

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 72

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

Rayan looked at the woman in his arms.

Her face was flushed, her forehead hot with fever.

He didn't know how long she had been ill for.

It was lucky he had caught her just in time.

Otherwise, she might've fallen and hurt her beautiful face.

Rayan didn't have the time to call an ambulance.

Instead, he left the Lu Group straight away with Janessa in his arms.

When Janessa woke, a white ceiling came into her view.

An IV bag was hanging over her head.

She realized that she was in the hospital.

'What's going on?' As she struggled to get out of bed, a familiar face walked in.

"Alana, what are you doing here? Did you bring me here?"

Janessa was suspicious of meeting her friend.

Why would Alana come visit her? She had been so sad that morning when she left.

This must be a dream.

That morning was such an awful misunderstanding.

She had wanted to talk to her, but Alana was avoiding her.

"Maybe this is just a dream. Well, whether it is or not, I want you to know that I have never thought of being with Eric. I didn't know what he is thinking. If only you could understand what I'm saying,"

Janessa muttered, still hoping that this was not a dream.

"You are not dreaming. This is real. You're very sick right now and in the hospital,"

Alana said, changing the subject from Eric.

It was not that she didn't want to talk about him.

She just did not know what to say.

She had loved Eric since the day they met.

Her whole world had come alive when she saw him.

She had never felt like this about anyone before him.

However, she was also heartbroken.

The thing she was scared of most had happened.

The man she loved only had eyes for Janessa.

Janessa stared at Alana for a moment, stunned.

When she recovered from her shock, she asked, "Then why are you here? All I remember is that I was with Rayan in the office. We were fighting and then... I have no memory of what happened next."

Janessa tried her best to remember what happened, but she couldn't see past that fight.

Did that mean that Rayan had brought her to the hospital? Janessa couldn't believe that such a cold-hearted man would do that for her.

Before Janessa said all her doubts, Alana explained what had happened.

"Rayan brought you here. He called to tell me he had admitted you. By the way, don't you know you should go see a doctor when you're sick? And you didn't realize something was wrong while wearing such thick clothes? Has Rayan tortured you so much that you can't think clearly?"

When Alana arrived at the hospital, she was shocked to see the warm clothes on Janessa.

It was summer now, but Janessa was still wearing thick layers. Janessa had worn a lot of layers in the office.

She thought that she felt cold because someone set the temperature on the air-conditioner too low, but she hadn't realized that she was sick.

"Did he say anything else?"

Janessa asked, not expecting that Rayan would really leave a message.

"He said you don't need to worry about your work. You can rest here. Although the Lu Group doesn't hire idle people, they won't be harsh to employees."

Alana repeated every word clearly.

Alana hadn't expected that Rayan, a man who had treated Janessa so awfully in the past, would be so kind this time.

Otherwise, he would not have brought her to the hospital himself. Janessa pouted.

If she hadn't heard what he said in the office, she would have believed him.

But by now he must have already gone to Gracie.

Their work must have been delayed.

Janessa stared at the IV bag above her head, then resolutely pulled the needle from her hand.

"Janessa, are you crazy? Your fever hasn't gone down yet. What are you doing?"

Before Alana could stop her, Janessa pulled the needle out.

Blood began to drip from her wrist.

Janessa didn't feel any pain.

She reached over to put on her shoes and was about to run out.

Then, Alana grabbed Janessa's shoulder and pushed her back onto the bed.

She called out for the nurse to come.

"Alana, let go of me! I need to finish revising my plan. Let me go!"

Janessa struggled to get out of Alana's arms, but she was too weak now and no match for her friend.

With the help of the nurse, the needle was inserted back into Janessa's hand once more.

"Stay here. Don't you dare try to leave. Rayan has taken care of it. You don't need to worry about it anymore." Janessa lowered her head.

She had been working on that plan and could have revised it to perfection.

However, she didn't expect that Rayan would take the credit now.

She couldn't get over it.

If she couldn't get promoted, what was the point of her working at the Lu Group? But it was useless to say anything now.

Putting the company's affairs to the back of her mind, Janessa took Alana's hand and said, "Okay. I won't try to leave again. Do you want to sit down and talk?"

Alana jerked her hand away from Janessa's, afraid of being stung by what she would say.

Her mind was a mess and she couldn't think of anything else.

"I'm sorry, Janessa. Let's talk later. My mind is a mess right now. Just relax and I'll be here with you."

'And out of here soon enough.' Alana bit back the last sentence as she looked at Janessa.

They couldn't go back to the way things were before.

If she could do it all over again, she wouldn't have taken Janessa to that bar in the first place.

Then Eric and Janessa wouldn't even know each other and she wouldn't have to feel this kind of pain.

Now, the both of them were in pain.

"Listen to me. Once I tell you the whole story, you'll understand. It's not what you think."

Janessa tried to explain, but Alana didn't hear what she said.

Janessa didn't know what to do.

No matter what she said, Alana wouldn't listen. At last, Alana went out of the room and told Janessa to call her if she needed anything.

Seeing that Alana was really suffering, Janessa felt even guiltier.

This was a horrible situation for them to be stuck in.

But Janessa understood that Alana was in pain, so she would only talk to her after they both calmed down.

Janessa sat in the hospital ward, while Alana stayed outside in the hallway.

The two stayed like this all day. It was not until dusk that Alana finally came back in.

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After staying in the hospital for a few days, Janessa was starting to get bored.

She was only allowed to eat and rest while she was there.

This mundane routine annoyed her.

After several days, she was desperate to get back to work.

Once she received the doctor's permission to leave the hospital, Janessa happily told Alana the news.

Finally, she could leave this damn place.

She didn't want to be strapped up to an IV anymore.

On the day she was finally going to leave the hospital, Alana came by early to help Janessa pack up her things.

Janessa didn't have much, just some toiletries and a set of clothes.

"Alana..."

Every time Alana came to visit her, Janessa wanted to talk about what happened that day.

But Alana always avoided the topic.

She never wanted to talk about it.

Janessa tried to talk to her over and over again, but Alana didn't give her the chance.

She was stubborn.

But hopefully one day she would understand that things were not what she thought.

"Are you ready to go? I'll go see if I can catch the doctor to sign you out."

As usual, Alana was ignoring her.

How had this happened? Janessa had a lot to say, but when she looked at Alana's expressionless face, she said nothing.

"Well, we're home."

A dazzling Harley was parked outside the apartment building, attracting the attention of several people.

Its owner was nowhere to be found though.

Janessa and Alana recognized this motorcycle immediately.

Janessa tilted her head to look at Alana, but Alana didn't meet her eye.

Instead, she went upstairs with Janessa's things in her hand without saying a word.

At the door of Janessa's home, they found a man sitting on the ground.

"Eric, what are you doing here?"

Over the past few days, Eric hadn't called her.

Janessa thought that perhaps he had changed his mind about her.

But she noticed that Alana and Eric were embarrassed to see each other.

Had they spoken in private? "Janessa, where have you been? I've been call you for days, but your phone was turned off.

I called Alana too, but she never answered.

Is something wrong?"

Eric looked at them anxiously.

His eyes fell Janessa's hand which rested on Alana's.

Eric put his hand to Janessa's forehead to check her temperature.

"Well, you feel a little hot." Eric frowned.

He looked quite serious.

"Well, I'm relieved you're home safe. I have some work to do, so I'll be going now."

Alana didn't want to see Eric and Janessa showing off their love, so she started to leave.

If Eric had fallen in love with anyone else, she wouldn't be so sad.

