

# Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 12

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

She gazed at the person hidden behind Rayan's body, but before she could make out the look on her face, Rayan pulled Gracie further behind him.

With a dark look on his face, Rayan lifted the woman from the bed, disregarding the fact that she had just undergone an operation.

"Janessa, my patience can only tolerate so much. If you hurt her again, I'll make sure you pay for it. Your mother will be turning in her grave. I'm sure you've witnessed the end of the Qiu Group. If you don't want the company to spiral into ruin sooner, it would be best for you to cooperate!"

Janessa was so furious that she forgot about the searing pain she felt.

Rayan's words kept repeating themselves in her mind.

Tears threatened to spill over.

She couldn't cry.

She mustn't cry.

She refused to give this shameless couple another chance to humiliate her.

Janessa willed the tears to disappear and scoffed, full of mockery and disdain.

Ever since he had brought Gracie into their lives, he had been shamelessly protecting her in the open.

It was better when she didn't know.

Now that she knew, she was curious to see how he planned on helping her attain the position of Mrs. Lu.

She didn't need to spare a breath to stop them, the Lu family would take care of Gracie for her. "What are you laughing at? Are you trying to provoke me?"

Rayan threatened through gritted teeth.

His large hand gripped her chin, and he forced her to look up into his eyes.

Janessa's confidence was a thorn in his side.

The thing that he despised the most was that she could do whatever she desired because she had garnered his mother's full support.

"Is there anything at all in the world that Mr.Lu wouldn't dare to do?"

Janessa raised her head and looked up at him with defiant eyes.

It would seem that Janessa was in control of this situation, but underneath, she gripped her leg hard to bite back the pain.

Maybe the pain made her act boldly.

"You have single-handedly destroyed the Qiu Group.I'm just a poor woman who's been kicked out of her home with no strength left to spare.Let's make it clear that it was her that..."

It was her that came to provoke me.Don't assume that I was the one bullying Gracie without asking a single question. Before she could finish her sentence, Gracie's frail voice interrupted her.

Her clothes were damp and her makeup ran down her face.She stared at Rayan with wounded eyes, which made her look pitiful.

"Rayan, I'm freezing! Could you drive me home?"

Gracie gazed back at Rayan with glazed eyes shedding crocodile tears from time to time.

When he let go of Janessa, he bent down and pulled Gracie into his arms.

Before he left, he stopped by the door and said in a cruel voice,

"Some say that even the most vicious tigers wouldn't dare hurt their cubs.How cruel are you? You would rather go against your late mother's wish to get that abortion you desire.You're a wicked woman, Janessa! If you insist on playing this game, then I have no choice but to play with you until the bitter end.I only hope for your sake that you can bear the consequences.Even if you can't, I won't leave you with a choice.This is the path you chose."

After resting her head on Rayan's shoulder, Gracie quietly raised her head and watched Janessa with a satisfied smile on her face.

When they left, there was finally silence inside the ward.

The air still smelled faintly of soup.

Unable to tolerate the smell, Janessa stood up and pressed the bell.

She quickly ordered someone to clean up the mess and walked out of the room alone. It had been days since she last stepped out of the ward.

As she stood at the end of the corridor, she felt the sunlight heat her skin.

She closed her eyes and thought of her mother, and how she had failed her as a daughter.

She even missed her chance to see her mother for the last time.

It was impossible to save the company at this point.

She was all alone in this world.

Janessa slumped against the wall and felt her legs go weak.

She crouched on the ground and held her knees protectively around her.

Burying her face in her knees, she let the tears fall silently.

After some time had passed, she felt a heavy coat rest on her body.

Janessa turned away to wipe her tears.

When she looked back up, a man's intense gaze locked with hers.

"What are you doing here?"

Gordon carefully pulled Janessa up and carefully placed a cushion where Janessa had been seated.

He guided her back down onto the cushion.

His movements were fluid and comfortable as if he had been doing this for years.

"I think you forget that you're inside my hospital."

Gordon crouched down beside her and gave her a gentle smile before lightly touching the tip of Janessa's flushed nose.

When his skin touched hers, it seemed like time had stilled.

Janessa turned to him and gave him a brave smile.

"I wanted to ask how you found me here. You even came prepared!"

She gestured to the cushion beneath her.

Back when they were together, Gordon always knew what she needed before she even knew herself.

He used to nuzzle his nose against hers whenever she was upset, but it wasn't something they could do anymore. Gordon reluctantly withdrew his hand and said, "I figured you were bored!"

His subtle words revealed that he had guessed what was on her mind.

Neither said another word and continued to sit beside each other in silence.

Janessa gazed out of the window, while Gordon's eyes stayed focused on her.

After some time, Janessa looked away and said, "I'm exhausted. I should go back."

"You're right. You've been out for a long time. You shouldn't be walking around too much. It would be best for you to stay in bed!"

Gordon held a hand out to Janessa and helped her up.

She slumped against the railing as they made their way back.

Her abdomen still throbbed and her legs felt weak.

Gordon glanced at Janessa, who was struggling to hold herself upright, before walking over to her.

Without another word, he bent down and carried her.

"Put me down, Gordon!"

He bent upwards with her in his arms.

His familiar scent didn't terrify her, but she was Rayan's wife now.

If he was seen holding her like this, he would be criticized for it. Janessa struggled against him to get down, but he held her tighter against him.

As they made their way down the corridor, she could make out nurses pointing at them and whispering amongst themselves.

Gordon acted as if he was oblivious to their whispers and continued to the ward with Janessa in his arms.

However, he didn't bring her back to the room she previously had.

"Why are you taking me here? My ward is next door."

Gordon gently placed Janessa onto the bed and covered her with the blanket.

With a low voice, he explained, "That room isn't suitable for you to live in. This room gets more sunshine."

The sun shone equally in all areas of the ward.

How could this room be any different? He must have been informed of what had happened in the ward a few moments before.

Janessa was too exhausted to argue with him, so she nodded and closed her eyes without another word.

Gordon stayed by her side as he watched her fall asleep.

The sight of her peaceful face as she slept made his chest feel warm.

Just when Gordon thought she was asleep, Janessa suddenly said, "Gordon, you have to promise me that you won't get yourself in trouble with Rayan in the future. He's a madman and is capable of doing anything."

Rayan had beaten him up before for Gordon was trying to protect her from him.

Gordon couldn't get himself involved in this war raging on between her and Rayan.

"Alright. I promise."

But only under the condition that he doesn't torment you.

Otherwise, I refuse to stand by and do nothing.' Gordon didn't say what he was thinking.

It was more useful to show his intentions through actions instead of words.

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 13

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

Three days had passed.

Except for Janessa, there was almost no one else in the ward.

Every day, except when he needed to perform an operation, Gordon accompanied her.

Since Rayan left with Gracie, he had never shown up again.

Janessa had almost recovered.

She just needed more time than usual to completely heal because she had bled some more after her surgery.

“Two days ago, I heard from my friend that there was a thief in our other friend’s house. The thief was about to leave after stealing, but he came back to the house. Our friend saw the thief stuck in the window. He went to pull the thief down and slapped him twice. Then, he said, ‘You’ve already stolen from me. Don’t you think you’re going too far by opening the window and letting so many mosquitoes in? Hahaha!’”

Gordon laughed out loud, but Janessa remained expressionless.

“Well, you could at least smile. I’ve told you more than twenty jokes already.”

“Your jokes freeze me. How can I laugh?”

She rolled her eyes at him.

If he continued to tell such lame jokes, she might not be able to recover and get discharged from the hospital.

The reason why Gordon had told so many punny jokes was that he did not want Janessa to be consumed by everything that had happened recently.

But Janessa thought that he had been treating her like some weak, helpless girl.

She had nothing now. She had nothing left to fear or lose.

All the same, she did appreciate Gordon’s efforts in cheering her up.

Most of his jokes might be lame, but some of them she did find funny and amusing.

A hasty knock on the door broke the momentary silence.

A nurse walked in and looked at Gordon with eyes full of love.

“Doctor Shen, Mr. Shen is in your office. She says she has something to discuss with you.”

“Why is she here at this time?”

Gordon glanced at Janessa and frowned.

A few seconds later, Gordon stood up and tucked her in.

He left after telling the nurse the same instructions he had been giving the past few days.

