

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 32

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

One day, Rayan, the CEO of the Lu Group, was arriving to inspect the Planning Department.

Linda led the members of the department to wait patiently. At nine o'clock sharp, Rayan arrived, followed by an entourage.

Rayan looked at everyone present like a king watching over his kingdom, and his eyes settled upon Janessa, who was standing in the corner.

It seemed like his ex-wife was enjoying her time at the Planning Department.

Janessa could feel somebody's eyes on her.

The moment she raised her head, she met Rayan's intense eyes.

"Mr. Lu, please come this way." Linda's hesitantly looked at this intimidating man.

As soon as he stepped into the office, she felt the aura change.

It seemed as if the temperature had dropped a few degrees the moment he arrived.

She was afraid that if she didn't break the tense silence, everyone would freeze under this man's intense gaze.

"Let's proceed."

Rayan looked away from Janessa.

Linda led him into the meeting room, where he took his seat at the head of the table.

The members of the Planning Department waited for him to settle down before they took their seats.

Janessa wanted to stay as far away from Rayan as possible, so she deliberately slowed her walk as she approached the meeting room.

However, since she was the last person to enter the room, she was forced to take the dreaded seat next to Rayan.

The Planning Department, together with Rayan, filled the seats of the conference room.

Unfortunately for Janessa, this meant that she had to sit close to Rayan.

Everyone in the Lu Group was aware that she had been married to Rayan before.

Now, the two of them were forced to sit close to one another...

How interesting! Linda stood to begin the meeting when her eyes caught sight of Janessa, who was frozen by the door.

Her brows knitted in displeasure as she waited for Janessa to make a move.

"Janessa, what are you standing around there for? Hurry up and take a seat. Everyone's waiting for you!" Janessa had no choice but to make her way towards Rayan.

She moved the chair as far away as possible from him before she sat down.

However, her efforts were in vain. There was limited space for her to move, so she still had to sit within proximity to Rayan. Everyone thought they were still seated a bit too close to one another.

As Linda began her report, Janessa couldn't focus on a single word she said.

The entire time, Janessa felt Rayan's intense gaze on the side of her face.

All of a sudden, she mustered up her courage and looked Rayan dead in the eyes.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Janessa hissed in a low voice.

Rayan merely looked away from her and ignored her question.

Even he didn't know the reason why he wanted to stare at Janessa like that.

Perhaps it was because he had never seen her like this before.

The meeting finished smoothly with no issue.

Rayan no longer allowed his gaze to fall on Janessa.

Linda had given Rayan a progress report on all of the company's projects from last month.

Janessa hadn't paid close attention to the meeting as she was distracted by Rayan.

Linda had reported that the company had finished several of its planned projects.

When it was time for Rayan to speak, he first looked around the meeting room and addressed everyone.

After that, he instructed his secretary to give everyone a copy of the project brief.

He then briefed the project director regarding the details of the project.

"This is the project we're just done negotiating yesterday. Linda, please assign someone to supervise and finish this project. This must be executed perfectly," Rayan ordered.

"Mr. Lu, I promise you that this will be finished with no issues." Linda skimmed the pages of the project brief.

She had completed a proposal for a similar project before, so she was sure to do it well.

"We've completed similar projects in the past before. I hope we can get a different plan at this time."

When Linda heard Rayan's words, she felt relieved.

Rayan wanted something more for this project, which meant that this would be a laborious challenge for everyone.

However, this was an opportunity for the company to present something new to the public.

Linda was happy to take the task.

"Do you have any ideas on how to go about the project?"

Rayan asked Janessa, who sat on his left.

Janessa was shocked that Rayan suddenly addressed her.

That was the last thing she expected him to do.

Fortunately, she had previously brainstormed some ideas for the project.

Janessa stood up to present, but before she could begin, Sally suddenly stopped her.

"Mr. Lu, Janessa is a new member of my team. Her ideas might not be as polished yet. Please allow me to present my ideas first." Sally was aware that Janessa was a capable employee.

Last time, she had seen Janessa transform a hopeless plan into a perfect one with just a few words.

If she allowed Janessa this opportunity to show her capabilities in front of Rayan, it would jeopardize her position.

Janessa's hand paused mid-air as she was about to reach for the file.

She looked down only to see Sally pulling at her clothes.

All of a sudden, Janessa coldly shook off Sally's hand.

"Sally, please control yourself. It's not polite to speak up unless Mr. Lu asks you to." Linda was aware that Janessa was Rayan's ex-wife.

Now that the two were working in the same company, Linda could tell that there was more to their story than they let on.

Sally opened her mouth to answer back, but a glance from Linda silenced her.

She awkwardly sat back in her seat.

Janessa was at a loss and didn't know whether she should remain standing or take a seat.

She began to wonder if this was a cruel punishment meant for her.

If she were to take one wrong step, it would give them a reason to punish her.

"Linda, please meet me in my office. This meeting is over," Rayan announced.

Everyone waited until he walked out of the meeting room before they all stood to leave.

However, Sally suddenly called for a group meeting, so Janessa sat back down in her seat. After the outsiders had left, Sally began to explain the activity as the group leader.

"This public service film has to be perfect. Does anyone have any ideas on how to go about this? Write a complete plan and hand it over to me. Does anyone have any problems with that?"

With her hands braced on the table, Sally looked at her group members with a serious expression on her face and continued,

"Since no one has any objections, I hope I can see a draft of your plans on my desk first thing next Monday morning. Janessa, I'll also ask you to write a plan for me. The activity is of great importance to the company. This opportunity is something you shouldn't take for granted. Don't say that I never gave you a chance."

Janessa thought that the activity didn't concern her, so she was shocked when she heard Sally address her.

"I'll try my best to write a plan for you since you've given me this opportunity."

"I expect an excellent plan from you. If you fail to deliver, this only proves your incompetence."

Sally was obviously goading Janessa into action. Janessa preferred when she acted this way. However, she had to finish a plan by tomorrow morning. Why the hurry? Was Sally setting her up again?

"This meeting is over," Sally announced.

After the meeting, Janessa stayed in her seat for a few moments and tried to think of what Sally had in store.

She noticed some of the department members try to speak up, then stop on second thought.

When Shelby moved towards Janessa, she suddenly raised her head and met Sally's warning glance.

She then gave up and walked away.

Everyone knew something that Janessa didn't know about, and she knew that no one would dare to tell her.

Janessa suddenly recalled what had happened to Shelby yesterday, and she suddenly had a bad feeling about everything.

What was going on? Janessa couldn't figure it out.

When she returned to her desk and saw the messages on WeChat, she finally understood why Sally was pressuring her to finish the plan in such a short amount of time.

It turned out she was indeed planning something.

Sure enough, Sally was full of tricks.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 33

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

The week flew by, and in the blink of an eye, the weekend was around the corner.

That weekend, Janessa decided to stay at home to carve out the time to write her proposal.

This proposal couldn't be the same as the ones she or her colleagues had presented before.

She had to push her limits and think out of the box to produce a fresh concept for the project.

Creating something new and original was so hard that Janessa found herself staring at her computer screen thinking of solutions for two days in a row.

If this continued this way, she wouldn't be able to give Sally a decent proposal by Monday morning.

As she thought of her looming deadline, Janessa grew more anxious.

While she was busy pacing her room for ideas, her phone suddenly rang.

She took a look at the number on the screen and suddenly had a bad feeling about the call.

"Janessa. This man that I've been interested in will be singing at the Coco Bar tonight. Would you like to go with me?" Alana was notorious for being man crazy.

She had a history of becoming obsessed with handsome men.

Janessa could see the look of anticipation on Alana's face at this very moment.

"Come on, Alana! You're already twenty-eight years old! Do you still think we're in high school? Why are you always chasing after men? What would your parents think if they found out about this?" Janessa was nothing like Alana.

Her friend had lived a life free of worries and could do anything as she pleased, but Janessa wasn't fortunate enough to have that luxury. Janessa knew that she had a destiny to fulfill ever since she was a little girl.

Ever since she was young, she had worked tirelessly to reassure her parents, but now, she was all alone.

"Janessa, stop with that negativity! It's not doing you any good! You should try to live life as you please. You need to go after what makes you happy!"