But he loved Janessa! Alana wanted to accept that they were together, but she couldn't.

When she was in the same space as them she felt as if she was going to suffocate.

She smiled weakly and turned around to leave.

She hadn't thought that the three of them would end up like this.

"Alana, wait a minute."

Janessa followed Alana downstairs, but Alana moved faster when she heard her.

She went off as fast as she could. Eric didn't know what was going on.

He was only relieved to see that there was nothing wrong with Janessa.

After Alana left, he asked, "What's wrong with her? She did not look happy to see me."

In fact, it wasn't that Eric didn't see it at all.

He vaguely understood that Alana probably had feelings for him.

But he didn't feel the same way for her.

He didn't want to embarrass her, so he chose to stay silent.

Janessa opened the door and entered her apartment.

Eric followed her in and the two sat face to face on the sofa.

"Eric, I didn't want to talk about it so soon, but now I think it's better if we do."

"What is it?"

Eric asked, and waited to hear what she would say next.

"What do you think of Alana?"

Eric didn't expect that Janessa would ask this.

No matter how stupid he was, he understood what it meant.

Eric looked into Janessa's eyes and said, "I told you before that I have a crush on someone. She's amazing. I just want to be with her, no one else. As for Alana, I just see her like a sister who cares about me. I don't have any feelings for her."

Eric became more and more confident as he spoke, as if he had completely won the heart of the girl he liked.

It was clear that he had rejected Alana.

Love was like this.

Not everyone would end up with the one that liked.

The one who had a secret crush on someone else would always suffer more.

"Why don't you like her? She loves you dearly." Alana was beautiful.

In the past, she always liked different men, but she had never been in love like this before.

Alana was head over heels in love with Eric.

Unwilling to let it go, Janessa told Eric, "Actually, Alana is the most suitable person to be your wife. Why don't you think about it and give her a chance?"

"Janessa, please stop talking. The person I like is also a great person. I only have love for one person and it is her. As for Alana, I have to tell her that I'm sorry, but I love someone else."

Eric didn't want to tell Janessa who the girl he liked was, but it was easy to tell from his words that he really loved her.

"Can you tell me who she is?" Janessa asked.

"Don't ask anymore. How about this, I'll take you to meet her someday."

Eric left after they talked for another while.

Janessa was at last alone in her apartment.

She looked at the door sadly.

Both Alana and Eric were stubborn.

Neither of them would give up until they got what they wanted.

But no matter, she would not let things go on like this.

Alana was her good friend, and Eric was her brother.

Even if they couldn't be together, at the very least they could try to be friends.

Janessa had already figured out how to deal with their relationship, but now the company's affairs were more important.

She didn't know how Rayan had sorted out the plan when she was away.

She was the team leader, but Rayan had also put forward a lot of his own ideas.

She shouldn't have gotten sick at such a critical moment.

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Janessa had her doubts about the plan.

Even though Rayan sent a message of assurance through Alana she was not sure about it.

She wanted to go through it properly herself.

She could feel a number of gazes on her just as she entered the company.

She knew these gazes meant that there was a new rumor making rounds.

And understandably she was at the center of the gossip.

This time they were all talking about how she was sent to the hospital.

The discussions were so vigorous, that she almost felt like a star.

Ignoring all the piercing gazes throughout, Janessa reached the elevator.

Her destination was the top floor, but instead the elevator stopped at the twelfth floor.

As the door of the elevator opened, standing in front of Janessa was the face she least wanted to see at the moment.

"Such a pleasant surprise! How are you doing now dear? Did not expect you to join us so soon!"

With her arms around her shoulders, Sally leaned against the side of the elevator, far away from Janessa, as if Janessa was carrying a virus.

A number of people followed Sally.

Seeing Janessa in there they were evidently startled and started to whisper among themselves.

The elevator was a claustrophobic space.

Even when they spoke really softly every word was clearly audible.

"Isn't she Mr.Rayan's ex-wife? I know that he took her to the hospital when she fell ill.

Does that mean, that they are back together?"

"No, no I don't think that is correct! Did you not see that Mr.Rayan was holding Miss Gracie in his arms when he stepped out of the car a few days ago? I am sure that Janessa pretended to fall ill, so she could gain some sympathy."

"Probably you are right.Not everyone is so tenacious in pursuing love."

Sally interrupted loudly.

It was understandable that she did it on purpose.

Janessa chose to stand silently in the corner even though she heard everything that was being said about her.

Now it was clear to her as to why everyone looked at her, the moment she walked into the office.

She finally got to know that it was Rayan who took her downstairs when she had fallen sick on that fateful day.

What was he thinking? Wasn't he worried about stupid rumors? How could he be so careless being the successor of the Lu Group? As the top floor came, Janessa tried to make her way out but was blocked by Sally.

"Janessa, do you think you can just be silent and get out of this whole thing? I really don't know when you will stop trying out these cheap methods just to get back in Mr.Rayan's life.I am surprised that you still did not learn a lesson.Remember I did try to warn you, when you get into trouble while seducing him again."

The moment she finished, the elevator door opened wide.

"If you are really sick, go consult a doctor and get some medicines.Do not always make a scene or sling mud at others around you.You guys need to be careful.She might attack you when you are least expecting it."

Janessa strongly felt that Sally made a really big issue out of something very trivial.

She did not understand, when she even tried to seduce Rayan.

Did she ever express her desire to get back with Rayan? Rayan treated her like any other employee.

He simply sent her to get an injection and did not even for once check on her later.

What was there to discuss about the whole episode? Yet again the employees of the Lu Group managed to get on Janessa's nerves.

Sally found her courage from the support that Gracie gave her.

Janessa waited patiently for the day when this fake friendship got back to her.

"Janessa, you need to understand what is good for you. Such an attitude will only bring you more misery."

"Well, thank you for the teachings and warnings. But I would really love to take this opportunity to remind you that you are yet to give me the plan of the Qiao Group. I want to have a good look at it. If you haven't finished it, figure out a way to get the work done!"

Janessa made it clear that she was not in the mood to talk about any gibberish with Sally.

She pushed Sally out of her way and left the elevator.

Corbin walked out of Rayan's office with a bunch of documents in his hand.

Just as he saw Janessa, he asked, "Hey, are you doing better today?"

"Much better. Thank you! Is Mr. Rayan in there? I need to speak to him."

"Yes yes, just go inside. I have got a few things to attend to, so I will leave."

Corbin made his way leaving Janessa there.

But he turned around and added, "Everyone in the company is aware that Mr. Rayan took you to the hospital last time. They are cooking up all kinds of stories. They think that..."

"Listen, they can think as much as their imagination allows. You better get back to work."

Janessa was tired of hearing the same old thing, she did not want to talk about it.

Giving Corbin a cordial smile and walked into Rayan's office.

She lightly tapped on the door and entered the room.

Once inside she found that he was on a business call, so she waited for it to be over.

"Great, thanks. I will let you know if any issue arises."

After the call, Rayan got back to his typical cold expression.

But he looked at Janessa with curiosity.

"I wanted to talk about the plan with you. Listen, whatever happened that day..."

Rayan cut in, even before Janessa could finish.

He was never nice to her.

"You were asleep in the office during work hours. Just ask for a leave when you were sick. Who were you trying to impress by refusing to take a break while you were sick?" Rayan spat out.

On that day, she fell unconscious right in front of him. Her forehead was burning up. No matter how strong the hatred was, he never wanted her to die.

"I just slept longer than usual. You were not obliged to show me any kindness, you know? You could have just let me die. Now, your employees think you are bewitched."