He had been so repetitive that Janessa could now recite his orders by heart.

Within a minute, the door swung open again.

"Mr.sLu, may I talk to you?"

"Of course, auntie.Come on in."

The servant behind Mr.Shen put the fruit basket on the cabinet, turned around, and left.

Mr.Shen wore a tight cheongsam today, simple but elegant.

She sat on the chair beside Janessa's bed.

Judging from the serious look on her face, Janessa already guessed the reason she came here today.

Mr.Shen took a deep breath and went straight to the point.

She said, "Mr.sLu, although the Qiu family business is not as good as before, you're still the Lu family's young hostess.It's not good for either you or Gordon to be so close to each other.It doesn't matter how much you've loved each other before.You've already chosen your own path.Please stop dragging Gordon along."

"I owe Gordon.I'll find an opportunity to pay him back in the future, but I won't use him as my backup.I'll never do that to him."

"I hope you keep your word.As for the Shen family's investment in the Qiu family, it may be only a drop in the bucket, but that's all we can do for now.I hope you can take the initiative to leave Gordon as soon as possible.I know he loves you very much, but you can't ruin him.Please leave him.Cut him loose."

Mr.Shen held Janessa's hand and begged.

She had just heard the rumors at the hospital.

Gordon had signed the consent forms for Janessa's surgery.

Everyone was talking about how he was secretly with Rayan's wife.

She had heard the whispers, so she was sure that Rayan had gotten wind of them, too.

This was the only way to save Gordon, the Qiu family, and the Shen family.

Janessa dipped her chin in acknowledgement.

She understood the worries of the Shen family.

Now that Rayan had taken revenge on the Qiu family, anyone associated with the Qiu family, including those who had come to their aid, had been marked.

They were bound to meet Rayan's wrath soon.

The century-old business of the Shen family could not be ruined because of her.

"I understand, Mr. Shen. I won't let the Shen family be ruined."

"And please don't tell anyone about our conversation today, especially Gordon.

He values his relationship with you the most.

He's prepared to do anything for you."

Mr. Shen's voice was full of warning.

She was cautioning Janessa to think for Gordon's sake, but she could not let him know.

The message was clear to Janessa.

She promised again and again that she would leave Gordon soon.

After their conversation, Mr. Shen left the ward with a relieved look on her face.

Janessa had thought that if she took the initiative to leave Gordon, she could prevent Rayan from hurting him.

But she had underestimated Rayan's cruelty and capacity for vengeance.

After Mr. Shen left, Janessa quickly changed her clothes and left the hospital before Gordon came back to see her.

In a high-end apartment somewhere, Gracie laid coyly beside Rayan, gently tracing circles on his broad chest.

"Stay away from Janessa from now on, okay?"

Although Rayan did not know what Gracie had brought with her to see Janessa, he knew what she was thinking about.

"I just... I just wanted to visit her. The sooner she recovers, the sooner she can leave. Don't you want to divorce her?"

Gracie sat up nervously and questioned him.

What if he really did not want to divorce her? What if he wanted to keep her around for business? She did not want to be a mistress forever.

With a slight frown, Rayan pulled his beloved woman back into his arms and said, "Don't think too much. I will divorce her. How can I let such a cruel and scheming woman hurt you? Just trust me. We have to do this right."

With a smile, Gracie pressed her body further on Rayan's side.

Then, under the covers, she deliberately wiggled out of her pajamas until she was fully exposed.

Rayan took a good look at her.

But he did not do anything.

Offended, Gracie narrowed her eyes at her lover.

Did he not find her desirable? Why was he not doing anything? He did not even flinch at the sight of her naked body.

Her slender hand grew restless under the quilt.

She knew a man's physical structure very well.

Her hand was wandering around the lower section of Rayan's tight abdomen when he grasped it tightly, stopping her dead.

"Don't play with fire."

There was no emotion in his voice.

Was her touch useless to arouse him? "Don't you want me?"

Gracie grabbed Rayan's hand and put it on her bare chest.

It was just a slight touch, but it made her tremble all over.

"You haven't recovered from your cold yet."

After saying that, Rayan quickly stood up, wrapped Gracie tightly in the quilt, and kissed her gently on the forehead.

He swiftly put on his clothes and left the apartment.

In order to stay with Rayan for a few more days, Gracie pretended to have caught a cold.

She did not expect that it would backfire and keep him from being intimate with her.

Looking at the door with pure hatred in her eyes, she muttered

“This is all your fault, Janessa!”

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 14

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

Janessa left the hospital with only the clothes on her back.

She couldn't wait for Gordon to come back, so she had to leave without saying goodbye.

One of these days, she would definitely find a way to pay him back.

The weather outside was mild and sunny, and a gentle wind blew pleasantly.

However, for someone in her weak condition, even the slightest breeze was unbearable.

With gritted teeth, Janessa struggled to pull herself together and went to the cemetery in the suburbs clutching a small bouquet of flowers.

It had only been a few days, but the tombstone was already covered with dust.

Aydin, her uncle, as well as those who called themselves family used to visit her father regularly.

Now, with both of her parents gone and the company in their clutches, they dropped the pretense and couldn't even be bothered to show up.

She gently placed the white carnations she was holding in front of the tombstone, letting it sway with the wind.

At that moment, looking at the photos of the two people on the tombstone, Janessa felt a sense of peace.

Only in front of her parents could she be so calm.

Janessa squatted beside the tombstone and wiped it bit by bit.

It was as if she were wiping someone's face carefully, but thoroughly enough to remove all traces of dirt.

Finally, it was done.

Janessa remained in her crotch on the ground and gently stroked the tombstone.

Her parents could finally be together again.

She only hoped that intrigues that plagued them in this sphere of existence did not exist in that world and that they could finally lead a peaceful life.

The ringtone sounded particularly loud at that moment.

Janessa's brow furrowed as she looked at the name on the screen.

Shouldn't he be with his darling girlfriend at this time? How could he have the time to look for her? She was sure that he was only looking for her so that he could humiliate her further, cow her into backing out of the conflict between them, and make her take the initiative to ask for a divorce.

She really didn't want to quarrel in front of her parents.

Her pale finger pressed the decline button on the screen, but the phone rang again.

"Just say it!"

Without any preliminaries, Janessa answered the phone impatiently.

"Where are you?"

"Rayan, you've never cared about my whereabouts. Why start now? What's wrong with you today? You asked someone to send me the newspaper today, but he didn't see me?"

Every day at this time, he would send the latest financial news of the day to her ward without fail.

If they couldn't find her today, they would definitely report to him.

She should also thank the secretary who sent the newspaper.

If it weren't for her, Rayan wouldn't be compelled to call her for the rest of their lives.

As a couple, she had to use someone else's help to receive her husband's calls.

It was pathetic, really.

"I just want to remind you that if you still want the Qiu Group to become better, you should come home and sign your name on the document."

Ryan spoke in a commanding tone like one would treat a subordinate, as if the only way for Janessa to survive would be to follow his orders.

The breeze caressed the cold smile on her lips.

“Rayan Lu, do you want me to divorce and give up my position to that woman? Impossible. She had a hand in my child’s death. I won’t let a murderer take my place.”

If Gracie didn’t hide that she was suffering an ectopic pregnancy, maybe she could be persuaded to give up her position.

However, because of her deceit and selfishness, her child lost the opportunity to come to this world.

“Janessa, you were the one who had my child aborted. Don’t drag Gracie into it! She is not as cruel and scheming as you are.”

She did nothing but lose her baby, yet in his eyes, she was the most manipulative woman in the world.

On the other hand, Gracie, who literally stewed his son’s placenta and brought the soup to Janessa, remained a pure innocent woman in his eyes.

Well, such was the reality of the gap between his lover and his wife.

“Well, let me tell you, Rayan Lu: I won’t divorce you. I won’t consider divorcing you unless you have managed to save the Qiu Group and hand over the power to my hands again.”

Didn’t he say that she was a scheming woman who would do anything to stabilize the Qiu Group? Well, she would show him what it meant to do anything to achieve her goal.

After saying that, Janessa turned off her phone and slipped it inside her pocket.

Her eyes sought out her parents’ photos again, and she could have sworn that there was worry in their eyes.

