

Chapter 419 Memories Of The Pas

It was time for dinner. Donald was at the head of the table. On his right were Rayan and Janessa while Sarah sat opposite the couple.

Janessa averted her eyes from Donald. She lowered her head and kept her attention towards the food.

"Janessa, you're too thin. You should have more spareribs. Eat more, so you will gain some weight. Now is not the right time to go on a diet," Sarah said.

Sarah assumed that Janessa wanted to shed some pounds since she looked a little too slender.

"Okay, mom." Janessa focused on her food, not saying anything more.

"Mom, Janessa isn't trying to lose weight. Her morning sickness is what's causing her weight to go down. Our nutritionists have been trying to look for a solution to it," Rayan answered for Janessa. He knew very well that Janessa was still agitated from what just happened when Donald interrupted their intimate kiss.

"Well... It is important for you to get as much nutrition as you can since you're pregnant. But don't eat too much either. Moderation is key." Sarah gave Janessa a little lecture.

The sensitivity of a woman's body was heightened during pregnancy. Sarah was especially worried because Rayan and Janessa's child was her first grandson. Naturally, she cared so much about Janessa's well-being.

She had hoped that Janessa would protect the baby at all costs. It did not matter what its gender was. The priority should be the baby's health.

"I know, mom. I will."

During their dinner, Donald never uttered a word. Neither did Janessa. She was still too ashamed of the fact that Donald witnessed their kiss. Sarah was oblivious of what happened. She stopped talking after she had said her part.

After their sumptuous dinner, Rayan followed Donald to the study while Janessa and Sarah went to the garden for an evening walk.

As they walked through the garden to digest their food, Sarah talked about what to do and what not to do during pregnancy.

Janessa listened to every word she said.

Finally, Sarah talked about the reason why she wanted them to come over today.

"There are some things you and Rayan cannot do during your pregnancy. I suggest that you sleep in separate rooms tonight." Sarah's words were vague but her intent was crystal clear.

Janessa's face turned a shade of crimson. She was reminded of what had transpired in the living room moments ago. Now, her mother-in-law was lecturing her about how Rayan and she shouldn't be sleeping together.

Shame filled her guts when she realized that she had worried her parents-in-law.

"Mom, Rayan and I haven't had sex since I got pregnant. He is aware that we shouldn't do it while I'm pregnant so..." Sex was an awkward topic to be discussed with her mother-in-law.

However, Sarah opened up about it. It would be impolite if Janessa did not acknowledge her advice. Usually, Janessa was a woman of composure. However, right now, it took everything in her to remain calm.

"If you don't have anything else to do, you can always just stay in the old mansion. Rayan is always at work. It's not safe for you to be alone in your house. Donald and I will take care of you if you live with us." Sarah had everything all planned out. She knew that her son wouldn't approve of it but if Janessa said yes, there was nothing he could do about it.

Sarah had it all thought out.

"Don't worry, mom. Our house is safe. Besides, I will take good care of myself. You don't have to worry about me," Janessa said. However, it was a lie. She did not want to live with her parents-in-law. They treated Janessa very well but she did not think that living with them was a good idea.

She found it quite odd.

Had Sarah asked her in the past, Janessa wouldn't have refused. However, it was different now, Sarah did not quite fancy Janessa's decision but still, she respected her wishes.

"Okay, if that's what you think is best for you. But be sure that you drop by more often," Sarah said.

In the study, Donald and Rayan were sitting on the sofa, staring at each other.

"What happened at the company?" Donald asked. It was odd since he did not care much about the business. Sooner or later, his shares would be transferred to Rayan's name.

Every once in a while, he would think of checking in on the Lu Group.

Donald was old but without a doubt, he had more resources than Rayan. It would be much easier for him to solve the company's problems.

Left with no choice, Rayan divulged everything to his father, leaving out the part about Janessa's involvement.

There was no point in telling him anyway.

He did not deem it necessary for Donald to know about it.

"Do you know who's responsible for this?" A horrible feeling filled Donald's gut as he listened to Rayan's narration.

He was afraid that he had something to do with it.

"Yeah. It's a man called Larry," Rayan answered. Intently focused on his story telling, Rayan missed the odd expression that briefly crossed his father's face.

"Larry came back from abroad not long ago. The Chen Group had several branches in the country. For the past ten years, none of them had anything to do with the Lu Group. It's odd for Larry to make an appearance so suddenly. All of the evidence goes back to him," Rayan explained. When he looked up to look at his father, he saw the unnatural look on his face.

"Dad, are you okay? Do you know Larry by any chance?" A bold guess crossed Rayan's mind.

Heaving a heavy sigh, Donald rested his back against the back of the sofa and closed his eyes. Memories of the past flooded his mind.

It was out of his expectations that Larry would do such a thing after so many years.

Larry targeting the Lu Group was karma.

"Yes, I know Larry. I was involved with his daughter, Elizabeth, before I married your mother."

As if on cue, an image of a young woman crossed his mind. It was Elizabeth Chen.

It had been years since Donald had last seen her. He did not expect to have such a vivid image of her in his mind.

"Elizabeth? What happened between the two of you? Why would Larry do this to us?" Rayan's gut was telling him that something huge was about to happen.

"Years ago, I refused to work on the family business so your grandfather kicked me out of the Lu family. I was penniless. Being left with no money, I had no place to go. The people whom I thought were my friends ended up mocking me. I was alienated.

You have no idea what being homeless felt like. I had no money to buy food, no place to sleep. Life was hard but my experience made me realize the power of money. During that desperate time, I met a woman. She was kind and beautiful. My days were dark but her presence brought sunshine into my feeble life. She helped me realize that I had to work from the ground up if I wanted something rewarding.

She made me into a better man. I had no money but I was happy. Through her, I learned how to make money and how to make it grow. It felt like I was transformed into someone else and I felt the difference. Your grandfather had been keeping a close eye on me then. He took me home when he saw that I was deserving to inherit the company."

There was pain in Donald's voice as he spoke. He buried his head into his hands.

His actions seemed to tell Rayan that he was guilty of something. Rayan continued to listen to him as he wondered about what his father had done wrong. The more he listened, the more surprised he was.