"Forget I said anything. I'm not interested in parading around handsome men. You can go alone tonight."

After Janessa ended the call, she sat down on the sofa and thought of her proposal.

As she fell asleep, vague images of her parents crossed her mind. She imagined her parents slowly walking over to her with their hands intertwined.

"I've missed you both so much. I can't believe you're here."

When her father unexpectedly passed away, Janessa took on the mantle and became the backbone of her family.

She was determined to support her mother and give her a good life.

However, after her mother had passed away, and Janessa was forced into having an abortion, it seemed as if her whole life was falling apart. It had been difficult for her to carry on.

"Don't cry, Janessa. Be strong and keep going; you'll find a person who will always support you."

"There's no use in missing us. We wouldn't be able to rest in peace until we're certain that you'll have a good life."

In the blink of an eye, the room was empty, and Janessa was alone again.

She tried to grasp onto the memory of her parents, but they were gone forever.

"Don't leave me!"

Janessa suddenly bolted upright.

Her forehead was misted with sweat.

It had only been a dream, but it felt real to her.

Janessa lit an incense when she approached the small shrine.

As she looked at the photos of her parents, she bowed as she said, "Don't worry about me.

I will live a good life. I will take the Qiu Group back from Aydin soon.

After Janessa had calmed herself, the doorbell suddenly rang.

When she answered the door, a cheerful figure came in.

"You don't look like you're doing anything special at home. Why won't you come with me to see the man I like?"

"You'll be fine if you go alone. I won't stop you."

"Janessa, please! If you don't come with me, my parents will demand that I come home at eight o'clock tonight! My Prince Charming won't be performing until nine o'clock!"

Alana pouted at Janessa, which made her look pitiful.

Janessa's face softened at her words, but she still pretended to be upset with Alana.

"I see. You're just using me as an excuse. I refuse to go along with this silly plan of yours!"

Alana was on the verge of tears when she heard Janessa's words.

The people she had convinced to come with her in the past all believed that her Prince Charming was quite nice.

If Janessa refused to go with her, she couldn't find anyone in such a short notice; and she wouldn't dare go against her mother and go to the bar alone.

She would never get the chance to see her prince perform.

"No, it's not like that! Janessa, I need your help. Just this one time, please! I promise I won't chase after him anymore after this, okay?" Alana was speaking the truth.

This would be the last time she got wild.

Her family had arranged a blind date for her, and she soon had to play the nice girl they wanted her to be.

So this would be her last chance to taste freedom.

Janessa finally relented and agreed to go to the bar with Alana after her pleading.

The bar wouldn't open until later that night.

Before they left, Janessa finally finished drafting her proposal.

She got dressed into a casual outfit and made her way to the bar with Alana.

Most bars were too loud, but Coco Bar was a place where they could listen to good music all night.

It wasn't too noisy inside the bar, and one could have conversations here.

At nine o'clock, the handsome man Alana mentioned appeared onstage.

His mellow voice was pleasing to the ears.

Everyone inside the bar was captivated by him.

“He sings well, doesn’t he? This bar was worth the visit, am I right?”

Alana smiled proudly to herself.

It wasn’t an easy feat to get Janessa to relax.

Her brother’s idea had worked.

Janessa didn’t say anything in reply.

She could feel the sense of loss and despair as the man sang his ballad.

The singer performed two songs for them, and he was an excellent singer.

Although his performance was coming to an end, the crowd inside the bar urged him to continue with his performance.

However, he didn’t perform another song before he had to leave.

Alana reluctantly left the bar after his performance.

Alana asked Janessa to wait for her as they walked out of the bar.

All of a sudden, Alana ran back inside.

Janessa decided to take a stroll around the bar.

Around the corner, there was a dark alcove where some people huddled.

When she followed the sound of their voices, she could vaguely see three men circling another man by the side of the road.

“When will you pay back the three hundred thousand you owed us? It’s the end of the month already.”

“Peter, I’m trying my best to earn money. I get paid good money to sing at this bar. I’ll be able to pay you soon.” The man’s voice sounded familiar to Janessa.

It was the singer from the bar.

She couldn’t just sit back and watch this scene unfold.

If Alana found out, she would do something as well.

However, she was only one person.

She couldn’t fight these men alone.

After thinking for a few moments, Janessa took out her phone and played the sound of siren loudly to drive the men away.

While running, she shouted, "Sir, I saw someone fighting here!"

As she ran away, she deliberately made loud noises.

Peter was too busy beating the young man. He didn't even notice if there were really policemen nearby.

Peter was so angry that he knocked the young man down with a swift blow. When he heard the siren, he suddenly bolted from the scene.

Before he ran, he warned the man, "You know what you have to do. I need my three hundred thousand tomorrow."

Out of fear that the police would catch him, Peter quickly ran off. Janessa walked out of the shadows and patted her chest.

"It's a good thing they were too nervous to notice that it was all a ruse. Otherwise, I would be in trouble."

"Thank...thank you. If it weren't for you, they would've brutally beaten me." The young man gave her a grateful smile and sincerely thanked her.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 34

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

"You're hurt! Let me help you get patched up."

Janessa approached the man to take him away from the dark alley. What she had just done right now was risky.

If those men found out that she played a trick on them, she would've been in danger. All of a sudden, the men returned to the spot where the young man was crumpled on the floor.

Janessa and the young man were suddenly surrounded in the dark alley by these men.

"You bitch! What do you think you're doing here? You only need to mind your own business!" Peter whipped out a knife and stared at Janessa and the young man with eyes full of malice.

Anyone who saw the fierce look on his face would be scared.

The young man shoved Janessa behind him and said, "Peter, I'm the one who owes you money. You don't need to make an innocent person suffer because of my mistakes."

Janessa looked over at the young man who now looked wise beyond his years and felt like a younger brother was coming to her aid.

She always wanted to have a younger brother, and now this man filled the longing in her heart for one.

If she had a brother by her side while she competed with Aydin for the family properties, maybe they wouldn't have bullied her the way they did.

Peter clutched the man's hair with the hand that held his knife and threatened, "Innocent person? What innocent person would come to save you? Do you think I'm a fool, Eric? Everyone, beat him!"

Peter's men surrounded Eric as they kicked and punched him.

When they attempted to hit Janessa, Eric pushed them away and protected Janessa with his body. No matter how hard they beat him, Eric didn't whimper or cry out. As Peter looked at Eric and Janessa, Peter became angrier.

If his men didn't warn him that things seemed a bit fishy, they would have completely fallen into this woman's trap. Sure enough, when they returned to the scene, they didn't see any police around the area.

"Stop! Do you have any last words, you brat?"

Peter said as he squatted in front of Eric and Janessa. Eric's body was covered with cuts and bruises, and Janessa's face had been dirtied by his blood.

"I promise to pay you back, Peter. Please let her go. She had nothing to do with this. She knows nothing."

"How do you plan on paying me back? Do you have money on you right now? Maybe I should cut off an arm of yours as interest payment."

Eric played numerous instruments for a living, and he couldn't lose an arm due to his debt.

"Wait a minute! This is the five thousand I earned for tonight's performance. Please give me some more time to raise the money. I promise to pay you in full the second I have the money."

Eric glanced at the woman behind him to make sure that she was safe.

After that, he took out the money from his pocket and handed it over to Peter.

"You should've given me the money earlier! If you'd done that, we wouldn't have beaten you like this. I'm warning you to give me my money as soon as possible. If not, I don't think your father will be able to hang on for long."

After that, Peter quickly left with his men.

At last, Eric and Janessa were alone and safe from harm.

Janessa slumped onto the floor and sighed in relief.

At that time, she didn't give much thought to helping Eric.

However, everything began to catch up with her, and she felt terrified.

"Eric! How much money do you owe them?"

Eric looked at Janessa with wide eyes, wondering what she could possibly mean. Although this woman was a stranger to him, he still answered in a bitter tone,

"Three hundred thousand. My father was hospitalized, and I borrowed fifty thousand from Peter. As time passed, the interest kept growing. Before I knew it, I owed him three hundred thousand. Unfortunately, my father is still in the hospital."

Eric leaned against the wall, with exhaustion written all over his body.