“Dad, Mom, don’t worry. I won’t let anything happen to the Qiu Group. Don’t worry about it. I will take care of it.”

Janessa stayed beside the tombstone for a long time and didn’t go back until the sun was about to set.

She finally turned on her phone, and a barrage of missed calls and messages flashed on her screen.

Some of them were spam, and the rest were from Gordon.

Gordon was the only one who cared about her in the world.

With a self-deprecating smile on her face, Janessa typed out and sent a message to Gordon.

"I'm fine. Don't send me any messages in the future. I'll take care of myself. Don't reply anymore. As soon as the message was sent out, her phone rang, and Gordon's name flashed on the screen. He called again after Janessa declined the call.

"I'm fine. Don't call me again, or I'll block your number!"

Janessa snarled at the phone, leaving Gordon no chance to speak.

Her words worked.

Her phone finally quieted down.

It had been half an hour since she came down from the cemetery, but not a single car was willing to take her back to the city.

The Lu family villa was twenty or thirty kilometers away.

It was impossible to walk to the villa, and it was not easy to take a taxi in her location.

She tried to book a taxi through a mobile app while walking to see passing vehicles.

However, luck didn't seem to be on her side.

Many cars passed by, but none of them stopped.

Those who stopped usually drove away as soon as they saw Janessa's face.

There was no trace of blood on Janessa's pale, ghostlike face.

The passing drivers dared not to take her when they saw such a person.

Janessa's body hadn't completely recovered, and besides, she had been exposed to the cold wind on the mountain all afternoon.

She felt a general sense of discomfort, and her body didn't seem to be listening to her.

With neither a knowledge of where she was going nor a clear sense of the danger she was putting herself into, Janessa stepped to the middle of the road.

She just wanted to stop a car.

Perhaps God saw her pitiful condition and felt sorry for her.

Just as she was about to lose all hope, a car's headlights came at her from behind.

The car sped past before Janessa could wave her hand.

"Don't go! Don't go..."

Janessa lurched forward to chase the car, but she fell to the ground.

Unbeknownst to her, the car that passed her by slowly reversed and ultimately stopped beside her.

Then, an old man with salt-and-pepper hair got out of the car.

"Sir, she fainted."

The old man didn't say anything and motioned for the driver to turn her from her prone position.

When he saw her face, the old man's eyes lit up.

'How could it be her?

"Take her back. Call the family doctor and ask him to go to the villa right now."

The old man arranged everything.

As soon as he saw the face of the person lying face down on the ground, a meaningful smile appeared on his lips.

As the driver lifted Janessa and placed her in the car, he noticed blood stains on the insides of her legs.

Without delay, the car continued on its way.

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 15

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

Janessa remained unconscious for a long time.

Finally, she opened her eyes to a\_ strange environment.

"Where am I?"

Janessa rubbed at her temples and looked around.

The room she was in was neither a hotel nor her home.

Where was this place? She was suddenly wide awake.

After taking stock of her surroundings, countless guesses came to her mind.

The room was decorated in the European style, with black and white being the main color scheme.

The floor was made of black marble, and the floor of the bed area was covered with a thick, luxurious white carpet.

The small accents in the room gave off a feminine vibe.

This must be a girl's room.

As she finished her visual inventory of the room, the bedroom door suddenly opened without warning.

A maid who looked to be over fifty years of age came in bearing a food tray.

Seeing her relatively neutral expression when she woke up, the woman placed the food on the bedside table and said, "Miss Qiu, you've just had a miscarriage. These foods are good for your recovery. Please eat them while they're hot."

The maid was even aware that she had a miscarriage.

Who was she working for? How could that person know Janessa just suffered a miscarriage? Janessa stared at the servant warily, but she couldn't read the woman's expression or guess how she found out about it.

"When master brought you back, the family doctor examined you. We prepared these foods for you under the strict instruction of the master," the servant briefly explained everything.

That appeared to be the case—the master of this family was kind to a passer-by.

"Excuse me, who is your—"

Before Janessa could finish her question, the servant interrupted, "Once you have finished your meal, someone will come by to answer your questions."

The woman left after a respectful bow, leaving Janessa even more confused.

What kind of place is this, where the servants even acted in a lofty manner? Janessa didn't want to eat anything, but after that long hike, she needed to replenish her energy.

The aroma of the food teased her taste bud.

It had been a long time since she had felt such a strong desire to eat.

Now that she was already here, she would figure out the answers to her questions once \_ her stomach was full.

Janessa ate quickly, but she still remained elegant.

It seemed like the motions were played back with the fast forward button.

In the study, the old man couldn't help but laugh as he watched Janessa on the monitor of the surveillance camera.

The butler came in and handed several documents into his hands.

"These contain all of the information about Janessa Qiu. She was Rayan Lu's newly wedded wife. They got married in order to ensure the safety of the Qiu Group. However, life after marriage didn't seem to be treating her well. A few days ago, she underwent a forced abortion to terminate an ectopic pregnancy. I believe that Mr. Lu's former lover was involved."

The old man rapped a furled fan rhythmically against his palm.

"That's interesting."

"Not long ago, when Janessa's mother was sent to the hospital, she had a car accident on the way there. By the way, her mother and Miss are buried in the same cemetery."

"I see."

The old man picked up a photo frame on the table and gently touched the face of the person in it, and his eyes were full of love and regret.

After a long time, he put away the documents and left the study with a smile.

In the bedroom, Janessa had already finished eating.

It had been such a long time since she had had such a delicious meal.

She slipped out of the comfortable bed and was about to step out of the room when her eyes were drawn to a photo frame on the glass desk by the window.

As if pulled toward it by an unseen force, Janessa slowly walked toward the frame, which contained a photo of a little girl.

The child, who wore twin pigtails and a huge smile on her face, was lying on the grass and blowing bubbles.

Her happiness was extremely infectious.

The bookshelf against the wall was lined with several more photos of the same girl at different ages.

Was this room hers? Janessa picked up a photo and studied it closely.

The servant who brought in her food earlier came in again and glanced at her.

“Miss Qiu, the master has been waiting for you for a long time.”

Putting down the frame, Janessa followed the servant out of the room to the yard.

An old man sat propping a fishing rod by a small pond at the far end of the yard.

The servant led Janessa and stopped a hundred meters away.

“Master is waiting for you over there.”

Janessa took tentative steps toward the old man.

She racked her brains, trying to recall when and where he had met the man before.

“Thank you for saving me. I don’t know how to thank you!”

On the way to meet the master of the house, the woman told her that she was saved by her employer near the cemetery at the foot of the mountain.

Something like this could be considered a life-saving grace.

“You’re welcome, Miss Qiu. Please, sit down, and let’s talk.”

Janessa sat on the prepared chair, but the old man was concentrating on fishing.

Did he forget that there was someone else beside him?

“The weather is too good right now, so the fish wouldn’t really take the bait so easily. Why don’t you wait a little longer? Maybe you can catch more then.”

Janessa used to fish with her father before, so she knew how to be patient.

She suggested that he didn't need to waste too much time on fishing for now was not the right timing.

For a moment, the man seemed to consider her suggestion seriously.

Suddenly, he threw back his head and laughed.

"Don't you know who I am?"

"I believe that you're Larry Chen, the president of the Chen Group."

Janessa had a vague recollection of Larry Chen, whom she had met at an event she attended with her father.

"The young hostess of the Lu family is really unusual. It seems that I wasn't mistaken in my choice."

Choice? Janessa felt nervous at his words.

What choice was he talking about? She was totally clueless.

She once heard that the CEO of the Chen Group didn't play according to known strategies, thereby always taking others down by surprise.

"Miss Qiu, don't mind this old man's words. I'm here to make a deal with you. Miss Qiu, you are a smart woman, and you know how to choose the best options under the circumstances."

"Deal? What deal?"

Now Janessa was just a miserable young lady with nothing to her name but a few shares of the Qiu Group.

The CEO of the Chen Group wanted a deal with her.

Did that mean that he wanted to acquire her family's company? The thought sent shivers down her back.

At that point, the Qiu Group was at the mercy of others.

In fact, most people in the business circle could purchase the company.

That was why she had to find a way to keep the company.

If she could do that, then that would be a slap on Rayan Lu's face.

"You can rest assured that it's a win-win deal for both of us. I can save the Qiu Group and support your bid to win back the CEO position."

