

Chapter 412 Promise Me You'll Smile More Often

Later that evening, Rayan was welcomed home by the view of Janessa sitting alone on the swing as it swayed back and forth.

Quite a number of thick, padded cushions were perched on the swing to support her pregnant belly. Today, a gorgeous white gauze dress adorned Janessa's body. She was barefoot as the air rocked her almost melodically on the swing. Angelic was the right word to describe her. The length of her hair was gorgeous. There was not a tinge of makeup on her face and yet, she captivated the eyes of people effortlessly.

Tonight, there was no trace of harshness in the wind. It was nothing but a cool, gentle breeze. Janessa's beauty seemed to be exponentially highlighted against the setting sun.

For ten minutes, Rayan stood there by the yard, unmoving. He just could not take his eyes off of her.

From the living room, Willie walked towards Rayan to welcome him home.

As if on cue, Rayan handed his briefcase to Willie before approaching Janessa.

The first thing he did when he walked towards her was take off his suit. Gingerly, Rayan wrapped the jacket around Janessa's shoulders.

"You should wear more clothes. It's freezing at night."

Janessa was deep into her thoughts when Rayan interjected.

"Oh, you're back. Mom and dad were here today," Janessa said. Her voice was calm.

She was certain that Rayan was aware of their presence. However, she had no idea what her relationship with Rayan was. It boggled her why he even thought of taking her back.

More importantly, she had no idea how to treat him.

Rayan was fighting the urge to be the one to push the swing. "Hmm..." he hummed. Without giving her a warning, Rayan wrapped his strong hands around the rope and gently pushed the swing.

It caught Janessa by surprise, but soon, she adapted to the feeling of it.

The instance reminded her of her childhood. When she was younger, she greatly enjoyed being on the swing. Her father had installed one in their house when she was a child.

It was ginormous that she could even lay on it if she wanted to.

During the day, her father was preoccupied with work. To compensate for his busy schedule, Janessa's father would come to play with her on the swing. It was exactly like what Rayan was doing now.

"You're smiling,"

Rayan stated. Her smile was so radiant. It was intoxicating. He had never seen Janessa smile like this since the day he brought her to this place. Although there were instances when she smiled, she never smiled at him.

Rayan's words interrupted her trip back to memory lane. As if on cue, her smile disappeared into nothing. An awkward look replaced the grin on her face.

"Was I? I didn't notice."

The faint smell of his cologne wafted through her nose. The warmth of his body could still be felt from his jacket. The thought of it made Janessa blush. Her face turned crimson red as she took the jacket off and threw it at him.

"It's time for dinner,"

Janessa said as she hopped off the swing. She heard a series of hurried footsteps the moment she stepped forward.

Before she could say anything, Janessa was locked in a warm embrace.

"Rayan! What the hell are you doing?!"

she exclaimed. Her subconscious seemed to have told her to grab his waist, reciprocating his embrace. However, when she realized who it was, she hastily let go and repeatedly banged her fists on his chest.

She mustered all the strength she had to attack him, but it felt like nothing to Rayan.

"Let me go!" Janessa's face turned a shade of crimson. With all of the people in the villa, the possibility of them being seen worried her. She was flushed with embarrassment.

Their servants addressed her as "Mrs. Lu" but still, she couldn't bring herself to play the part.

"Let's talk. Alright?" Rayan's voice beamed with sincerity. He had always treated her with an air of ignorance the entire time they had been together.

His assumptions led him to believe that driving Janessa away would bring him the joy he longed for. However, he found himself to be wrong. He craved Janessa's attention. He wanted her to be jealous. That was why he kept Gracie close. However, Rayan was enveloped in sadness when he saw how unhappy Janessa was with what he did.

"What else is there to talk about?" The truth was that Janessa wanted to talk. But the way their eyes gazed at each other frightened her.

She was afraid that she would not like the conclusion of their conversation.

"Janessa, please don't leave. I have thought about this for a few days now, but I still can't find the right words to say. When I found out that you walked up to me with a scheme, I was upset. I was upset because I cared about you then. It hurt me that you didn't trust me enough to tell me anything. If you really didn't want anything from me, why didn't you just tell me? Why did I have to find out about it through Gracie?

I didn't want to believe her at first. But then I saw you stealing data when I looked through the security cam footage."

Rayan's voice was filled with sorrow and Janessa felt every bit of it.

Her heart seemed to have gone soft from the way he talked. Janessa's discomfort grew with every passing second. Rayan's words disturbed her.

"Back then, I didn't have it in me to give you a chance to explain. I feel differently now. Can you tell me why you did that?" Rayan asked.

Janessa was rendered speechless.

All she could do was struggle to get out of his tight embrace.

"Janessa..."

"I'm not going anywhere. I'm just a little uncomfortable." It was the truth. She couldn't quite tolerate being in that position. Initially, she had assumed that the conversation wouldn't last too long, so she was alright with it. Janessa didn't expect that Rayan wanted to talk seriously.

However, Rayan did not let her go. Instead, he wrapped her in his clothing to protect her from the cold. Rayan lifted her up so she could comfortably sit on the swing.

"Is this better?"

Janessa did not know what to reply. She did not seem to have a choice, so Janessa just let him be.

"I admit that I felt ill towards you when we first met. We were married for three years. It might have been because of my family, but you have to admit that we were not happy in those three years. When Gracie reappeared, you asked for a divorce without even giving it a second thought. What do you think I felt? Even if I didn't love you then, you and your family have grown on me. After all, we were together for three long years.

When Gracie came back to the picture, not only did you treat her like a goddess, you also turned a blind eye to all of her malicious deeds. And then you thoughtlessly manipulated the Qiu Group into their crisis."

"I'm so sorry." Janessa's accusations saddened Rayan. He realized how awful he had been to her. It was only fitting that she broke his heart.

His words surprised Janessa greatly. Never in her life did she expect him to apologize to her.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Rayan asked. The look in Janessa's eyes confused him.

"I just couldn't believe that you said sorry!" The air was filled with Janessa's hearty laughter.

Her smile put Rayan in a trance. He was stunned.

"You look so beautiful when you smile. Promise me you'll smile more often."

Not a word escaped Janessa's lips. Instead, she looked into the distance. All she could do was nod.