listen to her or not, only that she needed to tell him everything she knew. If she could

provide him with even just a clue, then it would already be worth it.

Beside him, Rayan remained silent. He didn't acknowledge her remarks, but neither did he stop her.

Janessa took this as a sign to continue the conversation she had started.

"Larry is obviously challenging the Lu family, not just the company. If we take his age into consideration, it's rather unlikely that the object of his vendetta is you. He's somewhere around your parents' age, though. If you can find anything about his history, it just might be the edge you need to defeat him once and for all."

Larry to take on a vengeful crusade. He's either doing it for his business ambitions, or for a woman. As for the specific details, I believe you'll have to use your resources in order to obtain them."

That was it. Janessa had revealed all her cards, and had thrown in her own speculations as well.

Janessa paused then, considering her next words before speaking them out loud. "There can only be two reasons for a man like

It was now up to Rayan to trust her.

She had been wanting to relay this information to him for a while now, but he had been avoiding her on purpose. He had even

with such a sensitive topic at hand.

thrown Gracie right to her face.

It was exactly because of the other woman that Janessa had refrained from speaking about Larry. She couldn't shake off the

feeling that Gracie was working for the man, and would inadvertently cause Rayan to fail.

Janessa had no choice but to hold her tongue and wait for the right time.

Sadly, Rayan had never given her a chance to explain, and she had eventually run out of chances.

"All right, I understand," he said now, his voice quiet. Rayan had contemplated looking into Larry's background, too, but he

wasn't as insightful as Janessa.

She perked up at his reply. He seemed to be in a good mood today, seeing as how he wasn't picking a fight with her, especially

What surprised her even more was that he seemed to have acknowledged her suggestions.

If Rayan had only been this agreeable from the start, she would have saved a lot of energy.

Janessa gazed back at the sea with a small smile.

It had grown dark as night descended. They were in the suburbs, after all. Even the perpetual honking of the cars and the bustling noise of the city felt like a distant memory. Here, everything was clean and peaceful.

Stars dotted the sky freely, without a layer of pollution to block their glow from the naked eye.

Janessa was content to spend her days like this, to just enjoy what nature had to offer with the man she loved and their future

child.

Rayan glanced at her out of the corner of his eye. Her relaxed demeanor was contagious, and he had the overwhelming urge to trust her without reservations since the moment he arrived home today.

He took it to mean that Janessa really cared about him.

She was right about her analysis and reasoning. In fact, most of her ideas were in line with his.

He needed to act fast, though. If he had only been open to her earlier and listened to her advice, perhaps he would be able to figure out a more effective solution.

during their marriage, and just this past year, he had let his pride get the best of him. She had probably lost all confidence in him at this point, and he couldn't really blame her.

A gust of wind rushed past them, blowing Janessa's hair away from her face. Rayan caught that distinct scent of hers again, mixed with the briny smell of the sea.

Rayan took a deep breath and turned to the woman by his side. Even in his worst days, he couldn't deny her wisdom, her sharp

wit, and her generosity. It was a pity that he hadn't cherished her when he had the chance. He had repeatedly trampled on her heart

He hurriedly took off his coat and wrapped it around her shoulders.

"The sea breeze is getting stronger. We should head inside." Rayan took the initiative to put his arm around her and usher her back. Janessa didn't pull back or refuse his touch.

Even so, they returned to their own, separate rooms. It might seem like they had made up, but their relationship was still too

After seeing Janessa close her bedroom door, Rayan went to look for Willie.

A tacit understanding had passed between them. It was as if they had reconciled without even saying anything.

her followed. Her safety is the most important thing right now. It can be dangerous in the meantime, so you'd better wait for a few days until you tell her about this."

"What can I do for you, Sir?" the butler asked.

ambiguous to take on any form of intimacy.

It made her all the more alluring for some reason.

Rayan turned to go then, but he immediately whirled around to add some more instructions.

"Also, tell her she can invite her friends to the villa. She'll feel bored if she's all cooped up in her by herself." Finally satisfied, he went upstairs with a spring in his step.

"She is allowed to go outside from now on. It doesn't matter where she wants to go. Don't get in her way. But make sure to have

"If you really want to be with someone, it's only right that you step up and take action," he muttered under his breath. "Ah, well. Never mind. I should just help you along."

Willie watched Rayan go, a knowing smile slowly spreading on his face.

Willie had been around long enough, and had seen enough, to know how to keep this unpredictable couple in good terms.

The moment Rayan was in his room, he took out his phone and called a number he hadn't dialed for a long time.

"It's me," Rayan said without preamble. Even if he didn't introduce himself, the other man would surely know who he was, anyway.

"Say what you have to say and don't waste my time," Noble snapped.

"Hey, this overseas call is expensive, okay?"

On the other end, Noble rolled his eyes and hung up right away.

The other party picked up almost instantly, and a male voice came through the line.

person. I can't find any valuable information on him here. Enlist your men if you must. Money is not a problem."

"Deal," Noble sighed, obviously reluctant to help Rayan.

Rayan stared at his phone in disbelief for a moment before calling him again. "Okay, listen. I need your help in investigating a

"Thank you. Now, the man is called Larry. That's about all we know for now. I'll email you the details."

"Okay."

"Thank you, really."

"Quit talking like a hypocrite," Noble retorted. Then he hung up without saying goodbye again.

This time, however, Rayan only felt relief.

As long as he had Janessa supporting him, it seemed that he really could overcome all the difficulties that came his way.

That night, he slept with a smile on his face.

Rayan had sent him, the deeper his scowl became. This matter was actually quite tricky.

Meanwhile, Noble continued to curse at his old friend as he opened his email tab. The more he read through the information