With Chen Group's investment, the Qiu Group would stand a chance of remaining whole instead of being played for parts by different companies.

However, even if the company didn't intend to acquire the Qiu Group, the Chen Group would need to inject a sizable investment to make the deal happen.

Was the Chen Group really willing to use such a large sum of money to save the Qiu Group? In this world, there was no such thing as a free lunch.

She wondered if she could afford the old man's asking price.

"What do you need me for?"

As long as her end of the deal was within her power, she would definitely do it.

"It's very simple. In fact, it would benefit us both."

Larry Chen was an enigma to Janessa.

He was right in front of her, but she couldn't guess what he was thinking!

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 16

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

In the old house of the Lu family...

As soon as Janessa entered the yard, she heard the sound of a speeding car.

The car skidded to a stop with the driver-side door so dangerously close to her.

Rayan rolled down the window and stared at her with a livid face and a pair of fierce eyes.

He looked as if tearing her to pieces was the only way to vent his hatred.

"Do you think complaining to my mother will stop me from divorcing you? I have solid grounds to end my marriage with you. You're murdering your own husband. Do you think my mother will protect you, an outsider, over me, her own flesh and blood?"

"It was only a matter of time before your mother found out that I hurt you because you were protecting your mistress. Gracie is the last person she wants to see by your side. Are you still so confident that she'll choose you over me?"

Janessa felt a little guilty when she spoke, but she still walked into the yard without looking at her husband.

She was not sure if her mother-in-law would support her.

After all, she beat her son.

Like Rayan said, she was just an outsider.

But she decided to take a risk.

Even if it was not her who complained this time.

She had to thank the snitch.

Last time, it was the snitch who reported to her mother-in-law that Rayan chased after Gracie.

“Are you threatening me?”

All of a sudden, Rayan reached out his hand from the window, grabbed Janessa by the collar, and dragged her against the car.

The body of Rayan’s car felt cold against her skin even if the summer sun was high up in the air.

Janessa looked into his fiery eyes and smiled indifferently.

“Threatening you? I’m just taking what I need. Besides, you broke the rules of the game. You’re in no position to whine.”

Rayan and Janessa’s marriage united the Lu and Qiu families and their businesses.

Although the Lu Group had invested a lot to keep the Qiu Group afloat, the Lu Group had also significantly profited from it.

Now he wanted to divorce her and destroy the Qiu Group.

She would not let him succeed.

“The rules of the game? You and Gordon had been inappropriately close to each other while you were in the hospital for several days. Did you think I didn’t know? You even cooperated with him to abort my child! You’re the one who broke the rules! Until now, Rayan had not asked the hospital why she had to abort the baby.

His focus was only on Gordon’s signature on the paperwork and on the fact that she had an abortion.

Janessa’s eyes brimmed with disappointment.

Even if she did not love him, it still hurt her that he believed that she would kill an innocent baby just like that.

"You make me sick!"

Without realizing it, she raised her voice.

The hysterical look on her face was pitiful.

She wrapped her hands around her husband's and broke his grip on her collar.

As Rayan watched Janessa's face turn cold, he felt a sense of loss.

He pursed his lips as anger began surging in his chest once again.

The thought of what his wife had done made his head spin with fury.

"This marriage is over!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he stepped on the accelerator and drove past Janessa to the center of the yard.

When Janessa entered the villa, she did not see Rayan around.

Instead, she saw her mother-in-law come out of the kitchen holding a bowl of soup.

"Janessa, come and drink this bowl of soup."

Every time she came to the old house, her mother-in-law gave her some soup, which she believed could help her get pregnant. Her mother-in-law might not know that she had already been pregnant.

She walked over and started drinking the soup.

She observed her mother-in-law's reaction as she tipped the bowl into her mouth and slowly drained its contents.

There was no difference.

After finishing the soup, Janessa waited quietly for her mother-in-law to speak.

"Don't worry about Gracie, okay? She will never get my or Abel's approval. You are our only daughter-in-law."

Janessa did not expect that her mother-in-law would talk to her about Gracie.

It seemed that she knew everything that happened at the villa.

"But Rayan..."

“Leave that ungrateful brat to me. For now, you must take utmost care of yourself. You will get pregnant again, alright?”

It turned out that she knew about her losing the baby after all.

Janessa smiled with self-mockery.

Her mother-in-law knew what had happened at the villa.

How could she not know that she had recently lost her child? As soon as Rayan’s mother finished her words, Rayan came out of the study with a gloomy face.

He looked at Janessa more fiercely this time.

Withdrawing his gaze, he strode out.

When he reached the front door, the butler stopped him.

“Young master, your mother wants you to stay the night.”

Clenching his hands into fists and gritting his teeth, Rayan turned around and walked toward his room without saying a word.

Abel went downstairs then and stood beside Janessa.

“The Lu family is responsible for the fall of the Qiu Group. I’ve asked everyone to do their best to save it, and all is well so far.”

It had been a long time since Rayan started taking action against the Qiu Group.

Janessa wondered why Abel suddenly want to meddle in this now.

The truth was, the business of the Qiu Group had almost returned to normal and the two families were tied together to some extent.

If Rayan tried to sabotage things now, it would be like picking up a gun and shooting his own foot.

“Thank you, Dad.”

All of a sudden, Janessa felt that she could not understand the Lu family at all.

She truly felt like an outsider.

After talking to her in-laws, Janessa saw the butler take out a medical kit and go upstairs.

Frowning, she followed him and asked, “Where are you going, Atlas?”

"Young hostess, the young master was injured just now. I was on my way to patch him up."

The Lu family had a strict family tradition, especially when it came to the matter of educating Rayan.

He being punished this time must have something to do with his relationship with Gracie.

No wonder he looked at her with such hateful eyes.

Looking at Rayan's closed bedroom door, Janessa took the medicine box and said, "Let me do it. Ask the kitchen to cook some tonic soup and bring it up later."

"Okay, young hostess."

Looking at the well-educated and reasonable Janessa, the butler could not help shaking his head and murmuring, "Why does the young master keep chasing after Gracie when he already has such a good wife?"

Taking a deep breath, Janessa pushed open the door to her husband's bedroom.

Rayan was sitting on the bed with his bare back to her.

There were criss cross marks all over his back, and some of them were actively bleeding.

The punishment was too harsh this time.

Whipping his head toward the sound of the door opening, Rayan snapped, "Who let you in? Get out!"

He glared at Janessa who was standing at the door with a medicine box in her hand.

He found himself growing more and more upset.

It was not the first time that he had been punished because of Gracie, but this time, it was also because of the woman standing in front of him.

"Believe me, I don't want to care for you either, but we're in your parents' house right now.

We have to put up with each other and sleep in the same room tonight."

Ignoring her husband's vicious expression, Janessa put the medical kit on the bed and took out a couple of cotton balls and some disinfectant.

"Just get out of my way. I can do it myself."

When he was about to turn around, she pushed him down on the bed.

“If you cooperate, I’ll be gentle. Otherwise, we’re going to do this the hard way.”

Being forced to sit down on the bed, Rayan winced in pain.

As his wife towered over him and spoke to him in an emotionless voice, he pressed his lips together in a thin line.

After a few moments, he decided to let Janessa deal with his wounds.

His back was full of bleeding cuts and small bruises.

Half an hour later, they were cleaned and bandaged.

In the evening, when they went to bed, Janessa locked the door of the bedroom and lied down on the sofa with a blanket.

She knew that the night was destined to be a sleepless one.

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 17

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

When she woke up in the morning, there was no trace of Rayan in the room.

She was worried that the servants would come in and find them sleeping in separate beds, so she folded up the blankets and made the bed.

After washing her face and brushing her teeth, she went downstairs to have breakfast.

She walked into the dining room and saw Rayan walking out with his face contorted in anger.

As he passed by her, he took hold of her arm and hauled her toward him.

“We will go back first. Dad, Mom, enjoy your breakfast.”

Before Janessa could react, Rayan dragged her out of the villa.

She hadn’t had breakfast yet.

What was wrong with this man so early in the morning? Seeing that Janessa hadn’t gotten in the car yet, Rayan honked the horn in irritation.

The harsh sound screamed in her ears and wiped any trace of drowsiness from her system.