She wanted to show her gratitude, but now she changed her mind.

His pretense was evident.

But this gave Janessa a certain amount of relief.

Otherwise, she would owe her life to him.

"If you do not feel okay, you are free to go back home.

Even though the Lu Group does not appreciate idle employees, you need not work when you are unwell.

Even if you want to hurt yourself, the Lu Group doesn't want to be in trouble because of you."

Someone spread this as a rumor, and now the Lu Group was facing accusations of abusing their employees.

This fiasco had caused the company a lot of trouble and even affected their stock prices.

“What do you think? Like I love working here while being abused?”

Janessa lost her cool and stood up to leave.

As she was exiting she saw Corbin coming in a hurry.

“What’s wrong? What happened?” Corbin looked at Janessa briefly and informed Rayan,

“Just got the confirmed news. It is a foreign website. It is evident that the address is false. Initially the followers’ posts were deleted, but someone reposted them again.”

Corbin could not make sense of anything.

Why was this person so interested in the lives of Janessa, Rayan and Gracie? Also, why was this person obsessed with the relationship they shared? What was this person’s motive?

“One thing is sure. This person is someone familiar with using Internet. He could change the IP in no time. But right now I have no information regarding his identity.”

Janessa’s expression changed with this information.

Even Rayan had a change in his face when he turned around.

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“Corbin, I need you to take care of this as soon as possible. Make sure you find the person behind this mess.”

Rayan didn’t take the matter of the anonymous post lightly.

If it were posted by a company insider, it wouldn’t have been as serious to Rayan.

However, it was a different story if it was posted by a computer expert.

Corbin bowed politely to Rayan before he walked out with the document in his hand.

He was also determined to figure out who would dare to ruin the reputation of the Lu Group! Previously, he had discussed all the possibilities with Rayan.

Unfortunately, Corbin couldn't find any direct evidence to support his claims.

When Corbin left, only Rayan and Janessa were in the office.

There was a strange atmosphere between the two of them.

Typically, the two of them would be quarreling with one another at this time.

However, there was only silence between the two, as if the office were empty of life.

"You don't need to come to the office these next few days. I'll allow you to work from home."

Rayan wasn't sure how the news was affecting Janessa.

He feared that if she were troubled by the rumors going around, she wouldn't be able to work properly.

Moreover, he had to stay focused on the project with the Gu Group.

Right now, it was his top priority to get things in order for that.

Janessa was distressed by Rayan's suggestion.

There was no need for him to worry about her.

She wasn't as frail and delicate as he made her out to be.

"Rayan, please don't underestimate me. I'm determined to finish this project properly, and I won't let some petty rumors stop me,"

Janessa said in a firm tone.

It wasn't like it was the first time rumors about her had spread.

Ever since her engagement with Rayan, there had always been a lot of gossip about them.

At that time, the rumors were even more vicious than the ones she faced now.

Why should Janessa hide? If she got through it the last time, then why couldn't she get through it again? What was the worst that could happen to her? : If they thought that a few spiteful words would bring her down, they were gravely mistaken.

Rayan narrowed his eyes at Janessa.

At that moment, he saw Janessa as a different woman than the one he knew.

“You’re right. If you were clever enough to win over my mother, these people should be inconsequential to you. Even if we’re already divorced, she’s still trying to get me to marry you again! Miss Qiu, how did you manage to do that?”

Rayan slowly walked towards Janessa and was deliberately attempting to provoke her.

He wanted to observe how she would react to him.

“My mother is notorious for being a difficult woman to handle.

However, when it comes to you, she has nothing negative to say.

How on earth did you manipulate her to take your side? Now, she’s so determined to have me marry you again! Even if it’s at the cost of my happiness!”

Janessa placed a hand on his chest to prevent him from coming closer to her.

It was inappropriate for them to be so close to one another inside the office.

His eyes seemed to burn straight into her.

Janessa didn’t dare look into his eyes and kept stepping away to keep some distance between them.

After a few moments, Janessa’s back hit the cold wall.

There was no way for her to escape him now.

That day, Janessa was wearing a thin summer dress.

The coldness of the wall slowly spread throughout her body as she leaned against the wall.

“I didn’t do anything to her. Maybe she grew fond of me because we had a lot of things in common. We had a lot to discuss. However, it seems like you didn’t manage to win her over. All of this is news to me. I didn’t expect to hear that your mom was still trying to convince you to remarry me. Would that be a problem for your lover when you eventually marry her instead?”

Janessa couldn’t help but feel satisfied when she imagined the scene.

Even though she had already left the Lu family, Gracie would have to live in her shadow if she ever managed to marry Rayan.

Rayan stood straight up and casually undid the top button of his shirt.

"You two had a lot to talk about. Is that right? Janessa, you are talented at fabricating lies.

"He then bent down to take a closer look at her. Janessa's delicate collarbone was now partly visible because of her open collar. The sight was alluring to Rayan, and it was enough to make him desire her. He never realized how much he had missed Janessa's body until now.

There were some things that only Janessa was capable of making him feel.

Worried that he might be unable to control himself, Rayan straightened his body once more and glanced outside.

Janessa was terrified at the way he had looked at her just now.

It wasn't until he turned around and left that she let out a sigh of relief.

"Whether you believe it is actually not my business."

Janessa stood up and was about to leave the office when the door suddenly opened. "Rayan, I made your favorite chicken soup! Miss Qiu? I didn't expect you to be here. If I'd known you were already discharged from the hospital, I would've brought some soup for you,"

Gracie said.

Janessa knew that this was another one of her schemes to flaunt her relationship with Rayan.

'What does this have to do with me?' Janessa couldn't help but think to herself.

"Please enjoy yourselves. I'll be leaving now."

If she had left sooner, she wouldn't have run into Gracie.

"Come and have a taste, Rayan! I spent all morning preparing it for you,"

Gracie said in an affectionate tone.

After that, she quickly placed the food in front of Rayan.

As Rayan looked at the soup Gracie had prepared for him, he realized that he didn't have much of an appetite.

Gracie stood by his side, anticipating for him to begin eating.

'Even though I'm not hungry, it would hurt Gracie's feelings if I didn't try the food.'

She spent all this time and energy to make this for me.' He casually took a bite of the soup.

"This is delicious!"

Although he had no interest in eating, Rayan forced himself to have the soup Gracie brought.

"Please eat more if you like. I can cook for you whenever you're craving something."

It was a pleasant sight for Gracie to see him eat so much.

When Rayan finished his lunch, he continued to work while Gracie was watching a television show on the sofa.

"You don't have to babysit me here. If there's something you have to take care of in the clinic, you can go. I noticed your phone ringing a couple of times."

Rayan could tell that Gracie wanted to spend more time with him, but he couldn't delay his work further for her sake.

Last time, he had been so busy with the company that he wasn't able to care for Gracie the way he'd hoped.

That was the reason she was hospitalized the last time.

He wouldn't allow her to get sick because of him again.

Gracie gave him a reluctant look but decided that he made a good point.

She needed to put more time and effort into the clinic.

Her assistant had tried and failed to contact her many times throughout the day.

However, the thought of Janessa coming into his office at any moment made Gracie hesitant to leave.

If something happened between Janessa and Rayan while she was gone, she wouldn't be able to bear it.

Gracie ended the call and continued to play on her phone.

A notification suddenly popped up on her screen.

To prevent Janessa and Rayan's relationship from developing, Gracie was willing to forego her work at the clinic to keep a close eye on him.

When Rayan noticed that Gracie wasn't making a move to leave, he just left her alone.

