

## Chapter 446 Brotherhood

Since Leona married into the Gu family, she stopped swearing at people. However, today, she was barely able to hold her tongue.

Janessa had suffered a great deal of injustice and accusations since she married Rayan. Even after they divorced, because of Rayan, Janessa had to endure all the shit others threw at her. Now, she even tried to protect him and got injured.

It had been said that women's IQ deflated to zero when they fell in love. If that really was the case, then, a pregnant woman must have a negative IQ.

"I admit that in the past, I did not do enough to protect her. However, now and in the years to come, I would never let anyone hurt her," Rayan said.

His eyes screamed with determination. Leona could not help feeling moved by the showcase of his affection.

Like Rayan, Nolan also once swore that he would love and protect her forever.

She and Janessa had suffered too much. She really hoped that Janessa would find her one true love soon.

Without a word, Leona left with the child in her arms.

Rayan turned to look at Leona as she held the child. Janessa's image suddenly crossed his mind.

Janessa could take a walk with their child in the yard, holding their baby in her arms just like Leona. She could do that while she waited for Rayan to come home from work.

Upon arriving home, he would have dinner with his beloved wife and child. The future, indeed, was exciting.

Rayan averted his eyes. All he could think about now was how much he wanted to give his wife and their child the lavish life that they deserved. It was time that he made up his mind.

Rayan walked to the private room that he shared with his friends. Loneliness appeared to fill the room as he opened the door.

Leonard had his phone in his hand as he chatted away with a woman. Across him was Caspian, playing games on his phone. Van was there, silently drinking.

On the table were three empty bottles. It looked as if the three men had already been enjoying themselves before he got there.

Rayan found an empty seat and plopped himself down. The three men did not seem to have noticed his presence.

The waiter who had just spoken to Rayan arrived with two bottles of red wine that had been unscrewed.

"Mr. Ning, Mr. Mu, Mr. Ling, I have here two bottles of Chateau Cazeau. Compliments of Mr. Lu. Please enjoy yourselves!"

The waiter was quite accommodating. He not only told everyone that the wine was a gift from Rayan, he also made sure to mention all of their names.

These waiters had been working here for years. They all mastered the art of hospitality.

With an air of expertise, the waiter poured the bottle of red wine into four empty glasses. He placed the glasses in front of them before leaving.

The waiter's pace seemed to slow down when he passed by Rayan.

As if on cue, Rayan opened his wallet and took a couple of bills for the waiter. Obviously, Rayan was pleased with the waiter's service.

"Thank you, Mr. Lu. I'll be waiting at the door, at your disposal. Please don't

hesitate to call me if you need anything." The waiter pinched the thickness of the cash. It was about 1000 dollars. He exited the room with a look of satisfaction.

"Are you really going to ignore me?" It had already been five minutes since he entered the room and yet, none of them batted an eye at him. They were the ones who asked him to come. Rayan was baffled. "What the hell do they want from me?!" Rayan thought to himself.

Leonard had always been vocal with his feelings. He was upset because of Rayan's late arrival. All they wanted was to give Rayan a hand. However, Rayan did not appear to be interested at all.

Waiting for him was a complete waste of time.

Two hours had passed since he called Rayan.

"Humph! The great Mr. Lu is finally here!" Leonard's voice was heavy with sarcasm. "You tipped the waiter a thousand dollars. It looks as if you don't need our help at all!" Leonard couldn't hold himself back any longer. He furiously yelled at Rayan.

That very moment, Rayan was struck with the realization that his friends were upset because he did not confide in them.

He picked up the glass of wine and took a sip, completely ignorant of his friend's reaction.

"I know you mean well. Please believe me when I say that I really appreciate it. Thank you, gentlemen. Let me propose a toast to you." Rayan clinked his glass on the table and drank every drop of alcohol in it.

Upon hearing Rayan's words, Leonard's anger slowly faded. "It's impolite to drink without waiting for others," Leonard complained with a straight face as he raised his glass.

The other two nodded and raised their glasses. They joined in on the commotion but none of them had the intention to drink.

Rayan was certain that they were not truly angry with him. But it didn't bother him as they were very good friends.

Though none of them were family, their bond was beyond that of blood brothers. Rayan's own brother, who was only interested with fame and wealth, paled in comparison to the three men he was with.

Rayan filled his glass with more wine and raised it to initiate another toast.

"Thank you," he said again.

He knew that they would be friends for the rest of their lives.

The drama ended right there and then. The men put an end to their feigned anger. Together, they happily raised their glasses.

After taking a sip, Caspian, who had never been known as a blabbermouth, broke his silence.

"Is it really that hard to manage?"

Rayan nodded in response. He briefly told them a summary of what had transcribed that year.

"Keeping the Lu Group under my control had been very difficult. I must admit... I was too lax. But then again, he was quite a sharp man. He had everything planned right under my nose and yet, I did not see it coming. It was already too late when I realized that he had been scheming against me."

"It's not your fault. The shareholders are all a bunch of fence sitters. They will side with whomever can give them the best benefits. It's like that with our company as well. The only difference is that Zeke had always been good to you and the Lu family. I did not anticipate that he'd be this ambitious. Nobody could have been able to see it coming. He deceived us all," Van said with utter contempt.

"Well... humans indeed are complex creatures. Anyway, what are you going to do next?" Leonard asked. A smile adorned Leonard's face as he spoke. A



lot of people had the impression that he was some kind of a good-time Charlie. No matter what the situation was, he always had a grin on his face. To an outsider, Leonard might seem like an unreliable person, but the truth was that his smile was only a facade to protect himself from peering eyes.

"I haven't made up my mind yet. But one thing's for sure... I will not give up the Lu Group. As for Larry... I don't really know what his deal is. Maybe he's plotting to take over my position. Who knows, really?" Rayan was worried about the lengths that Larry could possibly go to.

If Larry only wanted to defeat him, Rayan was confident that he could deal with it. However, if he really was plotting something, Rayan was certain that once Larry discovered his soft spot, he would certainly take advantage of it at Rayan's expense.

Unfortunately, Rayan's Achilles' heel was way too obvious. It wouldn't be too difficult for Larry to use it against him.

Now that Janessa was seriously injured, even the tiniest thing could harm her.

Rayan swore to Leona that he would never let Janessa get hurt again. He was determined to keep his promise.

It was not only because he promised Leona. He wanted to protect Janessa because she was the most important thing to ever exist in his heart.

That was why he could not afford to make rash decisions.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" Upon hearing his words, Caspian knew that Rayan already had an idea in mind. However, he could not go through it because he was scared that Janessa might get hurt in the process.

"Please help me keep an eye on Larry. If you can, prevent him from doing a sneak attack."

"Of course. I'll do something about it."

"What about me? What can I do for you?" Van interrupted. As the Ling

family's heir, he also held a lot of power in the company. Surely, there was something that he could do for Rayan as well.