Thinking of the accident she had met when she drove the last time, Janessa got in the car.

She didn't want to be a road killer again.

Without saying a word, Rayan started the car and immediately accelerated the car at a high speed.

If not for the fact that there were only a few cars on the way, Janessa would have jumped out of her seat in fear.

However, the car sped up even more, and the expression on Janessa's face worsened.

Did every man dream of becoming a race car driver? Janessa's face was as white as a sheet.

She clung to the safety handrail with a vise-like grip, hanging on for dear life.

"What's wrong with you, Rayan? Slow down!"

Rayan saw Janessa's petrified expression from the corner of his eye and stepped on the accelerator, making the car speed up even faster.

It usually took about an hour to get to the downtown city.

Today, the car made it less than twenty minutes after they left.

Rayan parked the car at the door of a high-end apartment complex.

He took out his phone, dialed a number, and said only two words: "Come down."

He ended the call immediately.

It must be Gracie.

She was the only person he would call this early in the morning.

Rayan drove the luxury car at the speed of a racing car, scaring Janessa to death.

Was he in that much hurry to pick up his little girlfriend? Soon, Gracie appeared within their sight.

Janessa looked up, and her eyes landed on the piece of luggage in the woman's hand.

Where was he taking her? Janessa had a bad feeling about this.

Soon enough, Rayan proved her intuition correct.

"Get out of the car," her husband ordered in a calm, toneless voice that left Janessa no chance to react.

"I said get off the car now."

Janessa's eyes widened in disbelief as Rayan angrily growled out the words.

Then, with a sneer, she slid out of the car and slammed the passenger door as hard as she could.

Gracie walked to the door of the car and shot Janessa an innocent look.

Then, the expression turned into an aggravated one as she looked at the man behind the wheel.

"Mrs.Lu, please sit.I'll take the back seat!"

"Forget about her.Just get in the car.She can go back by herself."

A cold voice came from behind Rayan.

Janessa suddenly felt that her efforts to attend to his injury were all for nothing.

Before getting on the car, Gracie archly commented in a voice that only the two of them could hear, "Isn't it so pathetic to be left stranded on the street by your own husband?"

The woman got in the passenger seat, and the car disappeared from her sight in no time.

Disregarding Gracie's malicious words, Janessa decided to go to the Qiu group to see what the company had become.

When she exited the cab she took to the company's headquarters, security personnel at the lobby stopped her from entering the company premises.

"You don't know me? I'm a shareholder of this company."

Janessa thought that it was all a misunderstanding that would be cleared up as long as she identified herself.

However, the guard not only barred her from entry, he also laughed mockingly in her face.

"Miss Qiu, the CEO has given us strict orders not to allow you to enter the company."

CEO? Aydin was the current CEO of the Qiu Group.

How could he be so ruthless? : Janessa inherited forty percent of the company shares from her mother.

However, this number was not enough for her to have controlling interest.

She needed a backer to help her take back her power.

Now, the company was being forced by the Lu Group into a tight spot, and its foundations were shaky at best.

Aydin was still wary of her because of a possible power grab from her quarter.

Did she really have to agree with Larry's request to save the Qiu Group, the company that her parents poured blood, sweat, and tears for to establish? As Janessa lingered, unsure of how to address the situation, she saw Aydin some distance away, leading his secretary into the company.

Janessa walked straight over, her face a picture of resolve.

"Why don't you allow me to go in the company?"

Janessa stood squarely on Aydin's path to block his way. He wouldn't allow her within the company premises, so she asked him here.

Aydin had only been the CEO of the company for a few days, so he didn't expect Janessa to show up so soon and block his way.

"You have been dismissed by the board of directors, and you are no longer an employee of the company. What are you doing here?"

Aydin leveled Janessa with a displeased scowl and made no attempt to mask his unpleasant expression.

"Mr. Qiu, you've only been in this position for a few days. Why are you so arrogant? After all, I'm a shareholder of this company. With forty percent of the shares at my disposal, I can keep you from staying in power if I wanted to."

Janessa hit Aydin right where it hurt.

He had invested a lot of effort in this company, but his sister disregarded his feelings by making a will and leaving most of the shares to his niece.

At this point, he only had less than five percent of the shares to his name.

"However, you now require my approval to be able to enter the company. Save it. I will never relinquish this position to you."

It had always been Aydin's dream to gain complete control of the Qiu Group.

Naturally, the first order of the day as soon as he became CEO was to get rid of Janessa.

Janessa sneered at the person in front of her.

"Let's wait and see."

Aydin was not the sort of man who had the big picture of running a company.

Rayan didn't need to take any action to crack the Qiu Group if Aydin was the one leading it.

It would only take him two years at most to ruin the company.

If looks could kill, Janessa would be lying in pieces right now.

Ignoring her uncle's murderous glare, she turned around and strode out of the office.

She didn't want to argue with him anymore.

In the future, she would show him her real strength in the board of directors.

Janessa exited the Qiu Group building and took a cab home.

Exhausted, she closed her eyes and immediately fell asleep.

She came to when the driver woke her up.

She was asleep during the entire ride home.

After paying the driver, she got out of the cab.

To her surprise, Rayan's car was parked in the villa's garage.

Didn't he go to the company? Why was he at home? Maybe he came back to pick up something, and then the driver took him back to the office with another car.

Without thinking too much of it, Janessa walked into the villa.

There were no servants or housekeepers around, as only hourly workers would appear every day when Rayan was not there.

They would usually leave right after cleaning.

Before she entered the villa, a loud clanging of iron hitting something was heard from the kitchen.

'It must be a worker expressing their dissatisfaction,' she thought.

She stepped into the kitchen, ready to admonish the worker, when her eyes landed on an unexpected guest.

It never occurred to Janessa that she would encounter the woman in her own home.

"What are you doing here?" few days, so he didn't expect Janessa to show up so soon and block his way. Embarrassed, he whispered,

"Let's talk in my office."

The office on the top floor had completely changed that it looked like another office altogether.

Aydin already had the office completely overhauled within a short amount of time.

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“What are you doing here?”

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 18

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

“What are you doing here?”

Gracie was dressed in her loungewear with her hair casually tied up in a bun.

Without a trace of makeup on her face, she now had a more girlish air about her.

She carried herself as if she was the hostess of the house.

Was he asking his lover to practice acting like his wife in advance? Early in that morning, Rayan had driven her out of the car like a mad man after he picked up Gracie.

Did he do it so that he could bring her over and she could live in peace inside the villa? How could he let his mistress and his wife live under the same roof? Did he underestimate her and assume that she wouldn't dare to do anything to Gracie? With a satisfied smile, Gracie leaned against the dining room table with a cup of coffee in her hands.

“Rayan suffered a head injury not too long ago, but now he's found himself injured again. As the family doctor, it would be more convenient for me to live closer so I could take care of him. Mr. sLu, you have no problem with that, do you?”

‘Would I mind her living here?’

It was obvious that Gracie was already settled, so would it make a difference if Janessa protested against it? Gracie deliberately mentioned the injury on Rayan's head to remind her of her faults.

It was her actions that allowed Gracie to live inside the villa.

It was her fault, and no one else's.

“If that is the case, then I apologize for the inconvenience this has caused you. You now have to live in his tiny space because of us.”

Janessa schooled her features into nonchalance, and her indifferent voice dampened Gracie's victory.

When Gracie last saw her in the villa, Janessa was aggressively implying in every way that she was the real hostess of the house.

How could she be so calm about this matter now? Gracie waited a long time before Janessa finally came home and she was ready to see her suffer.

But what now? Did she finally give in? Gracie looked her up and down in disbelief.

Frustrated tears suddenly ran down her face.

"All I want to do is make sure that Rayan is taken care of. I will leave immediately after he recovers."

Janessa was confused by her words.

The woman was pretending to be the victim in this situation.

She suddenly felt an intense gaze from behind, which made her uncomfortable.

When she slowly turned around, she saw the stormy look on Rayan's face.

He approached Gracie with the document in his hands.

"I was the one who asked you to move in. You don't need to explain anything to Janessa." Rayan's words contradicted Gracie's claims that she was the hostess of the house.

In the past, he had dated her in secret, but now they were bold enough to have an open love affair at home.

Was it because of Rayan's arrogance, or because she couldn't go against his wishes? "Mr. Lu, why are you parading your mistress around like this? What do you think of me as your wife?"