His eyes shone with tears as he looked up at the night sky.

"Come with me."

Janessa lifted Eric out of the darkness and found Alana shouting by the door.

"Alana, I'm right here!"

It took Alana some time to get Eric's phone number from the owner of the bar.

She ran out of the bar as soon as she got the number, but then, she couldn't find Janessa anywhere.

After a few minutes, she finally found Janessa.

She was relieved when she saw that Janessa was alright.

But... Why was Janessa coming back from a dark corner with Eric in her arms?
"You two..."

"Oh, I'm sorry. Eric, this is my friend, Alana. Alana, you need to take us to the closest hospital. I'll explain what happened later."

Although Alana was puzzled to see the two together, when she realized that Eric was injured, she quickly agreed to drive them to the hospital.

As the doctor examined Eric, Janessa told Alana what had happened to both of them.

Alana was surprised by Eric's story.

She never would've expected her Prince Charming to be in that kind of situation.

"If it weren't for his father's illness, he would be better off,"

Alana replied with a sigh.

The only thing she could think of was how badly she wanted to help Eric.

She took her bank card from her purse and handed it over to Janessa.

"I know you needed a lot of cash after your divorce, so I'll do this. The three hundred thousand in the card isn't crucial to me right now. Eric needs it more than I do. I don't want that man harassing him again."

"The money..."

This money was from Alana's parents.

Was she foolish enough to lend it to a man she had only seen twice? "It's alright, don't worry too much about it. This money is from my savings."

Janessa initially thought to refuse the money but decided that Eric needed the money right now.

"Thank you, Alana. I owe you for this."

When Eric came out of the emergency room, Janessa handed the card to him and took out another twenty thousand from her purse.

"Inside this card is three hundred thousand. You can use it to pay Peter back. The additional money is to cover your father's remaining hospitalization fee."

"I can't accept your money. You've already done enough for me. You drove Peter and his men away, and now you're lending me money? I can't..."

Eric was overwhelmed by gratitude.

The last thing he expected was to meet a kind soul today.

Janessa had almost been injured because of him.

He couldn't take her money no matter how grateful he felt for it.

"I'm not giving you the money. It's a loan. You can pay off the bank interest and pay in full when you have enough money."

"But..."

Eric couldn't believe that Janessa and Alana had offered him this kind of help.

"Don't think about too much. Just take the money. Peter's interest rates are crazy! There's no way for you to pay off your debt to him. It will keep growing and growing. You're too young to be working so hard for that kind of money."

Janessa had overheard that Eric had been working multiple jobs since he was twenty years old.

With the card in his hand, his heart felt heavy.

He looked at Janessa and Alana and bowed before them.

"I promise I'll pay you back as soon as I can. Thank you so much for the kindness you've shown me. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll do anything to repay you."

Janessa placed a hand on Eric's head and smiled at him. She hadn't felt this happy in a long time. Eric was like her new younger brother.

Now, she would finally have a younger brother who would protect her and stand by her side.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 35

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

Alana's spirits lowered as she looked at Janessa and Eric speaking to one another as if they were long-lost friends.

She couldn't help but look at Eric's wounded figure again.

On his forehead was a piece of gauze as wide as three fingers and soaked in his blood.

Below that, he had beautiful bushy eyebrows that framed his strong face.

His eyes shone with newfound hope, and he had delicate lips, which made him look equally handsome and intelligent.

Even underneath the harsh fluorescent lights, Eric's face still looked golden and healthy.

Alana's heart was beating wildly as she admired him.

At that moment, she knew that she would remember this forever.

Years later, when she recalled this exact moment, she could still remember how fast her heart was beating.

“Alana, I want to take Eric in as my younger brother. Would you like to join me?”

Janessa asked with a smile on her face.

She noticed that Alana hadn't said much since they arrived at the hospital.

“No, I don't want to do that!”

Alana shoved Janessa's hand away and ran out in tears.

Only Janessa and Eric were left there.

They looked at each other in confusion before looking back to see Alana's receding figure.

Eric tugged on Janessa's clothes and asked, “What's wrong? Why is she crying?”

Eric was still a naive young man.

The only thing on his mind was paying off the substantial debt he owed.

This young man didn't know the first thing about love.

Seeing Alana in tears alarmed him, and he didn't know how to help her.

“Don't worry about her; she'll be fine. I'm sure the nurse will take you to your ward and you should get some rest now. I'll check up on you later.”

Janessa gave Eric a reassuring pat on the shoulder before she left.

Janessa could read Alana like a book.

Every time she was upset, she would rush to the nearest rooftop.

Within a few moments, Janessa found Alana curled up in the corner of the rooftop.

Janessa slowly approached and took a seat beside her without saying a word.

It was quiet up there this late into the night.

The only sound they could hear was the wind and Alana's soft sobs.

Janessa knew that Alana would need a few moments to collect herself. After a while, Alana finally exhausted herself. She wiped her tears and looked up at Janessa with swollen eyes.

"If you need to tell me something, you can say it."

Janessa held Alana's delicate hand tightly.

Alana was free to say whatever she wanted, and Janessa would never judge her for it.

Alana sobbed, "I don't know... I'm not sure what's going on with me. When I saw you with Eric, I couldn't help myself. It upset me! Now that I think about it, I'm glad that you wanted to take Eric in as your new younger brother. But... when you asked me if I could take him as my younger brother, I didn't want to. I have no interest in being his sister. I want to do everything with him in a different way! Traveling, cooking, and even just playing together..."

From the way Alana spoke of Eric, Janessa could tell that she held deep feelings for the young man.

Alana was notorious for chasing after men, but this time, it seemed different.

She seemed to really fall in love with Eric this time.

Would this one last though? Love had the power to wound people.

Janessa didn't want to tell Alana this because she wouldn't want her to miss out on her potential soul mate.

Eric might be her true love.

"I want to be with him. What can I do?"

Alana cried bitterly as she tucked her face into Janessa's chest.

Tears began to stream down her eyes again.

Janessa could feel her clothes growing damp from her tears.

"Alana, do you love Eric?"

Janessa asked tentatively as she carefully observed Alana.

Alana immediately stopped wiping her tears and looked up at Janessa in surprise.

'Do I love him? Is what I feel for him genuine?' Alana couldn't help but wonder.

She had crushes in the past, but it seemed different with Eric.

The men that came before him, she only wanted to play with them.

Even if they were with other girls, she wasn't put off by it.

Whenever she saw them flirting with other girls, she never seemed bothered by it.

If those men decided they wanted a serious relationship with other women, it was easy for her to leave.

However, she couldn't even bear to see Eric speaking with Janessa.

By the look on her face, Janessa could tell what was on Alana's mind.

After a long pause, Janessa said, "I know you might be feeling confused right now.

It would be best to give yourself and Eric some time.

If you're destined to be together, then I think you should tell him that you like him. However, you have to think deeply about this.

Do you genuinely have feelings for Eric, or do you only like Eric for his singing and handsome face?"

"I..."

Alana opened her mouth to speak, but she couldn't find the right words to say.

"You don't have to give me an answer right now. All I want is for you to think about this. This is a journey you need to take alone. I can't help you with this. You have to figure this out on your own. Eric is like my younger brother now, and you're my best friend. If you both found your way to one another, I would be genuinely happy for you both. However, if you don't, then I hope we could all still be friends."

Things would turn out differently if Alana never told Eric what she truly felt for him.

When Janessa found Eric back in the ward, he instantly sat up from the bed.

The wound on his arm made him grimace in pain.

"Janessa, where is Alana?" he asked in a worried tone.

Janessa could see that Eric was really a handsome man. It wasn't a surprise to see Alana so infatuated with him.

"She went home," Janessa replied.

"Is everything okay?"

"Yes, don't worry about her. You should focus on recovering."

Eric lowered his head and didn't say another word.

He placed his hands around his sheets and twisted them in frustration.

"What's wrong? Are you in pain?"

Eric merely shook his head in reply.

As he looked up at Janessa's face, he recalled the moment she ran towards him and saved him.

It wasn't the first time the debt collectors cornered him.

The only person who ever came to help him was Janessa.

Even if she was terrified for her safety, she still refused to leave his side.

