

Chapter 411 Taken Down A Notch

"Who is it?" Janessa asked. But Willie didn't tell her who had come. As she stood to greet the guests, two familiar people appeared in her view.

"Why are they here?"

Despite her surprise, Janessa couldn't help hurrying downstairs.

"Be careful!" Sarah called out immediately. "Don't rush yourself." She almost panicked when she saw the other woman practically hopping down the stairs.

Ignoring Donald, who had been trailing behind her, Sarah jogged over to Janessa and took her arm.

"You should be more careful next time, especially around stairs," Sarah chided, still a little breathless from worry. "You have no idea how scared I was just now."

Janessa glanced at Rayan's parents. They had both treated her well over the years. Then Sarah's words hit her.

They must have found out about her pregnancy.

"It's all right, Mom. I'm aware of what to do."

As Janessa said this, she snaked her arm around Sarah's to assist the older woman over to the living room. She might be pregnant, but she didn't see any reason to put herself before her elders.

They chatted along the way before settling down on the sofa. Donald was sitting on one of the massive armchairs, his back ramrod straight.

Although he looked considerably less imposing than he had when he was younger, he was still rather intimidating at first glance.

"Hello, Dad."

"Take a seat," Donald said, his tone soft and mellow. His face burst into a rare smile, his gaze softening as the corners of his eyes crinkled.

Well, this certainly was different from the patriarch's usual attitude.

In truth, Donald was simply overjoyed at the prospect of becoming a grandfather.

After all, he hadn't been happy with his own sons for a good while now. Edison was so senseless to the point of absurdity. He only took the Lu Group as a venue to flirt and hook up with different women. The company had naturally descended into chaos in the short time he had been there.

Rayan had been so furious, he had petitioned for his brother to be kicked out of the family business.

That didn't stop Edison from wreaking havoc, though. He had never married, but he had no doubt impregnated various women over the years. Sadly, they all had to get an abortion as none of them were eligible to marry into the prestigious Lu family.

"Please have some tea." Willie emerged from the kitchen with a tray of refreshments. He set it down on the table and proceeded to serve the guests. As per Rayan's instructions, he had prepared Donald's favorite tea.

Janessa peered at the butler and noted the special tea he had apparently brewed beforehand.

This was no ordinary visit. Rayan had definitely arranged for this to happen.

"Dad, Mom, what brings you here? Rayan would be finished with work in a couple more days. You should have called if you wanted to see us, and we would have come to see you right away." In Janessa's mind, it was neither proper nor respectful for the elders to visit their juniors. It should be the other way around.

But Rayan was the only one to blame for this difficult predicament. If he had wanted to let his parents know about her pregnancy so badly, then he should have just told her, so they could visit them together. It wasn't as if she was planning to get rid of the baby. Why was he resorting to underhanded tricks?

"We heard that you're pregnant. Donald and I are just so excited that we couldn't wait to see you! And the little one, too. It's been a long time since we welcomed a new member to the family." Sarah's eyes were fixed on Janessa's belly. It was clear to everyone that she was looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild.

It was about time this baby came along.

Janessa and Rayan had been married for three years, after all. At the time, Janessa was frank about not wanting a baby, while Rayan refused to sire a child that wasn't Gracie's.

In the end, Janessa had eventually gotten pregnant, but she and Rayan had already divorced. It might have been fate, but the universe had been particularly cruel to her at that point in her life when she wasn't able to keep the child.

Even when Gracie had become pregnant later on, Donald and Sarah had still hoped that Janessa would get back with Rayan, and that she would be willing to accept his child with another woman. In their eyes, Gracie would never be worthy to marry their son.

Likewise, they believed that only a natural heir should inherit a family business as massive as theirs.

"That's right, I am pregnant," Janessa sighed as she ran a hand over her belly. "And I will cherish and protect this child with my life."

'My baby, you aren't even born yet, but a lot of people already have high hopes for you. I will keep you safe no matter what. Everyone will welcome you with love and laughter.'

The atmosphere grew quiet as the two women caught each other up on their lives. Donald brooded in his seat, and would occasionally glance at his wife and former daughter-in-law time and again.

Finally, he cleared his throat and spoke. "Janessa, have you and Rayan obtained your marriage certificate yet? I told you to get it before the New Year, but you refused to do so. Now that you are pregnant, you should do the right thing and remarry as soon as possible. You can even hold a wedding ceremony if you want. Your belly isn't that big yet, so I'm sure people wouldn't notice. But if you don't want to, then you can wait until the baby is born. No, a wedding ceremony isn't even that important. Getting your marriage certificate should be your top priority for now." Donald was deadly serious about the matter.

Their grandchild's identity and heritage must be established before it was born!

Unfortunately, his words only reminded Janessa of the unpleasant things between her and Rayan that were yet to be resolved. A bitter taste rose in her mouth.

She and Rayan had separated the moment he had discovered her purpose for coming to Lu Group. Even if they were together now, she still didn't know his true intentions. A lot of hurtful things had been said and done since they had broken up. She couldn't even tell whether he had truly forgiven her, or if he was only being nice for the sake of their unborn child.

Janessa couldn't bring herself to get a new marriage certificate with Rayan until they cleared up all the misunderstandings and reaffirmed their commitment.

She had been driven by a different purpose when they had first married, and they had both been clearly unprepared. This time, however, she wanted to make sure that they were walking into marriage willingly, that they were doing it for love.

Janessa fiddled with her fingers and said nothing. Beside her, Sarah frowned, thinking that Janessa was upset about Rayan's recent entanglement with Gracie.

"You don't have to worry about Rayan and Gracie," the older woman said quickly. "In my heart, you are the only daughter-in-law of the Lu family. Besides, my errant son has confided everything to me. You and Rayan had a fight last time, didn't you? He was only pretending to be with Gracie to get back at you and make you jealous. Don't be too mad at him anymore, all right? Donald and I have already berated him on your behalf."

"That's not it, Mom. Rayan and I..." Janessa drifted off, unsure of what to say. She had no idea just how much the old couple knew.

"Well, if you still feel the need to air your grievances, just say the word and I will punish him right before your eyes when he comes home tonight." Donald puffed his chest out, looking every bit like a protective father. Only, he was out to defend his daughter-in-law from his own son.

Despite herself, Janessa was quite amused by his declaration.

"Dad, Rayan has been very busy lately. He rarely comes back in the evening, and would usually have dinner at the company. We'll have to wait for things to settle down before we could get our marriage certificate." She couldn't refuse them outright, so instead, she assured them with a vague promise that might or might not come true.

If Sarah and Donald still insisted after this, she would have no choice but to breach the subject with Rayan.

Sarah huffed, "Just tell me if that brat dares to bully you, and I will personally teach him a lesson."

Janessa chuckled at that. "I wonder, Mom... Now that you're about to have a grandchild, does that mean that Rayan's position in the family has been taken down a notch?"

Interestingly enough, Sarah turned to Donald and gave him a look. Then, she took Janessa's hand and patted it gently. "Of course it has. Donald's position also declined when I gave birth to Rayan. Such is the way in the Lu family, I'm afraid."