

Chapter 39 Does He Love You?

Perhaps the problem was still with Ryan. He was inscrutable. Nobody could read his mind.

"Catherine, what are you thinking about?" Jasmine reached out and shook her arm.

Catherine was too absorbed in her thoughts. Her eyes stared straight at the cup in her hands as if she was counting the tea leaves which were floating around.

"No... nothing. I'm just thinking that you should tell Ryan. He'll definitely help you cover up because he loves you."

"He loves me?" Jasmine gave her a smile, but her expression was complicated. Catherine couldn't quite fathom the expression on her face, but it also

served as the proof that Ryan didn't love her.

"Doesn't he?" Catherine asked nervously, but she didn't know why she was anxious.

"Yes! Yes, he does." She seemed to notice Catherine's doubts and answered softly.

But soon, her expression changed again. She stared blankly at the lake outside the window then spoke slowly, "I hope you'll always remember that you're my best friend. There are many things I want to tell you, and I don't wanna keep secrets from you, but my life is just full of helpless situations. I can't tell you whatever I want."

Hearing that, Catherine couldn't help but feel a tingle in her nose. Tears unconsciously fell down her cheeks.

To hide her tears, she lowered her head in a panic and pretended to drink tea. Jasmine didn't notice

her sudden movements because her view of the weeping willows outside the window was blurred by the tears welling in her eyes.

Catherine understood how she felt at that moment. She probably felt the same as her because there were too many secrets she couldn't tell either.

'Is Ryan threatening you like how he threatens me?' Catherine silently thought to herself.

'Is it because you know that he doesn't truly love you, so you have to put up with him? All your misfortune must have been caused by me, right?'

'My only hope is to get away from the devil's control as soon as possible so that you can have him all to yourself. By then, you won't be sad anymore.'

Catherine sighed heavily in her heart. She was the mistress who started the misery, so she didn't

deserve to cry. Wiping her tears away, she looked at Jasmine and her heart ached for her. She wanted to comfort her but didn't know what to say.

"Jas..." she called out in a low voice. Jasmine wiped her tears and squeezed out a smile.

"Okay, let's get back to the main topic. I asked you out today because I have a favor to ask of you."

"Sure, what is it? You can cut the formalities with me!" All Catherine wanted was to help her friend. If she could be of any help to her, it could at least lessen the guilt she carried in her heart.

Jasmine bit her lips and hesitated for a moment before she made the final decision. Could she ask Catherine to help her? After all, it seemed to be a little too much for anyone to help.

If she didn't ask Catherine for help, there was no

other way to solve the problem. Raising her head, Jasmine looked straight into her best friend's eyes. A pleading and helpless expression painted across her face.

"Catherine, please help me. Only you can keep my position in the Walker family now. I can only tell you that I can't lose my status. Otherwise, the real estate project that my father invested most of his money into will be done. His career is his life."

"How can I help you?" Catherine interrupted. Jasmine had a complicated expression on her face, but Catherine understood very well how desperate she was.

Moreover, her situation was similar to Catherine's. Back then, didn't the latter also make the decision to be Ryan's woman in order to save her father's life and his factory?

"I hope you'll accept Leonardo as your boyfriend,

even if it's a fake relationship. At least when Leonardo has a girlfriend, Ryan's parents will shift their attention to Leonardo, then I can take the opportunity to see a doctor."

"Erm..." Catherine didn't expect that this was the help she needed.

It wasn't that she didn't want to help her, but she was worried that Ryan would find it out. What if he withdrew the investment from Alan Ball out of rage if he knew about their relationship?

Moreover, she couldn't deceive Leonardo's feelings. "Catherine, I know it'll put you in a difficult situation, but if there were any other way, I wouldn't have come to you," Jasmine grabbed Catherine's hand and begged.

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"I don't think I can lie to him. Besides, doesn't Ryan disapprove of us?"

"If you don't want to deceive Leonardo, I'll beg him and tell him the truth so that he can pretend to be a couple with you. Then, we can just hide it from Ryan." Before coming to Catherine, Jasmine had it all planned because she knew Catherine all too well.

However, it was easier said than done to hide it from Ryan and let the Walkers know that Leonardo was dating her.

Why did Jas not dare to tell Ryan about this matter, but dared to tell Leonardo about her plan? Weren't they blood-related brothers? Wasn't she afraid that Leonardo would betray her? Why did

Leonardo have to help his sister-in-law?

In fact, Jasmine was confident that he was going to help her, because Leonardo had a good impression of her, and he liked Catherine a lot. He even found an opportunity to ask her for help last night.

Even if their relationship was going to be a fake one, Jasmine was certain that he would be grateful as long as he had the opportunity to get close to Catherine.

What Jasmine didn't know was that Catherine was afraid that Ryan would find it out.

In order to help her, Catherine had to take a huge risk, but she also couldn't bear to see her friend in this state if she didn't help.

Even if she didn't carry the guilt towards her, she wouldn't have been able to sit back and watch her

friend suffer in despair.

At last, she decided to risk it all for her friend. Ryan let her go plenty of times in the past, so she reckoned that as long as she succumbed to him, he probably would only be harsher to her instead of making things difficult for her father.

But at the end of the day, it would be best if he didn't find it out. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to help Jasmine to buy her some time.

"Okay, I'll do it!" she announced firmly.

"Really? I knew it! I knew I could count on you!" Jasmine exclaimed while getting up from her seat and hugged Catherine tightly.

'Catherine, do you know that you're saving my life? It's just that I can't tell you what's going on,' thought Jasmine.

"Silly girl," Catherine muttered softly and returned the hug, her voice choked with emotion.

How long had it been since they last hugged each other and had fun with each other? Before they knew it, they had grown up and held secrets. They could no longer express their feelings to each other.

Thinking about how her best friend wore a smiley face despite not being able to conceive, Catherine felt extremely bitter.

"Be strong, Jas. No matter what, you'll still have me." I'll always be your best friend. She left the last part unspoken.

"I will," Jasmine nodded fervently, and then she let go of Catherine. The dim look on her face faded, replaced with a bright smile.

Jasmine finally looked like the cheery girl she

knew of. As long as she could keep that smile on her face, Catherine was willing to do anything.

"Don't let Ryan know about what's going on between Leonardo and me. I'm a little scared of him." While the two chatted, Catherine took the opportunity to emphasize it once again.

"You don't have to worry too much about him. He isn't as intimidating as he looks. He's just a little harsh to Leonardo because he thinks he should be strict like a father so that his younger brother won't go astray. His father hasn't been taking care of the family these few years, so Ryan has to take the responsibility. If he isn't careful, their big family might break down one day." While Jasmine was defending Ryan, Catherine could know she was very understanding. Maybe it was because he was her husband. Therefore, she probably thought he did everything with reason.

"It doesn't matter if he's the Big Bad Wolf or the

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Little Red Riding Hood. I still think it's best to keep it from him. It's just an act anyway. It's not good to stir up a conflict between the brothers. Don't you think so?"

Jasmine smiled and nodded in response.

She rarely saw Catherine's witty and funny side anymore. Her lively and bubbly personality was long gone, so Jasmine assumed it had to do with her father's struggles with the factory.

While the two chatted, Catherine's phone on the table suddenly vibrated and began to ring.