As he looked at her, he swore to himself that he would protect her no matter what.

He would do it without hesitation, even if he knew that no one would come to save him.

Eric looked away from Janessa and shook his head.

"What's the matter? Are you still worried about Alana?"

Eric didn't want Janessa to know what was on his mind. He was afraid that it would put pressure on her.

After all, he wasn't in a place where he could protect her.

Eric nodded and said, "I noticed that she was in a foul mood before, so I was worried about her."

He wanted to hide his growing affections for Janessa.

However, Janessa assumed that he was concerned for Alana because he was fond of her.

She heaved a sigh of relief. Things might work out between the two of them.

“She’ll be alright. She and I will both come and visit you tomorrow.”

Before Janessa left, she told the nurse to call her if anything happened to Eric.

After that, she left.

Janessa initially wanted to inform Alana of Eric’s concern for her, but after thinking for a while, she decided against it. She would tell Alana the next time they met.

At two o’clock in the morning, Janessa was finally home.

She didn’t dare sleep until she reviewed the proposal she wrote one last time.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 36

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

The financial newspaper was abnormally popular today.

Typically, Janessa didn’t have to wait in line to get her copy of the newspaper.

On this day however, Janessa had to give up her attempt to get a copy of the newspaper after waiting in line for quite a while, for fear of running late for work.

What was going on? Why did the newspaper keep selling out? After she had submitted her proposal, Janessa saw today’s newspaper in the company’s news corner.

On the first page were the words ‘CEO of the Lu Group Out All Night with His Mistress, while His Wife was Spotted Drinking with Friends at a Bar.’ There were two photos below the headline.

One was a picture of Rayan headed back to his apartment with a woman in his arms, while the other was a picture of Janessa drinking with Alana at a bar.

Although the photo of her face wasn’t clear, those who have seen her in person would recognize it was her.

It was obvious that the woman in Rayan’s arms was Gracie.

Janessa and Rayan had gotten divorced for only a month, but it seemed as if Gracie couldn’t wait to take her place as the hostess of the Lu family’s villa.

Their marriage had ended amicably, but the reporters weren’t finished hounding them.

If the reporters could only see how uneventful their lives actually were.

As Janessa took out her phone to dial Rayan's number, she noticed that she had gotten several missed calls.

Some of the phone calls were from numbers that she didn't recognize.

She decided to ignore the calls for the time being and dialed Rayan's number.

After waiting for a few moments for his answer, the call suddenly ended.

Did Rayan hang up on her? With the phone in her hand, Janessa stared at the number on the screen and couldn't help but roll her eyes.

With everything that had happened between them, she wondered if Rayan would ever take the time to answer her calls.

Whenever she attempted to contact him, he never answered, or a woman answered on his behalf.

Even if they were already divorced, he didn't have to be rude to her.

He never answered her calls, and one time, it led to her car accident.

Janessa lost her mother and her baby that dreadful night.

Every time the thought of this passed her mind, her hatred for Rayan grew tenfold.

She refused to call him again.

He could handle this scandal on his own.

They were already divorced, and they didn't need to interact with one another if it wasn't necessary.

The Lu Group's reputation was none of her business.

Janessa decided to leave this matter behind and get to work.

However, even if Sally wasn't planning on causing her trouble today, her colleagues were gossiping amongst themselves instead.

They approached Janessa with their phones and discussed the scandal with her.

"Janessa, we're aware that you've already divorced Mr.Lu, but the netizens continue to say mean things about you! They're taking this way too far!"

"That's right! None of them know the true story.Please tell us what happened between the two of you so we can straighten things out."

Janessa glanced at the comments on their phones.

She knew that their concern was a ruse, and they were only concerned with getting the truth out of her so they could gossip about it. In a calm voice, she answered,

“Yes, they’re wrong. Why do I need to take the time to read their comments? Those people don’t know me and have nothing to do with me. They can say whatever they want about me. I know who I am and what’s true.”

A press conference was to be held to announce their divorce, which would solve the problem they were in.

However, it seemed as if this was the last thing on Rayan’s mind.

He was probably too busy spending time with Gracie to care about this.

Janessa’s colleagues continued to discuss the comments around her.

They carefully observed the look on her face as they read the comments to her.

When they saw the nonchalant look on her face, they gave up and walked away disappointed.

After they left Janessa’s desk, she took out her phone and secretly checked the micro-blog.

The public opinion favored one side over the other.

Most of the female netizens naturally supported Rayan.

Rayan’s supposed act of infidelity didn’t matter to them, and they focused on abusing Janessa.

Their negative words were everywhere on the Internet.

Her personal information had been exposed to the public without her knowledge.

The netizens had located her place of work, her micro- blog account, and even her WeChat account.

Because of Rayan’s “affair”, Janessa had become a topic of discussion again. The last time she was on the tabloids was when she married him, and now it was because of his mistress.

The news of this scandal spread like wildfire all over the city.

On the micro-blog, it remained the top searched topic for a long time.

Janessa and her colleagues received a barrage of phone calls from the female netizens who fiercely defended Rayan.

Rayan had been cooped up inside the villa the entire time, so he heard of the news later than everyone else.

He was furious when the headlines reached him.

Dressed in a delicate lace nightgown, Grace made her way downstairs.

Holding Rayan's hand in hers, she asked in a soft voice, "What's the matter? Did something bad happen?"

"I need to teach these damned reporters a lesson," Rayan replied.

He called Corbin and ordered, "You have an hour to get rid of this mess. Otherwise, you can say goodbye to your year-end bonus!"

Gracie picked up the newspaper that Rayan had thrown aside.

With her back to Rayan, a smug smile teased the corner of her lips.

However, when she turned back to him, she concealed her sly smile.

With tears streaming down her face, she said in a pitiful voice, "How could they write about us like this? There's nothing wrong with what we're doing! How could they say these things?"

"You don't have to worry about anything. I'll deal with it. I promise to protect you from this mess."

Gracie's lips trembled as her tears continued to fall.

Rayan's heart ached when he saw the woman he loved crying like this.

When he spoke again, he softened his voice to comfort her.

"Why does everyone insist on giving us a hard time? Why can't we love each other freely? Is it because of my humble status? I've done everything right, haven't I? I finished my studies and came back with a degree,"

Gracie cried. She tore the wretched newspapers into shreds.

"I'll take care of this matter. I'm sorry to upset you like this. It wasn't my intention."

Rayan placed a gentle kiss on Gracie's forehead and held her tightly in his arms.

Things were spiraling out of control.

Corbin went out to locate Janessa to ask her to attend the press conference to clarify the issue.

Janessa's fingers trembled in anger when Corbin spoke to her.

How could Rayan leave this matter to his ex-wife and his assistant? Shouldn't he be here personally? Perhaps it was because he wasn't concerned about the impact of this scandal on his reputation, or maybe because he didn't know how to deal with it.

While Janessa was busy thinking about how to address this scandal, her phone suddenly rang.

It was a call from the Lu family's old house.

Janessa and Rayan both decided not to make their divorce public when they came back home last time.

Today, news of Rayan's affairs had spread, and Rayan's family had probably heard the news of it by now.

Rayan's mother was fond of Janessa, but that didn't mean that she could tolerate being deceived like this.

Janessa hesitated before she answered the phone.

"Mom, we..." she began to explain.

Before she could explain further, the person on the other end of the call ended the call.

Janessa quickly sent a message to Rayan informing him of the call before she asked Sally for the day off.

To her surprise, Sally agreed to her request with no hesitation.

Things were going so smoothly that Janessa began to wonder if this was a set-up.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 37

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

When Janessa arrived at the old house, she realized that Rayan wasn't home yet.

She attempted to contact him, but he either sent her to voice mail or hung up the call.

Was it that difficult for him to answer one of her calls? The moment Janessa entered the hall, she noticed that most of the elders of the Lu family were gathered in the formal living room.

Were they here to criticize her? Janessa couldn't help but brace herself for what was to come.

It was the first time she had ever seen this many members of the Lu family since she got married.

However, now that she had to deal with them alone, without Rayan by her side.

Her fingertips trembled ever so slightly, but she managed to walk towards them calmly.

