

Chapter 416 Dinner With Rayan's Parents

"Make sure that you return all the money you've taken from Qiu Group within a month."

A strong voice came from the doorway even before the man himself appeared. Janessa knew that voice, and she instantly cooled down after hearing his words.

Soon enough, Rayan was striding angrily into the living room.

Truly, this man seemed to have been born to lead and dominate.

His mere presence evoked deference from the people around him. Rayan looked difficult and unapproachable enough on normal days. When he was this furious, he resembled the devil himself.

Wendy couldn't help but cower back as a shiver ran down her spine.

"What can you possibly be talking about, Mr. Lu? Janessa is also a shareholder of the Qiu Group, so it's only natural that she helps with the company's troubles." Wendy plopped on the sofa to disguise her shaking legs. She tried to act calm, but her efforts only made her look ridiculous.

She looked at Rayan calmly. Deep down, she was spiraling into a panic.

She had purposely come at a time when Rayan was not home. Who thought that the man would come back at such a crucial moment?

If she had known, she would have asked Aydin to accompany her. Aydin would probably know how to handle this unexpected situation.

"A shareholder, you say?" Rayan snapped. "You might be right about that, but if I remember correctly, Janessa has already put a lot of money just to get the Qiu Group back on track. Even so, you and your father still managed to make matters worse. You and your father have been doing a lot of things behind the scenes, haven't you? Did you really think no one will find you out? What do you think is going to happen to Aydin once the senior shareholders of the company learn of your... questionable dealings?" As he spoke, Rayan slowly walked toward Janessa and sat beside her.

His expression softened as he turned to her and asked how she was feeling.

"I'm fine. I was just having a chat with Wendy." Her words did not convince him, though.

Rayan had overheard Wendy earlier, so there was no need for Janessa to say anything more. She didn't have to deal with this issue, either. He intended to take it from here.

"I see, so you were just chatting. Willie, kindly see the guest out. Mrs. Lu is tired." He felt rather sorry for his wife. She shouldn't be bothering herself with the mishaps of the Qiu Group now, of all times.

"Janessa, you can't just stand by and do nothing!" Wendy shrieked desperately. She knew the odds weren't in her favor, but a part of her had still hoped that Janessa would forgive her.

"Your parents have spent all their lives building the Qiu Group up from the ground. Do you really want their legacy to languish and disappear? I know you won't do that, Janessa. You're a filial daughter, after all. The company is the only thing you have left. How can you turn your back while it suffers?" Willie was forcibly dragging Wendy away at this point, so she was simply spouting anything that came to mind.

Unfortunately for her, Janessa remained unflappable.

If anything, she only closed her eyes and rubbed her temples. She was a little tired. Without another word, Rayan picked her up and carried her upstairs, while Wendy screamed all the way out into the yard.

Thankfully, it didn't take long for the villa to become quiet again.

Rayan set Janessa down against the pillows before sitting on the edge of the bed. "How are you, really?" he asked, taking her hand. "Were you scared just now?"

"Of course not. I'm just a little sad, I guess." Janessa would be lying if she claimed that Wendy's tirade hadn't struck a chord in her.

Wendy had been right—the Qiu Group was indeed the fruit of her parents' love and labor. They had built the company from nothing and made it into what it was now. Or at least, before Aydin had taken over. Now, it was practically damaged beyond repair.

Janessa's heart ached for her parents.

Nevertheless, she couldn't muster the will to take over and manage the Qiu Group in her current state, much less fix its problems. She would need, first and foremost, a ton of money just to source a possible solution.

She was certain that Rayan would willingly extend a hand, of course, but the Lu Group was currently facing its own battles. She couldn't bear the thought of becoming a burden to him when he was already carrying so much.

And so, she was taken aback when he said, "Don't worry. I'll take care of the Qiu Group." Rayan knew what the company meant to Janessa, and the fact that she was on the verge of losing it.

If he hadn't taken back his investments in the first place, she wouldn't have felt like she had no choice but to accept the deal from Larry. Then maybe they wouldn't have ended up like this. In Rayan's mind, he was the one who had caused this disastrous string of events.

Therefore, it was also his duty to clean up the mess.

"No, Rayan," Janessa protested vehemently. "Don't waste your time on the Qiu Group. It's not worth it. Keeping control of the Lu Group should be your main priority. You must not let your enemies succeed with their schemes." Ironically enough, Janessa blamed herself for the Lu family's current predicament. If she had only confessed to Rayan and warned him earlier, they would have taken precautions and made counterattacks. Instead, they were now scrambling to secure his position in the company.

To put it bluntly, she thought that everything was her fault.

"You don't understand, Janessa. I'm the reason why the Qiu Group has come to this. But you don't have to worry anymore. Everything is going to be just fine." Unbeknownst to most, Rayan had already figured out a way to salvage the Qiu Group.

But of course, Janessa refused to relent.

"Rayan. Listen to me. It's my parents' fault for giving Aydin too much rein. That's why he thought he could get away with anything. I've always wanted to put an end to his foolishness once and for all, but my father would always stop me, telling me to just keep quiet and endure. In the end, both of my parents lost their lives, and now they're about to lose the Qiu Group as well. I think it's a fair consequence of their blind tolerance of my uncle."

"No, you listen to me!" Rayan thundered.

"No, you listen!"

Both thought they were at fault for the other's misfortunes, and didn't want to impose on each other any further. They both wanted each other's company to get better.

It was absurd how, in essence, they were expressing their devotion to each other, yet their minds were going in two different directions.

They were still arguing and talking over each other when Willie peeked into the room.

It only took him one glance to know that the quarrel was not significant enough to warrant any concern. They clearly cared about each other.

At the moment, however, his news was more important than their quarrel.

Willie rapped loudly against the open door, and two heads turned to him in unison.

"What's the matter?" Rayan asked grumpily. He hadn't convinced Janessa, so when he was interrupted, he was a little angry.

Janessa, on the other hand, was grateful for the interruption. If Willie hadn't come in, their argument would have probably escalated to a full-blown fight.

"Sir, Madam, I just got off the phone with the older Mr. and Mrs. Lu. They would like for you to pay them a visit." Willie received a call just now.

Rayan's parents had come to see them just a few days ago, but they had been so delighted with their future grandson that they had insisted on another visit as soon as possible. Truthfully, it would have been less surprising if they had just dropped by unannounced instead of requesting for Rayan and Janessa to go to them.

"I see. Okay, you may leave." Rayan shooed the butler away in a hurry. He still had some persuading to do with Janessa.

But Willie stayed put. "Mrs. Lu asked you to have dinner with them in the family villa," he added. "Which means that you need to leave immediately. It seems that Mr. Lu has something important to discuss with you as well."

With that, Willie finally fled.

He was familiar with Rayan's dark expression, and knew that he would definitely get beaten up if he overstayed his welcome.

He had been around long enough to recognize the nuances for every possible situation, and experienced enough to know when to run and hide.