Gracie had been spending more time in the office with him these past few days.

It wasn't an issue to Rayan. If she wanted to stay, then she would be free to do so.

Gracie realized that sending her off to work was just an excuse for Rayan to get her out of the way.

She sat silently on the sofa with her phone as she patiently waited for him to get off work.

Rayan didn't pay any attention to her.

There were too many things that needed his attention.

He didn't have time to worry about Gracie at the moment.

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Although Rayan told Janessa that she could go home and rest, she decided against it.

Instead, she decided to get a head start on some work at the office.

Once she left his office, she went straight to the twelfth floor where the planning department was located.

As soon as the elevator reached the floor, she went straight into Linda's office.

Linda was seated in her office having a chat with Sally when Janessa suddenly entered.

Linda asked for Sally to leave for a moment while she spoke to Janessa.

"What brings you here? Are you trying to snitch on me?"

Sally whispered to Janessa.

"I have a lot of things to work on right now. If you feel guilty about something, it would be best to fess up to Linda now. I don't have time to waste on you."

The more you ignored some people, the more they desired to harass you.

Janessa had no intention of quarreling with Sally, but the woman wouldn't stop provoking her.

It was becoming too much for Janessa to bear! After so many failed attempts to sabotage Janessa's career, she thought Sally would've given up by now.

"Please leave the office for a moment, Sally. I have something to discuss with Janessa."

Linda waited for Sally to leave the room before she motioned for Janessa to take a seat.

"Did you have something you wanted to discuss with me?"

"It's nothing particularly important. I wanted to discuss the work my project group completed while I was away. Right now, it's not too busy for me. I can lead the group myself."

Rayan had assigned Janessa to assist him in the project with the Gu Group.

Although she had been promoted as group leader, she hadn't been able to fully assume the position yet.

Her group members were still under Sally's influence.

The past few weeks had been hectic for Janessa, but now that she had more free time, she was determined to take the power that belonged to her.

Linda's face darkened at Janessa's suggestion.

If Janessa hadn't been promoted to project leader and exposed to everyone what Sally had done over the years, Linda would have been general manager by now.

All of Linda's plans have been derailed by Janessa's meddling.

When Rayan promoted Janessa to project leader, Sally was demoted to manage her original team again.

However, even though Sally no longer held the title, she still wielded the power.

With Linda's support backing Sally, Sally was still able to do as she pleased.

"Of course you can. Right now, I'm managing the project team for you while you're away. If you decide to become more active in your role as project leader, you will be responsible for everything that happens to the team."

"Thank you so much for the help."

After discussing with Linda, Janessa left her office feeling satisfied.

When she was about to step out of the room, she saw Sally craning her neck to look inside the room through the glass window.

Janessa turned to look at Linda with a hand on the doorknob.

“I know you’re an ambitious woman, but if you ever hope to be successful, sometimes you will have to give up on things. If you have someone that’s not helping you achieve your goals, it would be best to get rid of them. After all, if that person can’t do anything for you, they will only end up causing trouble. The trouble this person might cause won’t be worth keeping them around for,”

Janessa warned in a firm tone.

She could tell that Linda was listening in on their conversation when she saw Linda’s eyes flash in alarm.

After that, Janessa turned to leave the office.

Linda was an intelligent woman and knew what Janessa truly meant by her words.

Right now, it was Linda’s call.

She needed to choose the right partner.

In doing so, she would make or break her career.

People like Sally would only hold her back, and it would be best for Linda to stay away from people like her.

However, if Linda cut ties with Sally, it would be difficult to explain to her family.

How Linda planned to cut off Sally was none of Janessa’s concern.

After that, Janessa had quickly organized a meeting to discuss the final details of the plan with the Gu group.

As one of Janessa’s subordinates, Sally immediately made up an excuse to leave when she heard that Janessa was holding a meeting.

Sally was the least of Janessa’s concerns.

Even if she were absent, it wouldn’t affect anything.

Sally was an incompetent employee and didn’t even have the skills to write a basic plan! Janessa didn’t even want to think about how much trouble Sally had already caused the company.

The meeting was short and sweet.

After Janessa discussed the key points, the members went straight to work in high spirits.

Shelby was the last person to leave the meeting.

She looked up at Janessa in awe and complimented, "You were great during the meeting! You were able to identify the problems so quickly."

"With more experiences, you'll also be able to do that," Janessa replied.

There was nothing more she wanted to say after that.

When Janessa returned to her desk and checked her WeChat, she realized that she received many messages.

It took her a while to read through all of them.

One of the first messages was from Eric.

He invited Janessa to climb a mountain with him over the weekend.

It sounded like an overnight camping trip.

Janessa forwarded the invitation to Alana, but even that failed to pique Alana's interest.

At that time, Alana had no intention of seeing Eric.

"It doesn't matter what the situation looked like to you, Alana. I can assure you that I have no romantic feelings for Eric. Whenever I look at him, all I see is a younger brother. I hope the three of us can hang out the way we used to. Going on a camping trip would be the perfect opportunity for you to develop a relationship with him. Even if you can't be lovers right away, maybe you can slowly work your way towards it. Maybe, you should try being his friend first. As time passes, your relationship will deepen into something more. He might fall in love with you one day. I'll be waiting for your reply."

Janessa quickly typed the message to Alana and waited for a reply.

After quite some time, she finally received a reply from Alana.

She had agreed to go climbing with them that weekend.

Janessa was fond of hiking and climbing mountains, so she was well-equipped to go on the trip.

Unfortunately for Alana, she seldom exercised, so she didn't have much of the equipment she needed.

"I'll meet you after work. We need to get you a lot of things before we go camping."

Janessa felt like her relationship with Alana was finally returning to normal.

After work, they made a plan to go shopping.

They were soon able to buy all of their climbing gear at a sporting goods shop.

The rest of the time, both of them took a stroll around the mall.

They didn't get home until it was dark outside.

While they were lying in bed side by side, Alana was silent for a long moment before she said, "I'm sorry for everything, Janessa."

"What are you apologizing for?" Janessa asked.

Alana sat up and looked at her with a sullen face.

'I know that it's not your fault that Eric developed feelings for you. It's just hard for me to accept the way things are right now. I know there must be a reason he refused me, but I never expected that reason to be you. I want to be with him, Janessa. Even if he can't bring himself to love me, I know that he will take good care of me, at least. He's different from all of the men I've met in the past. I thought I've been in love before, but I was wrong. I've never felt anything like this before."

Janessa was relieved when Alana confessed her feelings to her.

Alana was trying her best to accept what she's been feeling these past few days.

After taking some time away from them, she was finally ready to face them again.

It wasn't easy for Alana to go on this camping trip with the both of them.

Janessa merely held her hand and replied with tearful eyes, "I thought you didn't want to be my friend anymore! Do you remember the promise we once made to each other? If we ever fall in love with the same person, I promised you I would give in. This is the time I can fulfill my promise to you! I don't have feelings for Eric! There would be no reason for me to hinder your relationship with him."

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Once they managed to talk it through, they could feel all the grudge subside.

Both of them kept chatting on late into midnight.

It was like one of their sleepover nights. But no matter what, they had to get up early in the morning so that they could leave with the group as agreed previously.

Their trip happened on a weekend and it lasted for two days and one night.

It was an opportunity for their friendship to find a new direction amidst the wilderness.

Janessa was accustomed in climbing mountains with other travelling groups or just on her own.

This time however, she took special initiative to invite some of her climbing club friends and arrange the activity for the sake of Alana and Eric.

But Alana knew nothing about it.