"Janessa, come and sit down," Rayan's mother, Sarah, ordered.

"Yes, mom," Janessa answered obediently.

She quickly took a seat on the sofa.

All of the people in the room turned their gazes toward her.

The moment she sat down, Rayan's aunt, Wendy, glanced at her freshly manicured nails with a bored look.

Then, she said in a sarcastic voice, "What an ungrateful and malicious woman! I'm sure you're aware that your family's business is getting better now. That must be why you're determined to get rid of us. You bribed someone to post that photo of Rayan, didn't you?"

Wendy had never been particularly pleasant to Janessa, but it was the first time she bared her claws like this.

Were they aware of all the things Rayan had done to the Qiu family? When Janessa failed to answer, Wendy continued, "Why aren't you saying anything? Who do you think you are? You're lucky you managed to get a job in the Lu Group. Instead of minding your own business and working hard, you're playing little tricks on everybody. It's pathetic!"

Wendy's husband, Glen, tugged at her clothes and gave her a warning look.

Janessa didn't attempt to explain herself because she knew it wouldn't make a difference. People like them only believed what they wanted to believe. The only people she was concerned about were her parents-in-law.

She wanted them to believe her. However, her parents-in-law hadn't said a word since she entered the room.

They had been waiting patiently for Rayan to come back, so he could clarify what had happened.

An hour later, Rayan finally arrived.

The woman in the photo, Gracie, also walked in by his side.

On their way to the old house, Rayan promised Gracie that he would protect her and wouldn't allow her to be bullied.

When Sarah noticed Gracie come in, her usually kind eyes immediately burned with anger.

"Rayan, ask Gracie to go back to her parent's house first. We have something important to discuss with you."

This was the first time Gracie had walked into the Lu family's old house under Rayan's protection.

She was once forced to leave, but this time around, they wouldn't be able to get rid of her so quickly.

Sooner or later, she would marry into the Lu family.

Upon hearing Sarah's words, Gracie's brows furrowed, but she obediently released Rayan's hand.

"I haven't seen my parents in a long time. I should go and visit them. You guys should talk."

Before she left, she gave Rayan a small sad smile.

Rayan's brows furrowed as he watched her walk away.

"Everyone's finally here. Rayan, please explain to us what on earth happened!"

Rayan's father, Donald, was seated on the sofa with a stern look on his face.

His fist slammed onto the wooden table the moment Rayan walked in.

"What you see is what you get. Janessa and I have divorced. I'm in a relationship with Gracie now,"

Rayan explained in a calm voice.

When he mentioned Janessa, he pointed towards her, and there was a look of warning in his eyes.

Janessa turned away from him, indicating that she wasn't interested in cooperating with his plans.

Wendy was pleased when she heard the news of their divorce.

After that, she glanced at Janessa before she said, "I can understand now. It turns out that the two of you have been divorced for some time now. What's going to happen to you now?" Glen pulled his wife aside and whispered a warning to her in a low voice.

Wendy wasn't keen on restraining herself today.

"Do you have any idea how much today's scandal has affected the Lu Group's stock price? Why wasn't I informed that you divorced Janessa? Do you not consider me as your father anymore?"

Donald slammed his fist on the table a second time.

He was furious with Rayan.

"Janessa, please tell me. When did the two of you get divorced?"

Donald turned to Janessa and asked.

His question had caught Janessa by surprise.

The last thing she expected was for him to address her directly. "We finalized our divorce about a month ago,"

she announced.

A satisfied smile teased the corners of her lips.

There was no longer any need to hide anything from these people.

She felt as if a heavy burden was eased off her shoulders.

Everyone was surprised by the news.

Even after they had divorced, Janessa continued to work in the Lu Group, and the Qiu Group remained in business.

What was going on between Janessa and Ryan? Why were they doing this? What was their motive? "It's none of your business. Get out!"

Rayan spoke to her as if he were driving a dog away.

His voice sounded cold, and his brows were furrowed in anger. Although they hadn't stayed married for a long time, Janessa had still been his wife for some time.

How could he speak to her like this?

"How dare you to speak like that in this house! Shut your mouth!"

Sarah screamed at Rayan as she held Janessa's hand.

This was not how Rayan had expected this situation to go.

"I've told you before that you can marry anyone you want, except for Gracie. You cannot be with that woman. It would be best for you to give it up,"

Donald said as he pointed angrily at Rayan.

Many women would kill to be with him, but Rayan only had eyes for Gracie.

Janessa's background and temperament were much better than Gracie's.

Why couldn't Rayan admit to himself and accept that he had been married to a good woman? "I brought Gracie all the way here. I think that's clear enough. If you can't find it in yourself to welcome her, then you won't see me again."

When Rayan finished speaking, he walked out without another word.

However, his mother's words made him stop.

"Do you think things will be that easy? Do you even know where she is right now? Even if you find her now, do you really think you two can walk out of here?"

Sarah asked with a cold smile on her face.

Rayan turned back to look at her with a stern face.

"Don't look at me like that. Janessa is the only daughter-in-law I will recognize in this lifetime. If you refuse to make her my daughter-in-law, then you will not be allowed to marry again. You'll be single your entire life."

Their discussion had reached a boiling point.

Rayan knew that his parents were capable of hiding Gracie in a place where he would never find her.

Even if there were more than a dozen people seated in the hall, the hall was so quiet that they could barely hear the sound of each other's breaths.

The atmosphere in the room became suffocating.

“Let me ask you one more time. Do you have to marry Gracie?”

Rayan answered without hesitation, “Yes. I do.”

“Atlas, hand me my whip.”

Donald was also determined.

Atlas couldn't bring himself to go upstairs to retrieve the whip.

Last time, Rayan was severely beaten because of Gracie.

Now, history would repeat itself.

He would be punished for wanting to marry the woman of his choice.

Janessa lowered her head and smiled bitterly to herself.

Whether she loved Rayan or not, there was a huge gap between them that they couldn't overcome.

Atlas soon fetched the whip, but he hesitated before giving it to Donald.

“Ms. Janessa, please try talk to Mr. Donald! Or Mr. Rayan will get seriously beaten for this!” he pleaded.

Even they had got divorced, Janessa didn't really want to see Rayan suffer, so she stepped up.

“Dad, please let him go. We'll be holding a press conference this afternoon. Everything will calm down once we make our divorce public.”

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 38

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

“No, I cannot allow for your divorce to be announced. Just because you're a grown man doesn't mean that you have the right to become disobedient of me. You never fail to disappoint me! When you did this, you didn't plan on discussing anything with us, did you?”

Donald's voice echoed in the room, filled with anger.

At that moment, he was full of rage and didn't look like an older man.

“You must have known this would happen when you forced me to marry that woman.”

Rayan wasn't the kind of man who allowed someone to trample on him.

In the beginning, he only agreed to marry Janessa because his mother forced her will onto him.

Now, he had to make an effort to resist his parents so he could be with Gracie.

"I've told you before, you can marry anyone you want, except for Gracie!"

Donald was furious with his rebellious son.

Rayan had been friends with Gracie since they were children.

His parents thought their friendship was harmless because they never expected Rayan to fall for a woman like her.

But he now actually got divorced because of this very same woman! "Your father is right. You cannot be with a woman like Gracie. Aren't you aware that you're the sole heir of the Lu Group? That woman's parents are just servants! She's not good enough for you!"

Sarah commented.

She attempted to talk Rayan out of his decision and ease her husband's anger.

"Donald, please calm down. You have a heart problem, and you can't get riled up like this. Try and _ talk reasonably with your son."

Sarah's brows furrowed as she gave Donald a reassuring pat on the chest.

Wendy was notorious for being a gossip.

When she heard that Rayan would prefer to marry a daughter of a humble servant than the daughter of the Qiu Group, she suddenly had an idea.

"Rayan, I give you my support. You have the right to marry the woman of your choosing. Both of you love each other, so there's no reason for you not to get married. Why do you keep holding me back, Glen? Did I say something wrong?"

Glen tried to stop his wife, but she was determined to say her piece.

Donald had invited the both of them to help them with Rayan, but his wife only made things worse.

"Shut your mouth! Donald, please forgive my wife. She doesn't know what she was talking about," Glen apologized.

