

Chapter 444 How Shameless!

Rayan walked to the end of the corridor and lit a cigarette.

He had noticed the telltale signs of sadness in Janessa's eyes, and yet...

Rayan took a long drag, letting the spicy feeling spread against his tongue and down to his lungs. He coughed at the last minute, but this somehow managed to relieve his stress, if only a little.

Larry, Zeke... So many people wanted to destroy the Lu Group. What else could he do to save the company?

Just then, his phone rang. Rayan glanced at the name flashing on the screen and smiled despite himself. He swiped to answer.

"Hey!"

Leonard's voice came through the line. "Are you okay? Why didn't you tell us about what happened yesterday?"

Rayan realized then that Caspian and Van were with him, and were probably listening in on the call, too.

More than being business partners, the four of them would also hang out and have some fun together. They were practically family. Now that he thought about it, Rayan had heard that something had also happened to his friends' families recently.

Given their close relationship, they naturally shared each other's triumphs and woes. Rayan, for one, had never taken their camaraderie for granted.

Nor had he ever wished ill upon his friends, let alone be the cause of it.

"It's okay. I can still manage."

Leonard was so annoyed by Rayan's stubborn nonchalance that he almost cursed on the phone. Even so, he understood why Ryan was doing this. They knew each other very well, after all.

"We'll be over at the usual place later. Come and meet us, so we can figure this out together."

"Thanks, but don't bother."

"Quit being so obstinate, Rayan. You'd better show up in one hour, or you can stop calling us your friends."

Leonard quickly ended the call before the other man could say anything.

Rayan pocketed his phone, his expression shifting slightly. He sighed, put out his cigarette, and then made his way back to the ward.

On the other hand, Leonard had grown restless than he had been just a while ago. He kept feeling like a helpless spectator from the back rows. He wanted to help Rayan solve his problems once and for all, but the jerk was too damn hardheaded to accept their support.

Well, Leonard could be just as tenacious. He refused to just stand by and do nothing.

What were friends for, if not to aid each other in times of need?

"He's really getting on my nerves this time," Leonard complained as he threw himself on the sofa. "I'll make sure he gets me a pricey, vintage wine once everything blows over."

The ever cool and collected Caspian glanced at him and said nothing. His silence didn't mean that he didn't care, though. He was just as ready to jump into the fray to help Rayan, if only the latter would say the word.

"Hey, you two! Why aren't you saying anything? I asked you to come over so that we can do some brainstorming. How dare you act so calm?" Leonard vented his anger by lashing out at his two other friends.

Caspian glared at him, instantly shutting him up.

In spite of their three decades' worth of friendship, Caspian's cold nature still unnerved him sometimes. It was no wonder that he hadn't gotten himself a woman yet. What girl could endure his aloof and distant

personality?

"Of course, I'm willing to help Rayan. Just as long as he wants me to."

Caspian was just as lost as all of them, but the one thing he knew was that he was sticking to Rayan's side until the end of the fight.

"How about you?" Leonard threw a cushion at Van, who caught it and hurled it back.

"Why are you acting like you're the only one who's worried about Rayan? I want to give him a hand, too, but he insists on dealing with the problems himself. What am I supposed to do?"

The truth was that they all knew the kind of person that Rayan was. He would rather suffer and soldier through his circumstances instead of asking others for help.

This was also why they held back and didn't show up immediately after the accident.

"Well, then you should express your thoughts, at least!" Leonard grumbled. "I almost thought you didn't care at all."

Back in the ward, Janessa appeared to still be sleeping. She looked better after a full night's rest, and some color had returned to her face. She might need more time to recover, but this was a good start.

Rayan unbuttoned his sleeves and rolled them up to his elbows before walking into the bathroom. He brought a basin of warm water when he came out, and then proceeded to wipe Janessa's body with a towel.

As a matter of fact, Janessa wasn't sleeping. She had been so startled when the door of the ward opened that she instinctively closed her eyes and pretended to sleep.

At first, she had thought that Rayan would leave after a quick peek, so she was quite surprised that he was tending to her like this. What on earth did he want? She was wounded in the shoulder; she was still perfectly capable

of washing herself on her own. Sure, her left hand might have some difficulty with movement, but she still had her right hand.

Rayan gently wiped her face, causing Janessa to stiffen. His ministrations drifted down to her neck, to her arms, then her hands... He was so careful, as if she was some precious treasure he was terrified of breaking.

When he was done with her hands, Rayan lifted the covers. The next thing Janessa knew, he was touching her breasts.

What was he doing? They were in the hospital, for goodness' sake. Moreover, she was pregnant and injured. How could he be thinking of doing something so vulgar there and then?

Janessa frowned, her eyelashes fluttering. The slight movement made her look all the more adorable.

Rayan's gaze fixed on her face, and she could feel his eager intent even with her eyes closed. She couldn't afford to keep up with the pretense any longer.

Janessa slowly opened her eyes, pretending to rub the sleep from her eyes. She licked her parched lips, making Rayan's breath hitch.

This woman always knew how to push his buttons.

Although weak and hurt, she could still so easily stir his desires.

She was the one for him, no doubt about it.

Well, this was just a good opportunity as any other. How could he let his chance slip by?

Rayan leaned close and kissed her on the lips.

His hands cupped her jaw, pinning her in place as he took his fill.

Janessa's eyes widened in confusion. As far as she knew, they had yet to solve all the problems. Why was he suddenly kissing her?

Her doubtful thoughts were fleeting, though, as her brain began to buzz

under his ardent passion. Just when she had finally mustered the strength to push him away, Rayan pulled back.

"You..."

Janessa's face burned as she struggled for the words to say.

Clearly, this bastard was taking advantage of an injured patient.

How shameless!

And yet, the fire of his kiss was etched into her mind, her lips...

'Damn it, Janessa, have you become as shameless as him? Shouldn't you be beating him up right now? What are you doing, mooning over him instead?'

Janessa felt a little better after berating herself, but then another thought occurred to her—"It did feel good to kiss him?"

"What are you thinking about?" Rayan teased. "You want more, is that it?"

His burning eyes stared at her lips, which had turned red and plump from his assault. The sight made his control snap altogether.

"If so, then I'll be sure to satisfy you."

Then, without giving her a chance to reply, he swooped down for another kiss.

Janessa was prepared this time, however. She pressed her lips together and froze beneath him.

Rayan chuckled softly against her mouth. His hand flitted playfully over her chest. She did open her mouth then, about to protest and curse at him.

But it was all part of his trap, and he devoured her lips before she could utter a sound.