Janessa just said that Eric would be coming along as well.

She expected her friend to react, but Alana simply smiled to let her know that it did not make a difference.

Once they arrived at the meeting point, Janessa was astounded to see the number of people.

Although she did plan for this event intentionally, a lot more people turned up than she actually expected.

Some even took more of their friends.

Rayan and Gracie were also part of this group incidentally.

As Janessa was taking the final headcount of the participants, a fellow climber informed that two more friends were on their way to join the event.

This new addition was not any trouble.

Every participant needed to arrange for their own gears in order to complete the mountain trek.

The group was just meant to keep each other company and take care in case of any emergency.

As she waited, Janessa rested against a tree and looked at the space ahead with a sense of helplessness.

Eric waked over to her and while handing her a bottle of water said, "I did hear about this mountain before.

I am actually surprised that you are so interested in things like mountain climbing.”

She took the bottle but did not drink from it.

She eyed Alana who was standing far away and commented, “I knew you were a talented singer. Since when are you into mountain climbing?”

“Come on sis, do not underestimate me. I often went for mountain treks when I did not have a steady job. That was much before you knew me,”

Eric said proudly as he slightly beat his chest mockingly.

He showed off to Janessa.

“Fine. But do not complain when you are drained of all strength.”

She smirked at Eric and walked over to Alana.

Then she gave her friend the water bottle.

The moment they smiled at each other, a commotion in front of them drew their attention.

The person who was the center of the mayhem was clearly visible.

It took Janessa a split second to recognize him.

‘What is Rayan doing here?’ He was decked in sportswear. He looked very enthusiastic and was very different from how he dressed during business. He was towering over all with his tall and stout stature.

His absolutely fit body looked even better in those sportswear.

Even Eric had a good figure but he never exercised enough.

That made his stature thinner than Rayan.

“So, finally everybody is here. Let us begin. If we do not begin now, we will be late!”

Janessa finally announced after she had a good look at Rayan.

She sounded a bit vexed as she spoke.

She was annoyed at Rayan’s lack of consideration for the others who had been waiting for so long.

Just as Gracie heard Janessa speak she was about to talk back, but Rayan immediately stopped her.

The group started the journey.

Janessa and Alana took the same car.

Naturally they started discussing Rayan.

"Why are you still at loggerheads with Rayan? It feels like the moment you two are at the same place you two will start fighting with each other,"

Alana asked as she drove and stole a glance at her friend inquisitively.

"Concentrate on driving. Otherwise, we might just fall off from the road. If that happens we will be done for good,"

Janessa said in a teasing tone but ignored her friend's question.

In reality, she had no answer to this question.

It was like this for them right from the beginning.

If they were to change their attitudes towards each it would be uncomfortable for them.

"Well, don't mind it. But you know the woman who was with him seemed very hostile towards you."

"That is understandable. She was Rayan's ex-girlfriend. They are together right now again."

"Girlfriend? She was in a short skirt. How would she even climb the mountain in that? It is sad that he has such a girlfriend."

Alana understood in the first instant that Gracie was not a nice person.

She had encountered many people like her right from her childhood.

So she knew really well, how to handle them.

As Gracie became the focus of their discussion, Janessa started revealing more things.

She told her friend about the baby she had lost and how Gracie was actually the mistress.

Hearing this Alana was ready to explode out of rage.

By this time the car had reached the destination.

Alana parked the vehicle and slammed on the steering wheel and screeched, "That woman is so malicious! I will be honest with you. Never have I ever known such an evil woman."

"Don't worry. That was all before I and Rayan got divorced. Now if she tries to harm me or the people I love, she will regret every moment of her life thereafter."

If this was Janessa's older version, she would remain silent for the sake of her family.

But now the tables had turned and she had no responsibility to care for any of them anymore.

"Yes. Just tell me if she even tries anything. I will give the bitch a good lesson."

"Don't get so angry. Also, do not walk with them once we start climbing. Who knows, she might do something crazy and put us in some kind of risk."

After Alana finally calmed down, the two friends stepped out of the car.

A group of the participants proceeded to climb the mountain along with appropriate tools.

The people in the group who had prior experience took the responsibility of guiding the rest of the people over there.

Initially Rayan and Gracie were in the first echelon.

But with time Gracie started lagging behind.

Slowly she and Rayan were the last two in the group.

Even Alana was not physically strong but she had climbed before with her friend, so she had some advantage.

Thus when she saw Gracie's condition, she laughed out loud.

"I am sure this is really difficult for her. She needs more exercise. That way she won't be a burden on the whole team."

Though Alana was not loud Gracie could hear everything very clearly.

She was indeed very tired by now.

She was in this situation because of Rayan who wanted to do this trek.

Janessa was to blame for everything.

Gracie rubbed her waist and slowly followed Rayan.

But after a while she could not even catch up with him.

“Hey, is everything okay? Will you be able to complete this trek?”

He looked back and made her sit down on a stone.

He was worried for her.

“Don’t worry for me please! I will be okay if I just sit down for a while. I am sorry.”

They were already lagging much behind.

Although Gracie was really happy to be finally alone with Rayan, it was not safe in the wild surroundings.

People often said that wild animals came out from nowhere.

“Don’t worry. Come on, hop on my back!”

Rayan helped her and quickly moved towards the team with his girlfriend on his back.

Even with her on his back, he moved swiftly.

He was much faster than Gracie when she walked by herself. Within a while they were back with the team.

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As the organizer of this event and the general leader, one of Janessa’s responsibilities was to ensure the safety of her team members.

Even if she had no desire to see Rayan and Gracie, she had no choice but to slow down and wait for them.

While she was waiting for them, she attempted to call Rayan, but he wasn’t answering her calls.

In about ten minutes, Rayan suddenly arrived with Gracie on his back.

“I didn’t know you were waiting for us. Thank you, I appreciate it.”

Gracie was slumped against Rayan’s back and gave Janessa a nonchalant look.

"You both need to keep up with the team. There are a lot of wild wolves nearby. Something might come and get you."

Gracie's attitude towards her was the least of Janessa's concerns.

After making sure that both of them were fine, she walked forward.

Gracie glared at Janessa's receding figure in front of her.

'Not angry yet? Well then, let's see how long it takes until you break.' On the other hand, Rayan was in great shape.

Even if he had to carry Gracie on his back, he was able to keep up with the rest of the group.

By noon, the group had arrived at a rest area on the hillside.

They each took out the food they brought with them and began to eat.

While Janessa and Alana were munching on the bread they brought with them yesterday, Eric came over and handed them a can of luncheon meat.

"You have to eat this. Bread alone won't be enough to sustain you. You need the energy to climb the mountain."

Janessa initially planned to buy some canned food to bring with her, but there were many things back at home she needed to take care of.

To save some time, she only packed what was in her fridge at the time.

"I'm full already. You can give the can to Janessa."

Alana took a sip of her water and stood up to sit further away from them.

Eric looked at the can in his hands and then at Alana.

'She only had a bite of her bread. How could she be full already?' Janessa ate the last bite of her food then wiped the crumbs from the corners of her mouth.

"Thank you for this, but I've also eaten enough. Please eat some more. I don't want to take your food,"

Janessa insisted.

"Janessa, is there something going on? Why do I get the feeling that the both of you are hiding something from me?"

Eric placed the can back into his pouch and tried to hide the disappointed look in his eyes as he spoke to Janessa.

Unfortunately, Janessa was observant enough to notice the shift in his mood.

She didn't want Eric to get the wrong idea.