His wife had humiliated him enough today.

"Aunt Wendy has a point. I don't love Janessa, and she doesn't have feelings for me in return. All of you know the real reason why we decided to get married. The only woman I've ever loved and will always love is Gracie. I will love her until the day I die. I'm asking you not to interfere with our relationship. That's all I want."

Rayan knew that Wendy was up to no good, but at the moment, she was the only one on his side.

His eyes landed on Janessa, who was seated next to his mother.

Judging by the look on his face, it was obvious that he wanted her out of his sight.

"It doesn't matter why you want to get married to this girl! What I want to know is why you never thought to tell us that you were getting divorced. Now, you've brought this scandal to our family. How do you plan on fixing this mess?"

Sarah asked in a calm but firm voice.

"What's the point of informing the public about their divorce? Today, I want you to remarry Janessa and hold a press conference immediately. You must tell the media that what happened was a misunderstanding and convince them that your marriage is solid! Tell them that you were drunk and that Gracie took care of you since she's our family doctor. Inform them that Janessa wasn't out yesterday. The photo of her in the bar was taken long ago."

"That would be impossible! I cannot remarry her! The only way to solve this mess is to hold a press conference to announce our divorce to the public. The company shouldn't be affected by my personal matters."

In the past, he didn't have the power to protect Gracie.

Now that he was in the position to, he refused to go down without a fight. He couldn't let Gracie suffer this injustice. The situation was going nowhere.

Two stubborn people were facing off with one another, and neither would budge.

At that moment, the phone suddenly rang, and Atlas moved to answer the phone.

His face changed drastically when he came back.

"I have some bad news. News of their separation has been exposed, and now it's trending as a search topic."

Atlas wiped the sweat from his forehead as he thought about who was causing the trouble.

If news of their separation was revealed, it would almost be the same as telling everyone they had divorced.

“Look at what you’ve done!”

Donald was so furious that he picked up a pillow and threw it at Rayan.

Janessa didn’t expect the news to travel so fast.

Who revealed Rayan’s “affair”? Did Rayan do this? Either way, this would bring no good to himself.

Why would he do such a thing? What could he possibly get out of it? In Rayan’s eyes however, Janessa was the culprit.

News of their divorce wouldn’t impact her life in any significant way, and she could even gain from it.

“It was you! You exposed the news! I took revenge on the Qiu family and withdrew the investment, so you were angry with me, weren’t you? How could you do something like this?”

You’re desperate to do anything to get revenge!”What do you mean? Did you withdraw the investment from the Qiu Group? I can’t believe it! How dare you!”

Donald fetched another pillow and chased after Rayan in the living room.

The living room turned upside down as Donald continued to chase after Rayan.

“That’s enough!” Janessa yelled.

She had been silent the entire time but decided that she needed to intervene now.

She stood up and pulled Rayan out of the crowd.

The others stopped to see what she would do.

“Do you have proof that I asked someone to expose the news? Did you find out that I hired someone? Stop talking nonsense without evidence.”

“It wasn’t you? Who else could it be?”

Gripping Janessa’s arm, Rayan glared at her and looked as if he wanted to burn her alive.

“Who else would it be except for you?”

Even though they hadn’t been married for long, Janessa couldn’t believe that Rayan actually believed she would be capable of doing something like this vicious.

No matter where she came from, she knew that she was no match for the woman he loved.

Janessa refused to answer Rayan's ridiculous question.

"Dad, I have something that I need to tell you. Could I talk to you alone in the study?"

This matter had to be settled sooner rather than later. Janessa followed Donald into the study. The people downstairs looked as they walked past them.

Glen immediately escorted his wife out of the old house, and the others also left.

Only Rayan and his mother were now left in the living room.

They hadn't had a moment to talk with just the two of them, but now wasn't a good time to do so.

"I have some matters to attend to. I'll leave now."

"Rayan, you..."

"Mom, you can't stop this from happening. I hope that you won't take things too far. No matter what, I'll protect the woman that I love."

After receiving an urgent call from Corbin, Rayan left the house in a hurry.

Atlas came out from the backyard and noticed Rayan leave.

After that, he went back into the house to notify Sarah.

"Ma'am, it has been done."

"What about her parents?"

"Everything has been arranged. I'm certain that Mr. Rayan won't be able to locate them."

Sarah knew her son too well.

Rayan would fall into her trap this time.

Atlas thought about what would happen next and shook his head silently.

This time around, he had no choice but to take Sarah's side.

An hour later, Janessa walked out of the study with a calm look on her face.

Donald was also not as angry as he had been hours ago.

"Now go ahead. Take that brat with you."

Donald looked around the living room but found no trace of Rayan.

Janessa's smile faded when she noticed that he was gone.

"I can go back by myself," she said.

"I'll have Atlas drive you back to the company. I have something I need to discuss with him."

"Thank you, Dad. I should leave now."

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 39

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

Janessa kept calling Rayan all the way to the Lu Group. As usual, the man still rejected her calls.

"Atlas, lend me your phone. Dial Rayan Lu's number for me."

Confused, Atlas called Rayan and immediately passed the phone to Janessa. Soon, a deep voice was heard from the other end.

"What's the matter?" As expected, Rayan picked up.

Sure enough, it was only Janessa's calls that he wanted to avoid.

A bitter smile crossed Janessa's lips.

"When will the press conference begin?" she asked, getting straight to the point.

There was silence on the other end for a few seconds when Rayan heard her voice, then he replied emotionlessly,

"2 o'clock."

"Okay. I'll be right there. Let's clarify this to the media, and we'll have nothing to do with each other after this."

After that parting shot, Janessa ended the call and handed the phone back to Atlas.

Their marriage had come to an end, but was the story between them really over? The press conference scheduled at 2 o'clock was ready.

As they sat in front of the sea of cameras, Janessa turned her head to look at the calm look on Rayan's face. There wasn't a trace of nervousness in his demeanor.

Today's sudden news caused the stock of the Lu Group to fall by ten points, but he seemed unfazed.

Upon hearing Corbin's voice, Janessa quickly pushed her wayward thoughts at the back of her mind.

"Thank you for attending today's press conference. Again, I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the press for coming. Today, we would like to clarify the news about Mr. Rayan Lu and Ms. Janessa Qiu, so I hope that you can listen carefully. We will be allotting twenty minutes for your questions later. Now, Mr. Lu would like to say something first."

Rayan sat up with confidence and firmly looked at the reporters.

"Ms. Qiu and I had ended our relationship peacefully a month ago."

This statement caused an uproar among the audience.

Rumors on the Internet had speculated about a divorce, but neither of the two parties involved had responded to them.

Maybe it was because Janessa still worked in the Lu Group.

"That's correct. We have been divorced for more than a month now, but it was an amicable parting. There was no third party involved."

Janessa only echoed what Rayan's words.

Apparently, there was nothing more to be said.

Neither of them spoke again after that, so Corbin took the microphone once more and concluded their statements.

"Next, you can ask questions freely, but you only have twenty minutes to ask them. I hope that you can use the time wisely."

The reporters were raring to move to the next part. They rushed to the front, their microphones thrust close to Janessa's and Rayan's faces.

"Ms. Qiu, now that you're divorced, will you still be working for the Lu Group? Could it be that you mean to stay close to Mr. Lu to rekindle old feelings and then remarry him later?"

The direct question was completely unexpected.

It was the last thing Janessa wanted to explain.

In their divorce agreement, Rayan allowed to let her work in the Lu Group without any questions asked. He must have wanted to ask her this question for a long time though.

"I work in the Lu Group for my own personal growth, and Mr.Lu is willing to give me a chance for self-improvement.Of course, I won't waste such an opportunity."

Janessa had prepared the answer beforehand, but she couldn't help feeling a pang of guilt.

"Ms.Qiu, since you have mentioned that you're not staying in the Lu Group for Mr.Lu, how do you explain why you got drunk out on the streets last night?"

As always, the reporter's words hit the nail on the head.

"I was meeting a friend in that particular bar, and somebody took photos of me while I was drunk for some reason."

It was like all of the reporters had made a deal to deliberately make things difficult for Janessa.

They fielded all of the questions her way, while none of them asked Rayan anything.