She questioned him and played her part as the scorned wife.

Rayan's reply was like a basin of cold water pouring down on Janessa.

"We only take what we need from one another.

If you understand, then you won't say anything more.

If anything happens to Gracie while she is staying here, I'll make you pay for it!"

Rayan slowly said against her ears.

A sarcastic smile widened on Janessa's face.

Only she knew how small she actually felt.

"Take what we need? When you decided to attack the Qiu Group, did we each take what we needed? Don't you think it's too late to think about such things now?"

"It's never too late. If you dare to take your anger out at Gracie, I will make sure that the Qiu Group dies a quicker death. I have the means to purchase your beloved company right now!"

After warning her, Rayan stormed out of the villa.

Janessa had no desire to deal with his mistress, so she went back into her room.

When she opened her closet, she found someone else's sexy nightgowns inside.

"I moved my clothes in here. I wanted to sleep in the guest room, but Rayan insisted that I sleep here ..SO I...Mr.sLu, do you mind?"

Gracie casually leaned against the door jamb and sounded like the whole thing had nothing to do with her.

The taunting and threatening tone which she spoke grated on Janessa's nerves.

"In order to stay in the master bedroom, I even troubled you into packing my clothes away. Where are my clothes anyway?"

Janessa couldn't care less which room she would be staying in later.

There were many rooms to choose from inside the villa, and she was more than happy to be away from Rayan.

"I placed it over there. I'm sorry, but Rayan was eager to have me move in, so I didn't get a chance to hang your clothes in the guest room. We did it in the bedroom..."

Gracie flipped her hair away from her neck.

The hickey on her neck was anything but subtle.

After kicking his wife out of his car, Rayan rushed back home to have his mistress occupy the master bedroom of the villa.

He slept with his mistress on their wedding bed, and maybe even in their shared bathroom.

Janessa scanned the room as if she could clearly see the events that have taken place inside of it.

It didn't make her angry.

If anything, she thought it was a bit ridiculous.

"It's okay. It's just clothes. I don't want any of them anyway."

Janessa took out some identification cards from the bedside table.

The marriage certificate inside the drawer seemed to mock her.

After she heard a story about a triumphant mistress, she suddenly felt like she was the main character in the horrible story.

Janessa had no intentions of competing with Gracie for her husband.

She had no interest in sharing her husband with another woman.

She rummaged through her documents and put the marriage license inside her bag before she turned to leave the master bedroom.

When she approached where Gracie was standing, she flashed the marriage certificate in her hand and explained in a calm voice, "Even if you sleep inside this room, you will never be able to get your hands on this certificate."

In the past, it was Gracie who decided to give up her relationship with Rayan which made Janessa seem like a passive third wheel without even knowing it.

Now, Gracie reappeared to make a mess out of her marriage and wanted to become a more active mistress.

The heavens must be punishing her.

Janessa entered the guest room and collapsed on the bed, suddenly overwhelmed with exhaustion.

She felt more and more tired these days.

After she took a shower, she quickly fell into a deep sleep.

When she spent the last night in her in-laws' house, she slept on the couch to avoid sharing a bed with Rayan.

She always felt anxious that someone would break in and see them in separate beds.

It was difficult for her to sleep tight the whole night.

When her eyes opened again, it was already dark outside.

It wasn't until then that she realized that she hadn't eaten anything the whole day.

She quietly made her way downstairs and prepared some noodles for herself.

There was always someone who bothered her right when she felt at peace.

Perhaps it was because the noodles she prepared smelled so enticing.

When Gracie took Rayan downstairs, she said, "That smells so good, Rayan! I also want some noodles."

Janessa paused while eating her noodles and scoffed at her.

She continued to ignore them as she ate.

It seemed like she was the type of woman who desired the leftovers of others.

Rayan affectionately stroked Gracie's head before turning around and ordering in a cold voice, "

Prepare a bowl of noodles for Gracie."

Did he actually want her to make noodles for Gracie? Without raising her head from her noodles, Janessa casually replied, "We don't have any more noodles. You can eat out if you want. No one's stopping you."

The two of them were dressed.

It was obvious that they were on their way out to have dinner.

Now they wanted to bother her and get her to make noodles for them? Janessa quickly finished her noodles, threw her bowl into the sink, then returned to her room.

By the time she made it back upstairs, she could faintly make out the sound of someone wailing.

Someone was comforting her.

"Rayan, is she upset with me? I shouldn't have said anything."

Gracie wiped her tears and acted wounded, but inside, she was smiling with triumph.

In Rayan's eyes, she was more important than Janessa would ever be.

# Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 19

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

In the CEO office of the Lu Group, the special assistant, Corbin, reported today's schedule to Rayan.

"At two o'clock this afternoon, there was a video conference with Mr.Li from Country M to discuss the next season's trade fair.In the evening, you will have dinner with Mr.Huang, the CEO of International Trade.Other than those, I turned down other unimportant appointments."

Rayan nodded without a word.

He rhythmically tapped on the table with his powerful fingers and looked into the distance.

No one could understand what he was thinking.

"Would you like to have lunch outside or dine here as usual?"

"As usual."

As soon as Rayan finished speaking, the internal phone line on the table rang.

"Mr.Lu, there is a lady named Gracie Mo downstairs.She didn't have an appointment, but she insists on seeing you,"

the secretary said in a businesslike tone.

If not for Gracie threatening her if she did not allow her to get in, she probably would be in trouble, she wouldn't have been interrupting the meeting between the CEO and his special assistant.

"Let her come up.You don't need to order me anything.I'll go out for lunch."

After relaying his instructions to his assistant, Rayan turned his attention back to the documents he was reading before.

Corbin rolled his curious eyes and went out quickly.

He really wanted to see the woman who could make the CEO change his mind and go out to eat.

Was she the wife of the CEO? No one in the office had ever seen her before.

Corbin lingered near the elevator.

There was no one else on the floor where the CEO office was located except for the CEO, himself, and another secretary.

The moment the elevator door opened, Corbin's eyes widened.

The woman who stepped out may not look like a goddess, but she was still a first-class beauty.

No wonder the CEO would like to go out for lunch.

As it turned out, the beauty would be joining him.

"Nice to meet you, Miss Mo. I'm Corbin, Mr. Lu's special assistant."

Staring at the lunch box in Gracie's hand, Corbin realized that he didn't get to find a restaurant and book a private room for the CEO.

"Hello, Corbin. Is Rayan busy right now?"

Gracie looked around the office, and her eyes landed on the heavy wooden door of the CEO's office.

"Not more than the usual. Mr. Lu always has a lot of documents to review every day. Please come with me."

Corbin led Gracie to the door of the CEO office.

Corbin raised a hand to knock, but Gracie stopped him.

"I'll do it. Go ahead with your work!"

Gracie ordered as if she were the wife of the CEO.

A twinge of discomfort bothered Corbin, but he had no choice but to bear it.

After all, the woman was important to the CEO.

Gracie tried to turn the handle of the door and poked her head through the gap stealthily.

However, she nearly jumped with shock when she heard Rayan speak.

"Don't you know how to knock? Anyway, deduct the bonus for this quarter."

So as to not make any sound, Gracie carefully placed the lunch box on the low coffee table, sneaked behind Rayan, and hugged him.

"Whose bonus are you going to deduct?"

“Gracie, why are you here?”

Rayan knew that Gracie had always been mischievous, but he didn't have the heart to scold her.

He held her hand and pulled her to sit on his lap.

“I've brought you lunch!”

Gracie pointed at the lunch box on the coffee table with a smile.

“Okay, let's eat.”

The two of them sat side by side by the coffee table to have lunch.

As they finished tidying up after lunch, their feet got caught in the coffee table, and they both tumbled to the carpet.

Gracie was pulled by a strong force, and her lips accidentally landed on Rayan's mouth.

With a shy giggle, Gracie tried to get up, but Rayan's arms around her only tightened.

He pressed a large hand against the back of her head and deepened the kiss.

Their passionate kiss lasted for what seemed like an eternity.

Then, Rayan swept the woman up into his arms and walked over to the office lounge.