"No! There's nothing wrong. Please stop worrying. I'm in charge of the team, so I should check up on everyone. If you have some free time, could you make sure that Alana is okay? She's never hiked like this before."

"Sure, no problem," Eric agreed.

His mood lightened after hearing Janessa's comforting words.

When Janessa spotted Eric walking towards Alana, she smiled at them.

She continued to walk around the rest area to see how everyone was doing.

Gracie was busy eating, but her eyes stayed fixated on Janessa.

'This is so boring!' Gracie couldn't help but think to herself. Janessa continued to ignore them, but Rayan suddenly approached her.

"Do you have any band-aids with you? Could you give me one?"

Janessa turned to look at who was speaking to her in confusion.

She didn't expect Rayan to approach her and ask for something he needed.

Janessa peeked at the woman behind him.

Gracie had taken off her high-heeled shoes.

Her feet looked red and swollen.

After wearing such inappropriate shoes for hiking, Gracie deserved the pain she was experiencing.

Without a word, Janessa took out a band-aid from her pouch and handed it to Rayan.

"Go and take care of her. I don't need the both of you causing trouble for the group."

After that, she left.

Janessa walked to the other side of the rest area and continued to check on the others.

When she turned around, she spotted Rayan kneeling in front of Gracie as he bandaged her feet.

His hands were careful as he held her foot, and his eyes were filled with concern as he inspected her.

Janessa had never seen him look that way before.

He handled her so delicately.

Anyone who had romantic feelings for Rayan would be overcome with jealousy at the scene.

"Everyone feel free to explore the area, but be back here in half an hour,"

Janessa instructed. Most of the people chose to stay and rest.

After trekking the entire morning, they needed all the rest they could get to finish climbing the mountain.

When she made sure that everyone was alright, Janessa found a place to rest.

Half an hour later, the group continued their hike up the mountain.

In the evening, they arrived at a site near the water.

Everyone proceeded to set up their tents for the night.

Janessa and Alana decided to share a tent for the trip.

The two worked well together, and soon enough, they had finished setting up their tent.

Unfortunately for Rayan, he had difficulty setting up his tent.

Gracie wasn't sure how to help him.

"Do I put it inside here? Why doesn't it fit?"

Holding all of these small parts gave her a headache.

Gracie had no idea what the parts were for.

Rayan finally got a little annoyed and asked Gracie to sit on the side and wait for him to finish assembling their tent.

"I want to help! You need to rest as soon as possible!"

Gracie pleaded in a soft voice.

Without saying another word, he continued to set up the tent in silence.

Alana couldn't help but giggle to herself as she watched them.

She held Janessa's hand as she whispered, "She wants to help? If he lets her touch that thing, she might end up taking it apart!" Janessa merely smiled and didn't say another word.

On the way to the mountain, Gracie didn't suffer as much as the rest of them.

When she was exhausted, Rayan offered to carry her.

When her feet ached, he bandaged them.

When Gracie was tired at the end of the day, Rayan was also there to build a tent.

"Don't you dare laugh at them! You're no better! Do you remember the first time you tried to put a tent together?"

Janessa reminded Alana.

The first time Alana ever assembled a tent, she was determined to do it on her own.

She refused Janessa's help and ended up building her tent upside down.

No matter how much Janessa thought about it, she still couldn't figure out how Alana managed to do such a thing.

Alana had banned her from mentioning it ever again.

Sometimes, Janessa would still use it to tease her friend.

"How dare you say that! I thought we made a deal never to speak of it again!"

That was one of the most humiliating moments of Alana's life.

Fortunately, they were only camping at home that time.

If she set up a tent that way in a group trip, she would have died of embarrassment.

"Okay, okay! I won't mention it again!"

She didn't want to start this battle with Alana.

"I'm going to get some water to wash my face. Lie down and get some rest if you're tired."

Alana went to the lake with a small bucket while Janessa entered the tent to get some rest.

It had been a long time since Janessa had climbed a mountain.

She exerted a lot of her energy today, so she was exhausted by the end of the day.

Soon enough, she fell asleep.

All of a sudden, Janessa woke up when she heard someone calling her outside.

"Janessa, are you there? Come out and help me."

'Is that Eric? Did something happen to him?' Janessa thought to herself.

Numerous possibilities raced in Janessa's mind at that moment.

'Forget it. It would be best if I went out and had a look.' Janessa quickly put on her coat and walked out of the tent. As soon as she walked out, she was shocked at what she found.

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"Alana, what happened to you?"

The moment Janessa walked out of the tent, she saw Alana limping with a strip of cloth around her foot.

Eric was holding her up with a look of concern on his face.

Judging by the color of the cloth, it must have been Eric's shirt.

Janessa looked at the two people up and down.

"The wound isn't too bad. While I was getting some water by the stream, I accidentally stepped on a sharp stone. I was in so much pain, so I called for help. Fortunately..."

Alana stole a glance at Eric, who was still holding her up, and continued in a gentle voice, "Fortunately, Eric was nearby. He was the one who helped me. I'm not sure what I would've done without him."

The last thing she expected was she would get hurt and Eric would be the one to her rescue.

Alana couldn't believe what had just happened to her.

She went out of the tent to get herself and Janessa some water.

The water from the mountaintop looked refreshing and clear.

When she washed her face with the water and realized how refreshing it was, she strolled to the middle of the stream barefoot.

It was getting dark at the time, but Alana forgot to bring her flashlight with her.

She couldn't quite see what was under her feet.

However, she continued to walk further into the stream to get some clean water with her bucket.

One of the stones she stepped on was smooth and slippery, and she lost her balance and fell into the water.

There was a large gash down her foot when she collided with a sharp rock nearby.

Her blood flowed down the stream and disappeared into the dark waters.

When she felt a throbbing pain in her foot, she struggled to get back onshore.

At the time, the sole of her injured foot was so sore that she didn't have the strength to walk back to the tent.

Although her tent wasn't too far away, Alana had no energy to spare.

Her entire leg was in pain.

"Help! Is anyone there?"

Alana continued to call for help, and she was shocked to see that Eric answered her call.

"What are you doing here?"

Alana called.

Alana was thrilled to see Eric, but when she recalled his confession to Janessa, she suddenly turned her head away from him.

"I was walking along the stream, and I suddenly heard your voice, so I came. Are you okay?"

Eric asked.

He turned on the flashlight on his hand and saw the wound on Alana's foot.

Alarmed by the extent of the wound, he carefully examined it.

"This looks serious. What were you doing out here? You need to be more careful," he scolded.

Eric wanted to fetch the gauze and bind Alana's wound, but it would take too much time for him to get it and come back.

There was no time for him.

He tore off a piece of his shirt and used it to bandage Alana's foot.

As he carefully wrapped the cloth around her foot, he said, "Don't run off into the river so carelessly. It might be warm during the day, but temperatures can drop here at night. It's too easy for you to hurt yourself out here."

Fortunately, Eric was experienced with incidences like this and knew exactly what to do.

When he finished bandaging her feet, he asked, "Can you walk?"

Alana was disappointed when he asked her this.

When such a thing happened, wouldn't Eric offer to carry her instead? 'It's not like I'm his girlfriend.

How could I ask him to do something like that for me?' Alana thought to herself.

"I think I can walk. Let me see."

Alana stood up and attempted to walk forward.

Before she could take a step forward, she felt a sharp pain in her foot and almost fell.

"If you can't walk, say the word, and I'll help you. Come!"

Eric squatted down and was ready to carry her on his back.

Alana was overwhelmed with joy when she saw Eric do this.

As she looked at his broad back in front, her heart began to beat faster in her chest.