"Mr.Lu, someone said that the woman who was with you last night looked like your first girlfriend.Is this true?"

Many of those in attendance were dying to ask that question, but no one dared.

The reporter who asked was from an unidentified newspaper office.Even Janessa herself was curious about how Rayan would answer this question.Would he actually admit it?

"It's not true.She doesn't look like my first girlfriend because she's my first girlfriend,"

Rayan admitted frankly.

The next stream of questions were about when they would get back together and whether they would get married.

Just then, Corbin announced that the press conference was over.The matter was resolved, and everyone's worries were allayed.

In contrast, Rayan paced the length of the lounge with a frown on his face.No one answered the call, and then a message sent from Gracie's number came through.

The message said, "Rayan, we can't go back to the past.I hope that you and Janessa will be happy together."

Ryan held Janessa's arm in a vise-like grip and pressed her hard against her chair.

"Janessa, what do you want?" he growled out.

Janessa looked up at him in a daze.

They had just finished a battle side by side. Why was he suddenly treating her like this?

"What's wrong with you, Ryan? Go home and take something if you're sick! Don't take it out on me!"

"Where did you hide Gracie? What did you say to her? She gave up on me again!"

"Gave up on him again?" Janessa furiously glared at him and said through gritted teeth

"Your sweetheart is missing? What does that have anything to do with me?"

"Where on earth have you hidden Gracie? If you dare hurt one hair on her head, I will make you pay!"

After uttering the threat, he whirled around and hurried out, slamming the door behind him. Just then, Janessa noticed that her hands were clammy with sweat.

Ryan took Gracie back to the old house today.

How could she disappear just like that? Who took her away? Janessa had a hunch, but she didn't want to ask or help Ryan to find Gracie.

She would never forgive what Gracie had done to her in the hospital.

Maybe it was a bad thing to wish ill of another person, but she was actually glad to hear that Gracie was missing.

That meant that there was one less cruel person in the world.

Inside the attic of the old house was a small black room that was totally enclosed except for a palm sized window.

However, the room was soundproof, and not a single sound could be heard from outside and from within the walls.

Sarah brought the dinner to the attic, opening the small door to see a mess on the ground and a woman huddled in the corner.

"It's useless to break everything in this room, but go ahead. You gave your word that you would not contact my son, but you broke your promise."

The woman's voice was low and calm, but her words made the woman in the corner tremble. Gracie raised her head and looked at her captor.

Sarah had always been very good to her, but now she was treating her with such cruelty.

Last time in her room, Sarah forced her to break up with Rayan.

Back then, she was only a servant's daughter with no education background.

She worked hard to be deemed worthy to become a member of the Lu family.

However, all of her efforts were for nothing. Even after she finished her study, Sarah still didn't like her.

To Sarah, the fact that Gracie had servants for parents was shameful and unacceptable.

She pleaded, "Ma'am, Rayan and I really love each other. Why can't we be together?"

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 40

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

Rayan sent out many people in search of Gracie. But, it was as if she had vanished from the face of the world.

He even went back to the old house himself to check but still could not still locate her. On top of that, even Gracie's parents were also missing and nobody could state a reason for that.

Nothing made sense anymore.

If Gracie was really missing, how come she sent Rayan the message of breaking up with him? At this point he had no one else but to suspect Janessa.

But he did not let his emotions get the better of him and controlled himself from confronting Janessa right at that moment. When he was at home, while stressing he drank a lot and in that state drove to Janessa's place.

Even in that absolutely drunk state Rayan managed to accurately locate the place where she hid her extra keys.

He swiftly took it and opened the door to the apartment. After returning home from a long day of work, Janessa was enjoying a hot bath.

Suddenly she heard the noise of her front-door creaking open. She quickly pulled her bathrobe and covered herself. She grabbed something in order to protect herself and carefully walked out of the bathroom.

The silhouette of a tall figure was visible for a moment and then it collapsed on the sofa.

“What the hell are you doing here, Rayan? That also, at this hour of the night?”

She pulled her bathrobe a little tighter around her body and inspected the man lying on the sofa. Gracie was nowhere to be found.

Then what was Rayan doing in her apartment? The smell of the alcohol from his body stung the air around.

Janessa knew that she could not allow him to do anything crazy in this drunk state. So she quietly went to the kitchen and made him a bowl of soup to sober him up. She silently placed it in front of Rayan.

“Why are you here in the middle of the night?” Rayan looked hard to see her.

The look on his face was dull.

“What did you say to Gracie? Tell me right now! Why was she trying to defend you?”

When Rayan loved Gracie with all his heart, she left him because of his mother. Now after that ordeal when they were finally together Janessa messed everything up.

“I remember you and Gracie came together that day to the old house. When your dad and I came out of the study, you had already left.”

But the reality was after that day Janessa never saw Gracie ever again.

Then how could Rayan think that she was hiding his lady love? She was sanguine that he was saying gibberish because he was so drunk.

So she asked him to drink up the hangover soup quickly.

“Listen, what you are saying is impossible. I left early on that day. I am sure you messed up and said something when I was away. You are such a heartless person Janessa!”

Rayan somehow wobbled on his feet and tried to stand up. Then he moved towards Janessa.

He kept on hitting the tea table with his knees but he did not seem to care at all.

“What are you trying to say, Rayan? How many more times do I have to clarify myself? We are divorced now. I have nothing against you anymore. So I really don't care who you are with. Why do you keep on coming to me, blaming me for every little thing? I am your ex-wife, not your toy to dump every responsibility on to.”

As he never understood what Janessa said even in sober state, now she found it an unassailable task to make sense of anything.

There were many other people who could abduct Gracie.

Then, why was he here to blame her? Why always her? Even after drinking the soup Rayan took time to sober up. Thoughts kept reeling in his mind.

She was losing her temper at all these baseless accusations. She stood there rubbing her temples.

Then in a fit of great rage, shouted at her ex-husband

“Yes, I am the one who kidnapped Gracie! What will you do about it? What can you do?”

This triggered Rayan as he immediately stood up and roared in great fury.

“So you finally admit it? Where is she? Where have you put her away? You need to tell me right now!”

Janessa realized her mistake and regretted shouting at a drunk man. How would she control him now? But there was nothing she could do. Her words had already enraged him.

“You are strange. When I was telling the truth you never believed me. But you are ready to pounce on me believing a lie I just made up. You are sickest person I know!”

This did not make him happy at all. The alcoholic smell was all over Janessa’s body now. His face turned dark and gloomy. With each step as he came closer, she got a little more nervous.

She was aware that he had great strength.

Added to that Janessa had no place to move anymore as she was already pushed back against the bathroom door.

Rayan was smiling like a manic and pushed her forcefully in the bathroom.

“You think I am so dumb that I won’t be able to differentiate the truth from the lie?”

“Is it so? If you were so smart you would be looking hard for your sweetheart instead of making a ruckus at my apartment!” Janessa said to herself. But she refrained from expressing her thoughts loudly. She was just wearing a bathrobe under which it was just her bare skin.

Even though this intimacy was nothing new to them, right now Rayan was unpredictable and Janessa was genuinely scared of any consequences.

"Please go from here right now! See it is already really late. Both of us staying together in the same room is not the best idea."

Janessa suddenly remembered that she had once informed Rayan about the place where she hid her spare key. It was clear that she needed to find a new place.

Otherwise, if he kept on paying her such untimely visits, it would create a lot of rumors.

"You know, Janessa, I called you but... Oh no!"

Right at that moment Eric arrived and saw the front door ajar.

He ran inside only to find Rayan pressing Janessa against the bathtub.

Almost as if in a reflex he grabbed Rayan by his collar and threw him on the corridor of the living room.

"Janessa, are you alright?" Eric was frantic.

He wanted to see if she was okay. The collar of her bathrobe was slightly removed and that revealed part of her bare chest.

He quickly moved his hand out of embarrassment and turned to face Rayan. Janessa quickly looked down to realize her bathrobe had loosened. She shut the door of the bathroom and finally changed into her clothes before stepping out.

After finally sobering up Rayan sat on the sofa facing the other two people seated opposite to him.