“I must say, it's not bad to have dessert after a meal. Rayan pecked Gracie playfully on the lips, and then his lips more purposefully moved to her cheek and down. He lifted a hand to trap both of her wrists overhead, but her fingers encountered gauze. Frowning, he looked up.

Her slim wrist was bandaged.

“How did you get hurt?”

“Well...I got accidentally scalded by oil while I was cooking.”

Gracie carefully avoided eye contact with Rayan, seemingly to hide something from him.

“Tell me, how did that happen?”

Rayan had an inkling, but he couldn't believe it was true.

"Um..."When I was cooking at home, I prepared a pot of tonic soup for Mr.sLu.

She didn't drink it, and soup accidentally spilled on my arm when she knocked the pot over.

"It's okay.It doesn't hurt anymore."

Gracie raised her arm, pretending to be fine.

However, she let slip a small "ouch" when she waved her injured arm.

"That woman has gone too far."

He had warned Janessa multiple times, yet she only turned a deaf ear to him.

He couldn't be soft this time.

"What are you going to do? Are you going to divorce her?"

"Yes, I will divorce her.I can't let her continue her mischief toward you."

"But if you divorce her, will Auntie...After all, your mother likes your wife so much.She would never agree to it."

Rayan sighed.

Gracie was so considerate for him.

Compared to the arrogant, headstrong Janessa, Gracie was more suitable to be his wife.

Janessa was no match for Gracie.

She grew up with Rayan, so nobody knew him better than she.

"Don't worry.I will take care of it.I won't let you get hurt anymore."

Rayan kissed her lips and pushed her down to the lounge bed.

Then, the atmosphere of the office lounge became hot and heavy.

Gracie had always provoked Janessa and pretended to be a frail, retiring victim in front of Rayan.

At first, Janessa reacted to her efforts, but she eventually just ignored it when Gracie riled her.

Let the woman be a clown, so to speak—she wouldn't dignify her provocation with a reaction.

Oddly, Gracie didn't cause any trouble for her today.

Perhaps it was because Rayan was not around, and there was no point playing weak.

The house was quiet—not unlike a calm before the storm, but Janessa was not aware of it.

She was about to step out for her after-dinner stroll when Rayan barged into the house, his eyes burning with fury as they sought out Janessa.

He stomped toward her and threw a sheaf of A4-sized documents to her face.

"If you're mentally ill, you should take medicine for it. Don't bother me with your hysterics ever again."

Janessa wasn't sure if her face got a paper cut from the waterfall of documents.

Her face burning with humiliation or anger, she rose to her feet.

After dinner, Rayan hurried back to the villa to confront Janessa.

He had some wine that night, so with his ruddy face, he did look like he was drunk.

However, he was perfectly aware that he was sober.

"I'm not crazy. Sign it as soon as you finish reading it. I don't want to be married to you for even a minute longer."

Janessa picked up the documents scattered on the ground, and the large, eye-catching header seemed to burn into her eyes.

Divorce agreement.

He wanted a divorce? "You want to divorce me? Have you told your mother? She only recognizes me as her daughter-in-law."

Divorce was out of the question.

"You can't threaten me now. Divorce is a must. I'm fed up with this kind of life. I won't live with a vicious woman like you anymore!"

Rayan grabbed Janessa's shoulder and shook it hard, venting his anger.

Dumbfounded, Janessa echoed Rayan's word.

"Vicious? On what grounds can you say that about me?"

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 20

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

"You dare to pull a stunt like that, but you can't even admit to your wrong doing? You and your mother tried your best to put you on my bed. Is there anything you can't do?"

The disgust obliterated every other emotion in Rayan's eyes, and he spoke the words like they were the worst insults that he could think of.

Janessa gritted her teeth.

He wasn't wrong—she did marry into the Lu family in order to save the Qiu Group.

In his eyes, the act was unforgivable even though it did the two families no harm.

She could understand that he could never let go of his grudge because their marriage meant that he couldn't be with the woman he loved.

She couldn't blame his antagonism on that account.

However, in no way did her actions paint her as a vicious woman.

For Rayan, her silence meant agreement.

Rayan stepped closer toward Janessa, and one hand came up to clamp around her neck.

As his hold gradually tightened, he bit out between clenched teeth, "What? Can't you speak? I warned you before hurt Gracie, and I will make you die a horrible death.

You're not only vicious, but heartless."

Hurt her? Who? Gracie Mo? When did she touch that woman? She hadn't seen her the whole day.

Gasping for breath, Janessa struggled to get away and clawed at the hand on her neck.

"Let me go...Let me explain!"

"I've given you a chance. Gracie took care of you because she thought you were weak after the abortion, but how did you repay her kindness? By knocking over the soup and congee she made for you and scalding her. I've never met such an ungrateful woman like you!"

With a seemingly effortless wave of his long arm, Rayan loosened his grip and cast Janessa aside like a toy.

It was a good thing that the floors within the villa were overlaid with thick carpeting, or else Janessa would have been seriously injured.

It was all Gracie's doing.

Just then, Janessa realized why she had been hanging around her these past couple of days, especially when Rayan was around.

She had never liked Gracie since the soup incident in the hospital.

In truth, she even felt disgusted by it.

At the time, she didn't make a fuss about it because it would have caused too much trouble, but it gave Gracie the perfect opportunity to frame her.

What a beautiful, vicious woman she was.

Without getting up, Janessa sat on the carpet and looked up at the furious man looming over her.

"Do you know what ingredients were used to make that soup she brought me in the hospital?"

Rayan didn't speak and looked like he was awaiting her next words.

"It's the baby's placenta. It's your dead son's placenta, Rayan. That woman—"

Janessa didn't even finish her sentence, because there was no way that Rayan would believe her words over the other woman's.

Her voice was strangely calm and detached, as if she were relating an event that had nothing to do with her.

In her semi-conscious state during the operation, Janessa heard from the doctor that her baby was a boy.

However, it was a pity that he was not destined to come to this world.

"That's impossible. Gracie is a doctor. Besides, she's the sort of person who would feel horrible for a long time if she had stepped on an ant. How could she cook you

a soup with a baby's placenta in it? Janessa, can you try to be more credible when you lie?"

The sneer on Rayan's face told her that he thought her words were nothing but a big joke.

How could he not know the girl who grew up together with him? Such a slander on Gracie made amplified Rayan's disgust toward the woman he called his wife.

Janessa already knew that he would never believe a word from her.

He probably thought that she had gone off the deep end that she was confusing right with wrong.

That was how Rayan was—he only believed the people he wanted to believe.

As long as he believed the person, he would stick with his opinion even if the whole world said that she was wrong.

Janessa stood up, straightened her clothes, and drawled calmly, "Rayan, you came to me to ask me for a divorce, but you would rather believe that woman and doubt my credibility.

She is scheming to destroy my family.

What makes you think that I would fulfill her wish?"

Her voice grew louder and more agitated with every word until she was shouting.

She would never agree to this divorce! "Janessa!" he roared, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

"Are you threatening me?"

In the past, this woman wouldn't unsheathe her claws, but something had changed in her.

Now, from time to time, she flashed them—knife-sharp and dangerous—to wound him.

Did the tame cat suddenly become feral? Rayan glared at her from narrowed slits.

"You may think whatever you like. I will never divorce you, and I won't give up my position. I want her to be a shameful mistress forever."

Her tone was casual, but conviction rang in her words.

Rayan slipped off his tie and stalked toward Janessa like a predator toward its prey. "Very well, then..."

since you don't agree to this divorce, you are obligated to resume your duties as a wife."

A wife's obligation? Before Janessa could react, Rayan had tied her wrists behind her using the strip of cloth and pressed her heavily against the sofa.

"You bastard! Let me go!"

Rayan leered down at her.

"This is your wifely duty, my dear," he mocked sarcastically,

"You can't avoid it."

Ignoring her pleas and struggles against him, Rayan did what he wanted to do. Tears were welling up in her eyes.

She just had a miscarriage and was still in recovery.

How could he... Was Rayan that desperate for a divorce that he would do such a heartless thing? Janessa gritted her teeth tightly, as she forced herself not to shed tears.

Even if her body and heart hurt, she would not cry.

She wouldn't give in.

Even if she died, she wouldn't let that woman get what she wanted. Janessa prayed for the end to this torture.

After a long time, Rayan finally finished.

He stood up, his face still brimming with resentment.