No one had ever offered to carry her on their back before.

Now, the man she loved was offering this very thing.

Even if they couldn't be together, this would be a precious memory that would stay in her heart forever.

"What are you waiting for? Get on!"

Eric looked back anxiously at Alana.

Before he could turn back around, she had already leaped onto his back.

She snuggled closer to him and wrapped her arms around his neck.

This was the closest she had ever been to him.

She snuck a peek at Eric to see what his reaction would be.

There was a look of concentration and determination on his face that Alana had never seen before.

It was a rare opportunity for her to look at his face so closely.

The road they traveled on wasn't far away from the campsite, but Alana wished this moment would never end.

She yearned it would stretch on forever.

Every step he took forward, the sooner this moment between them would be over.

Alana never thought she would experience something like this in her life.

Finally, they arrived at the base camp.

Eric carefully placed Alana on the ground, then immediately left to search for Janessa.

Several people went out to check up on Alana upon hearing Eric.

When they realized that she was injured, they handed Eric medicine and gauze.

With everyone's help, Alana's foot was disinfected and bandaged in no time.

Eric assisted her back into her tent.

He continued to stay outside to make sure she was alright.

“Don’t worry. Alana’s foot will be fine. It wasn’t a deep cut,” Janessa said.

She had to remain calm and composed in this situation.

Even if she was also worried about Alana’s cut, she couldn’t alarm everyone.

However, she could only wait for the daybreak to take Alana to the hospital.

“There’s a thermometer here that kind lady gave me over there. You should check if Alana has a fever. If her temperature is high, we should bring Alana to the nearest hospital as soon as possible.”

On the way back to the base camp, Eric noticed that Alana’s body temperature felt warmer than normal.

“Don’t worry about it. I’ll take good care of Alana.”

Eric was reluctant to leave, but he had no choice but to go back to his tent and get some rest.

Janessa didn’t sleep the entire night.

She would wake up at random times throughout the night.

Her body wouldn’t let her rest until she was sure that Alana was in good condition.

Alana, on the other hand, slept like a baby the entire night.

The memory of Eric holding her stayed with her.

She even dreamed about him.

When dawn came, Eric came back to Alana’s tent and took her temperature.

“She has a fever! We need to get her to the hospital!”

After that, he picked up Alana to leave when Janessa suddenly stopped him.

“You can’t go all by yourself. I’ll go with you,” Janessa said.

“Janessa, you’re in charge of the team here. You have to stay here and make sure they’re okay. I can handle it! I’ll take good care of her!” Eric promised.

Janessa was still wary of leaving Alana alone with Eric.

She wasn't sure if Eric knew the way down the mountain.

"I'll find someone familiar with the area to lead the way for you."

Janessa then found a hiking guide to assist them down the mountain.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 80

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

Alana traveled down the mountain with Eric, while Janessa stayed with the group to continue the event.

By this time, the group activity scheduled was to watch the sunrise from the top of the mountain.

Many hiking enthusiasts had come to join them on this trip, so Janessa had no choice but to keep going forward.

They soon reached the top of the mountain as they waited for the sunrise.

After a few minutes, the sun began to rise.

When everyone saw the beauty of the sunrise, the hardship they had faced to get to this point suddenly felt far away.

Everyone enjoyed this special moment together.

"This marks the end of our mountain climbing trip. Now, we have to go back down the mountain the same way we came. Pack up your belongings, and we'll be leaving in a few minutes."

Janessa made sure the group was complete before she began to pack her things.

While leaning against a tree, Rayan looked at Janessa while she arranged her belongings.

He couldn't help but think that she was acting differently than usual.

Usually, she talked back to him and generally had an unpleasant attitude.

During the trip, she was a true leader.

How could Gracie bear her man staring at another woman like that, let alone the woman that used to be his wife? "Rayan, the sunrise looks magnificent! We should come back together again, okay?"

Gracie said in a coquettish voice as she held his arm.

She was afraid that he would refuse her proposal, so she looked at him with doe eyes.

Rayan merely touched her forehead and nodded back at her.

After five minutes, Janessa led the team down the mountain.

"There was a dewfall last night. The road might be slippery because of that. Everyone, please watch your step."

Most people on the team were experienced climbers.

They knew how to be cautious as they made their way down the mountain.

Janessa merely said this to remind Gracie.

If something happened to Gracie on their way down the mountain, Janessa didn't want to be responsible for it.

"I know she's talking about me. Rayan, how about we climb the mountain on our own next time?"

Gracie murmured to Rayan.

He typically agreed to all of her requests, and this was no exception.

Along the way, Gracie talked happily with Rayan.

Even if Janessa was in the front, she could still hear the sound of her irritating voice.

Janessa glanced back at Gracie and murmured, "She's getting on my nerves."

Dax, one of her friends on the team, merely gave her a sympathetic pat on the shoulder.

"Take it easy, will you?" Dax said.

Janessa shrugged helplessly at him.

"Help me keep an eye on them. We need to keep moving forward to stay on schedule,"

Janessa instructed Dax.

Dax knew that Janessa had enough on her mind after Alana's injury, so he agreed to her request.

It wasn't until Janessa put more distance between her and Gracie that she began to feel more at peace.

Roger Liu caught up to Janessa from behind and approached her.

"I'm sorry. I wasn't aware that they had issues with you," he apologized.

Roger was a close friend of Rayan's.

He was the one who had invited Rayan and Gracie to the climbing trip.

However, Janessa believed even if Roger didn't invite Gracie, she would still find a way to come.

Gracie was determined to wreak havoc on Janessa's life.

Even if he hadn't invited Gracie, things would've turned out the same.

"It's okay," Janessa replied.

"I'm relieved to know you're not angry with me. To express my gratitude, I'd like to take you out to dinner next time."

Roger carefully assisted Janessa_ in removing the branch that was in her way.

Janessa was aware of his affections for her, even in the past.

Unfortunately for him, she was married, so he kept her at a distance.

Even so, he remained kind to her, even kinder than friends would be to one another.

Roger was now aware that she was divorced and what had happened between Rayan and Gracie.

Terrible news traveled quickly.

"There's no need to treat me to dinner. I accept your apology,"

Janessa replied in a curt tone.

If she got involved with him, their relationship would be doomed from the start.

Janessa had no desire to get his hopes up.

This wasn't the first time Janessa had refused Roger.

He was already used to her refusals.

It didn't lower his spirits but only motivate him to be kinder towards her.

The two chatted and laughed with one another for the rest of the journey.

Time passed quickly, and they made their way down the mountain quicker than the journey up.

When they arrived at the base of the mountain, the two of them separated naturally.

Janessa stood near the intersection and waited for a taxi.

All of a sudden, a car stopped beside her.

"Hello, Miss Qiu. What's the matter? Is there no one to drive you home? Did that handsome fellow leave you to fend for yourself? He abandoned you, didn't he?"

Gracie sneered at her.

Janessa wasn't interested in speaking to Gracie, but there was no chance she would let Gracie get away so easily.

"Hello, Miss Mo. Were you trading sex for money just now? Why are you in such a hurry to leave? What a pity! You should've taken this opportunity to get more cash in your wallet. This is a perfect time!"

Janessa shot back.

She compared Gracie's relationship with Rayan to one of a prostitute and a client.

Gracie didn't expect Janessa to respond so cattily to her insults.

"I don't think you should get smug. You can't even get a ride back home!"

Gracie replied angrily.

Then she rolled up the window and ordered the driver to speed away.

Janessa was suddenly not feeling so great.