"What are you staring at, you drunkard? Get this straight and clear. No matter who you are, you cannot bully my sister like this ever!" Eric fumed in anger.

He shuddered at the thought at what would happen if he was late by even a second.

"So? This is your new lover? He is young and fresh."

"Shut your mouth right now. Do you think every man is as filthy as you?"

Janessa was disgusted with Rayan.

She tried her best to control the situation lest Eric misunderstood her.

"Listen woman, I don't give a damn about who you are with. But if you come near my Gracie, I will not let you get away."

After finishing the soup he finally stood up and left. Eric locked the door and came back to sit on the sofa. Then he asked

"Janessa, are you doing okay? Did he hurt you?"

Even though she was fully clothed now, Eric avoided looking at her directly.

"Do not worry, I am fine. You tell me, what brings you here at this hour?"

"I...I was actually near the neighborhood, so I wanted to ask you out for dinner but you did not answer my call. So I came by to check if you were home. I was not expecting that jerk in anyway. Please give me a call if he attacks you like this again. I will beat the life out of him!"

Janessa was really concerned about Eric's thin arms.

"Do you know that he works out for an hour every day? If you really want to beat him, you need to work out for at least a few more years first."

Janessa however felt very warm inside.

Although she was really upset about Rayan's behavior, Eric brought her a lot of joy.

"I will protect you no matter what. Trust me on this one."

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 41

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

Rayan searched everywhere he could think of.

But it was as if by magic that Gracie was wiped from the face of the earth.

Neither did she answer her calls nor was seen in public by anyone.

Janessa, when she came to the company, found that Rayan was not there.

When she asked the receptionist, she too informed that she never saw him that day.

As Corbin too was away from the company, Janessa smiled helplessly.

Rayan could think of nothing else but Gracie because she was the most important for him.

He would not even answer Janessa's phone call when her life was at stake, but he couldn't stand not seeing Gracie for just one minute.

Had Janessa been missing from home, he would never bother to ask for her whereabouts.

But when Gracie was missing he turned the whole city upside down.

When she finished her work, Janessa received a call from her mother-in-law.

She answered the call and said, "Hi mom, what is wrong? I just got off my shift."

"I called to let you know that Atlas is in the city. He will be picking you up later. Last time you left in a haste and I forgot something that I wanted to give to you," Sarah said from the other side.

"Okay." After the short conversation, Janessa left Alana a voicemail saying that she had to cancel their meeting.

Then she reached the nearest shopping mall.

She was still confused as to why her mother-in-law wanted to see her, but she did remember she was in a hurry and didn't bring anything as a token gift last time they met.

Thus she quickly grabbed two pieces of clothing from high-end brands and a beautiful, good quality tea set.

By the time she was done shopping, Atlas arrived right outside the mall.

When she arrived in the old house, Sarah looked with admiration at everything she brought with herself and praised her.

"Haven't I told you many times that you do not need to buy me gifts every time you come here?"

Although Sarah tried to be stern, it was evident that she was really happy with the gifts.

She loved Janessa.

The girl was perfect.

She was eloquent and efficient.

She was a very good wife to Rayan.

But they ended up getting divorced.

“Mom, you know that I and Rayan are no longer together.I...”

Janessa did not know how to continue anymore so she looked down.

Their divorce was so publicized that every citizen was aware of it.

So she did not know what her connection to the Lu family was, anymore.

Sarah understood Janessa’s predicament and patted her hand affectionately.

Then she made her sit down.

After that she quickly left the room and went upstairs to fetch something.

Sarah came back and settled on the sofa.

Then she looked at Janessa with love and said, “I always wanted you and Rayan to be together, because even though I was aware that this would be a loveless marriage, I always felt that you made a very good wife.

And even though your mother let this union take place only for the sake of the Qiu Group, you should understand that in our societal class, marriage is always nothing but a deal.”

In the upper class it was a known fact that almost no one got married for love.

Most of the marriages were to enhance family business.

Janessa and Rayan’s matrimony happened not only because Sarah liked her, but also because it was expected of Janessa to work towards helping the Lu family business.

But a lot of things completely changed in the last three years.

There was only disappointment now.

Janessa remained silent.

She did not know what to say or do.

She was absolutely helpless.

Had her family not forced her, she would have never tied the knot with Rayan and ‘steal’ him from Gracie.

Consequently, things between her and Gordon would also be different.

Maybe they would have lived a happy life together.

Sarah read Janessa's mind.

She said: "You see, life surprises us all the time. Strange things just happen. The real key is to combat them and move on."

"Combat and move on?"

Janessa's stance became a little conscious.

She felt confused.

She was not sure about what her mother-in-law tried to indicate.

What was there to make up between her and Rayan when they were legally divorced? The question of remarriage was definitely out of the discussion.

"You are very smart, dear. You know why I like you so much? It is because you are so sensible! You can win back Rayan's heart with just a little push and perseverance. As for now, you don't worry about Gracie. No matter what happens, she will never be my daughter-in-law,"

Sarah told in a very confident voice.

Her confidence was strange.

How was she so sanguine that Gracie could never become the daughter-in-law of the Lu family? Was it because Gracie just stayed in the old house of the Lu family all the time? It was actually possible since Gracie was right here before she went missing.

If Sarah had decided to keep Gracie hidden, no matter what Rayan did, he would never find her in spite of his best efforts.

The old house that the Lu family owned was so magnanimous that even Rayan himself did not know every inch of it.

But whatever happened she and Rayan would never get married again.

Their relationship was faulty and cumbersome right from the first day.

The fact that it was over was the best thing.

On top of that...Something came to Janessa's mind but she simply shook her head.

"Like I said, you're smart. You'll figure this out. Anyway, I saw that you left this bracelet at the door last time. Listen, Rayan's grandma gave it to you. So it is yours. Keep it with you."

“But I have already divorced Rayan.”

It was not fair for her to own any Lu family heirloom anymore as she and Rayan were already divorced by law. “Listen to me. Take it and keep it safe with you. It might become useful in the future. I am exhausted. I will go back now to rest for a bit. It had gotten very late. Stay here for the night and ask Atlas to drop you to work tomorrow.”

“Okay.”

Saying this, Sarah left the room.

Janessa ate a light dinner in the dining room and decided to take a casual stroll in the yard later.

When she was still married, after a heavy meal she and her mother-in-law would often stroll like this.

But today she was alone.

As she was exercising under a big tree, she suddenly noticed that a servant was walking towards the backyard with a plate of food.

The servant looked nervous.

And she constantly looked here and there in a way that made it clear that she did not want anyone to find out where she was headed.

“What is that servant doing at this hour of the night, that also with a plate full of food?”

Janessa was having doubts, so she decided to follow her.

The old house of the Lu family being a huge property, Janessa had to follow the servant for a long distance.

Then she noticed that the woman stopped in front of an abandoned hut and pushed in the food.

Janessa waited for the servant to leave.

Then she looked a little more carefully only to realize the woman under captivity was Gracie! Gracie was kept under lock and key! Now it was clear to Janessa why Rayan failed to find Gracie even when he moved to every extent possible.

She was tucked away in such an obscure location that nobody could even imagine.

Janessa herself was also surprised to find Gracie there.

She mustered up some courage and walked up to the door.

She tried her best to open the door but realized she needed a key.

She started looking around frantically and located a broken window.

"Anybody here?"

She could hear some shuffling but everything soon became very quiet.

"Please answer me. Gracie, are you there?"

Janessa called her name this time in the hope of getting a response.

"Who are you? How do you know my name?"

Hearing this voice, Janessa was sure that she found Gracie. It was malicious of the Lu family to hatch such a plan just because they could not accept Rayan and Gracie together.

No matter how much time passed they would never agree to this relationship.

It was clear that for Rayan and Gracie to be with each other, the obstacles were innumerable.

Understanding that the person was Gracie, Janessa wanted to leave quickly.

But just as she turned to walk away, Gracie figured her identity.

"Is that you, Janessa? How did you find this place?"

Janessa refrained from answering.

Instead she chose to leave the spot as soon as possible.

She could not sleep for the rest of the night.

She was in a dilemma whether she would tell it to Rayan or not.

Early in the morning with all those thoughts clouding her mind, she finally fell asleep.