"Janessa, this is the price for not divorcing me."

Rayan untied her bound wrists, tidied up his clothes, and walked away.

Janessa was left alone in the living room, lying stunned on the couch.

The red and swollen marks on her wrist and the piercing pain between her legs told her clearly what had just happened.

"Rayan Lu, I hope you would never regret this."

Enduring the lancing pain, Janessa stood up and went to the bathroom to clean up the blood from her body.

Afterwards, she skimmed through the divorce agreement, folded it, and took it upstairs to the guest room.

After tidying up her clothes, she left the villa with a few changes of clothing.

She had never felt such disappointment in another person before.

Rayan only saw kindness and innocence in Gracie—he was blind to the vicious, manipulative side of her.

Janessa fetched the key in the drawer and went to the garage.

The accident from the last time she drove flashed in her mind again, making her tremble in fear at the thought of driving.

However, she was left with no choice after all, she had no one by her side.

She could only rely on herself.

This time, maybe she would be okay if she drove slowly.

Trying desperately to handle her emotions, Janessa slowly eased the car out of the villa's garage.

As soon as Janessa's car left, a lady's sports car slowly emerged from the shadow of the night.

The woman in the driver's seat nodded proudly, and a happy smile appeared at the corners of her mouth.

Just then, her phone screen flashed the word 'darling'.

She pressed the answer key and said, "Hello, Rayan, you're there? I just need to go to the supermarket to buy something. I'll be right back."

"Janessa, you will never win against me." The triumphant smile on Gracie's face looked particularly eerie in the moonlight.

Then, the car quickly disappeared in the dark.

## Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 21

/ [Bye, My Ex-husband](#) By AMBER HUNT

Janessa had moved to her own apartment before her marriage.

Although she hadn't lived there for some time, the apartment became fit for occupation after a simple clean-up.

That night, she lay on her bed, but she did not feel sleepy.

Larry's condition kept playing in her mind.

Should she agree to it or not? She tossed and turned all night, only drifting off finally as the gray light of the dawn came.

In her sleep, she was unaware of the cataclysmic changes going on in the Qiu Group.

The Lu Group had withdrawn their capital investment.

With this development, the Qiu Group was thrown back to their starting point.

As the new CEO, Aydin had absolutely no capability to deal with this matter.

Some of the friends he had made during his social activities had disappeared.

Janessa was woken up by the sudden ringing of her phone.

She groggily reached for the phone and peered at the screen.

The name she saw instantly sobered her up.

Why was Aydin calling her? "What's the matter?"

"What is the matter? Don't you know? Something happened to the company!"

Aydin's angry voice barked into her ear, but she could hear the underlying desperation in his tone.

"Something happened? Mr. Qiu, are you talking in your sleep? Aren't you forgetting something? The Qiu Group had me removed from the company, and I am not even qualified to enter the company premises at this point. How would I know what happened?"

Janessa knew her uncle very well.

It was okay for him to eat, drink, and enjoy the perks of being a company's CEO.

When it came to actually managing a company, he was absolutely useless.

Unfortunately, the major shareholders of the company had united to elect such an incompetent person to become the company's head.

Aydin wanted to say something, but the words became stuck in his mouth after Janessa turned his previous statements against him.

After a while, he took a deep breath and continued to speak, "The Qiu Group was founded by your parents. You can't just let it go like this."

"It was fine when I gave it to you. Now, the company's state, whether good or bad, has absolutely nothing to do with me."

After those cold parting words, Janessa pressed the button to end the call and turned on her laptop to check today's news.

In order to force her hand and get his divorce, Rayan withdrew all the money his company had invested on the Qiu Group.

Well, he really was something.

Janessa was surprised when her uncle and her wife came to find her in her apartment.

How did he know that she had moved out of the Lu family villa? As soon as he saw her, Aydin started scolding her.

"Janessa. Not that I'm blaming you, but how could you offend Mr. Lu? He was the only person that could help the Qiu family survive. Why can't you just take care of your husband and stop fighting over something so useless? Now, the whole Qiu family will suffer because of your willfulness!"

"Yes, your uncle is right," her Aunt Norma said in agreement.

"Janessa, it's a woman's duty to take good care of her husband at home and make it easy for him to work hard outside. Go and apologize to Mr. Lu and ask him to give back that money to the company!"

The couple admonished her like the concerned, loving relatives that they were not.

Didn't they remember how they made things difficult for her at her mother's funeral? "I've told you that the company has nothing to do with me anymore. I've already signed over the company to you. As for the company's operation, that's all up to the CEO, isn't it, Uncle?"

Janessa declared in a sarcastic voice, her eyes full of disdain.

He had the guts to kick her out of the company, but now he came to her to beg.

It seemed like he would do anything to stay in power.

"Janessa, what is with your attitude? Your surname is Qiu, so you have a responsibility over this matter. Do you think that I'm unaware of what happened? I've heard that you irritated Mr. Lu to the point that he was forced to withdraw the investment. Come to think of it, our company is in such a crisis because of you, so why don't you care about it?"

Norma's caring demeanor evaporated.

Now, she scolded Janessa in a harsh, imposing manner.

Janessa sneered inwardly and stared at the shameless couple with eyebrows raised dismissively.

With a cold glare, she spoke out in slow, deliberate tones, "You are the ones who are asking me for help.

How could you beg in this manner?"

"You..." Aydin blustered out.

"Janessa, we are just discussing countermeasures to save your marriage. Even your aunt is concerned about the outcome. After all, you haven't been married for long. We are more experienced in the matters between husband and wife. We're just trying to teach you how to make you and Mr. Lu live a happier life. Your parents are gone, so as your uncle and aunt, we have the responsibility to teach you well."

Aydin actually sounded like he believed his words and that there was nothing wrong with them. Teach her?

"Where were you when I stuck all alone in the Lu family without any help? Now you come here and tell me that you are responsible for teaching me? How shameless could you be that you could say such drivel and even use drag my parents into this?"

Fuming, Norma stood up and raised a hand to hit Janessa.

Janessa stepped back and dodged, and the older woman's impetus sent her to the floor instead of hitting her niece.

"You... How could you do this to your aunt? If you can't save the Qiu Group, I'll never forgive you!"

Aydin pulled up his wife and ushered her toward a chair.

Then, he carefully checked her body for any injuries.

Janessa retorted, "Well, if you want me to attract investment for the Qiu Group, give up the CEO position. Otherwise, no negotiation!"

The timing was just right to take back the CEO position from Aydin.

Her uncle would do everything to have more money.

"You... You are plundering a burning house!"

Aydin was trembling with anger.

How could he let go so easily of the company he had worked so hard to gain? The couple discussed something in low tones, and then Aydin said in a markedly softer tone,

“Janessa, I’m sorry. We were both so worried just now. As the saying goes, it’s better to break ten temples than to destroy a marriage. We don’t want you to have any regrets in the future. Since you don’t get along well with your husband and Mr. Lu has another woman, you are well within your rights to divorce. However, you have to ask for more money as alimony. You can’t let him go easily since he was the one who was unfaithful.”

Aydin earnestly told Janessa his analysis of the state of her marriage.

When discussing money, his eyes lit up with a complacent expression, as if the funds were already in their hands.

Then, the couple started talking about how to divide Janessa and Rayan’s assets after they divorced.

Evidently, the only thing on their minds was how they could get more out of it.

It was the last straw for Janessa.

“Enough! Get out of my house, or I’ll call the police!”

She was so angry that she bodily shoved the two through the door.

Then, finally, the apartment was silent.

How could she let those two in? Was she out of her mind? Despite her brave words earlier, she could never ignore the plight of the Qiu Group.

With the exception of the Lu Group, there was only one person in City A who held enough power to help her out.

She already knew that the Lu Group wouldn’t help.

This person was the Qiu Group’s only hope.

Janessa took out a gilded business card from her pocket and dialed the number on it.

“Hello, is this Mr. Chen?”

“It’s me. Have you made up your mind?”

It seemed like Larry knew she would call and went straight to the point.

"Yes. We have a deal."

"Excellent," the man replied in a satisfied tone.

"Miss Qiu, check your account. The money has already been transferred."

Janessa checked her account balance on her phone's banking app and ended the call.

Rayan Lu, since you have been so heartless, don't blame me for being unkind.