The driver she had called for didn't arrive, which made her mood sour.

There was only one car left at the base of the mountain.

Alana left her car there, but Janessa wouldn't dare to drive it.

Ever since Janessa was in that car accident, she had become too terrified to drive on her own.

Whenever she sat at the driver's seat, her heart would thunder in her chest.

The panic she felt during the car accident would overwhelm her senses.

There was nothing she could do but wait for her driver to come.

Unfortunately, the driver was too far away from the pick-up point.

Janessa couldn't get a ride with a random guy because she didn't want to cause any misunderstandings.

While Janessa was waiting for her ride, a black Ferrari suddenly stopped in front of her.

The car looked familiar to her because it was Rayan's.

Didn't he leave with Gracie already? What was he doing there? His driver, Lee, got out of the car and opened the door for Janessa.

"Miss Qiu, please get into the car," Lee instructed.

'Does Rayan want to give me a ride? What was he up to now?' Before she could refuse, Rayan suddenly said,

"Hurry up and get in. Don't worry. I won't bite. I want to discuss something about work with you."

Unfortunately, it would be rude for Janessa to decline his offer.

After all, he was her boss.

She had no choice but to obey him.

Janessa quickly entered the car and took a seat beside him.

The atmosphere inside the car was awkward.

Janessa didn't know what to say.

Rayan also remained quiet as they drove away from the mountain.

Janessa couldn't help but think of how furious Gracie would be if she found out that Rayan had given her a ride.

Why would Rayan leave Gracie behind? Was it because he was aware of how vicious she was? 'If he only knew what kind of person Gracie really was, I doubt he would keep her around,' Janessa snickered to herself.

She was so absorbed in her thoughts that she didn't notice that she began to laugh out loud.

"What are you laughing about?" Rayan's low voice echoed in the car.

"None of your business!"

Janessa snapped.

She then turned away from him to look out of the window.

There was no chance she would ever admit to thinking about him just now.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 81

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

On their way back to the city, Rayan did not discuss about work at all. Janessa took a while to realize that, he just made up an excuse to get her into the car. As they entered the city Janessa pointed to a spot on the roadside and asked the driver to pull over, casually.

"Please stop the car. Also, thanks for accompanying me and not your lover. Really, thank you so much."

Rayan's mouth twitched at the corners.

It pissed him that she treated his car like a taxi and asked to stop at her own will. The driver caught in a dilemma looked at his boss through rear view mirror.

When he understood that he was not allowed to stop, very politely and with an awkward smile he said to Janessa, "I apologize Miss Qiu, but we are not allowed to stop."

Hearing this Janessa was at a loss.

There was no reason as to why they could not stop because there was no 'No Parking' sign visible.

On top of that, another car just stopped right in front of their eyes.

In practice she was not a very good driver but she still owned a driver's license.

Did he really believe that she had no idea about anything? Now that it was clear, that the driver could not let her out from the car without his boss's permission, Janessa wondered where Rayan was taking her to.

She started feeling extremely anxious.

Suddenly they parked in front of the hospital.

How did he know that Alana was admitted there? Janessa was utterly confused, but she refrained from asking anything.

“Thank you.”

“Not a problem.”

She tried to express her gratitude but Rayan was his usual cold self.

Just as she stepped out of the car, the Ferrari swiftly drove away in a jiffy.

She quickly called Eric to get Alana’s ward number. When she entered the ward, she found her friend lying on a bed. She was on an IV drip and her foot had been re-bandaged.

“Wow, look at you all relaxed and at leisure. Miss Shen, you have such a comfortable life here.”

Janessa arched her eyebrows and teased her bedridden friend.

She instantly knew that her friend was fine because both Alana and Eric seemed very calm.

But did something happen between them? She could feel that the relation that Eric and Alana shared had changed a little somehow.

Previously, they strategically avoided each other.

Alana would pretend to be cold to him or Eric would simply ignore her.

Even though both of them knew each other really well, they settled to behaving like strangers with each other. They hardly spoke.

But now the spark between them was understandable.

Although Janessa could understand this new development she did not say anything aloud.

She was assured that now things changed.

This meant that the two of them would figure it out themselves.

“Don’t you tease me, okay?”

Alana was already really humiliated that she cut her foot while washing her face in the stream.

She did not want to experience the same thing again.

But it indeed was not a bad experience altogether.

Alana turned her gaze towards Eric.

He was sitting in complete silence by the window while peeling an apple.

All she could think was about yesterday when he held her in his arms.

She blushed at the memory.

"How could you think that I would ever make fun of you? I'm just laughing at the whole thing,"

Janessa said and smirked at her friend. She observed that Alana's expression changed.

This made her laugh even louder.

If it were not for the people in the adjacent wards and the fear of any complaints, she would have laughed even harder.

Eric gave Alana the apple and with a very serious expression said, "You are being unkind Janessa. After all you are good friends. Don't make fun of her."

"Exactly. Don't you see, that I am still sick? How can you laugh at me? You have made me really sad!"

Pretending to be very sad, Alana ate the apples. But in reality, she was not at all in any kind of pain. Rather her eyes sparked with joy.

"Alright. What you are saying is correct. I will keep quiet now! But, I am surprised. Now you two are in the same team. Such show offs," said Janessa.

Then she softly sat on the sofa to read a magazine.

Both Eric and Alana looked at each other.

Alana threw the pillow in the direction of Janessa.

Janessa knew exactly her affection for Eric, how dare she made fun of her like that.

She had stepped over the line! "What? You can't anger me by throwing that pillow. Also, you think I won't throw it back to you just because you are injured?"

Janessa eyed her friend's injured leg and threatened.

"You! Just wait till I get better," said Alana.

"What will you do then?" Janessa asked calmly with a smirk.

Alana in her anger started making threatening gesture right from her bed.

Eric was used to the two friends' banter.

So he sat there silently, observing the two women.

After having a wholesome chat and laughing for a while, Janessa got up to leave.

Eric accompanied her outside the ward to see her off.

"I can't thank you enough. I do not have the slightest idea as to how I would bring her back from the mountain, if it weren't for you."

Janessa shuddered at the thought. It would be disaster if Eric wasn't with them and helped bring Alana back.

She would have no idea about the accident.

What if Alana stayed stuck in the water for the whole night? She could not think anymore.

She just pushed the thoughts out of her mind.

It was a miracle the Alana's injury was not serious.

Otherwise, what would she say to the Shen family? She would not even have an explanation for Gordon.

"Please don't say that, Janessa. Trust me, I have got it all covered. Now just be happy that all is okay, alright?"

Eric casually raised his hand to pat Janessa on the shoulder.

But something stopped him and he recoiled his hand quickly.

"You are definitely the best. Can't thank you enough."

Janessa thought how lucky she was to have such a caring brother.

In all that excitement she failed to notice the love Eric had for her in his eyes.

Eric also cleverly hid it and never expressed anything in front of her, "Well, I deserve a delicious meal as a treat.

I held her safe in my arms all the way back!"

Eric proudly announced.

This made Janessa extremely happy.

Eric walked up to the hospital gate and offered her a ride.

But she insisted on riding a taxi.

"I think you should go back now! Alana is all alone and I am worried for her. Please look after her,"

Janessa said seriously.

She was really relieved to see the way the two of them looked at each other.

"Alright, just let me know when you reach home."

Eric waved her goodbye and the two turned around at the same time to leave.

Eric wiped a tear from the corner of his eye.

Then putting on a wide smile he went back to Alana's ward and started chatting with her.

He did not know before that they would have a lot to discuss.