

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 82

/ Bye, My Ex-husband By AMBER HUNT

Immediately after Janessa got home from the trip, she began to make soup for Alana.

The next day, she brought the soup with her when she visited Alana at the hospital before work.

After a good night's rest, Alana felt as good as new.

Her eyes lit up when she saw Janessa carrying a lunchbox with her.

"What did you bring for me, Janessa?"

From the moment Janessa walked into the room, the lunchbox in her hands held Alana's attention.

"I made you some black-bone chicken soup. It's good for you."

Janessa placed the lunchbox in front of her.

The faint aroma of the soup was enough to make Alana's mouth water.

Alana would never be able to resist such delicious food.

"You're an angel, Janessa! Can I have some soup, please? I'm starving! Have mercy on me!"

Alana looked at Janessa with pleading eyes as she clasped her hands together tightly.

"Here you go. There's no need to be dramatic."

Janessa placed the lunchbox on the table, carefully prepared a bowl for Alana, and then handed it to her.

"I made a lot of soup, so make sure you finish it all. I'll bring some more for you tonight."

"This is amazing! Your cooking skills are improving,"

Alana commented as she took another sip of her soup.

Alana loved all the food that Janessa prepared for her.

When Janessa started cooking for the first time, the food she made was terrible.

Alana witnessed her skills improve over time.

This soup was the most delicious thing Janessa's made so far.

Janessa made it a goal to learn how to cook three years ago.

At the time, she was newly married to Rayan, and their relationship was rocky.

The two of them were never able to get along with one another when they lived under the same roof.

Her mother-in-law had given her some advice at the time to help improve her marriage with Rayan.

She told Janessa that the way to a man's heart was through his stomach.

From the beginning, their marriage had been a business deal.

The two only took what they needed from the other, and there was no reason for them to be affectionate with one another.

However, they were still a married couple.

Occasionally, the two of them would have a meal together.

Rayan wasn't fond of having outsiders inside his home, so Janessa ended up having to cook most of the time.

At first, he barely took notice of the dishes she prepared for him.

Later on, when her cooking began to improve, he would sit down and reluctantly eat the food.

One day, Rayan looked like he hated the food, but even so, he still had another bowl of rice.

Janessa didn't want to remember her memories of cooking for Rayan any longer.

"Shut your mouth and eat. I'm going to leave for work. Don't hesitate to call me if you need anything."

Janessa quickly collected her belongings and left the hospital.

After a few minutes, she arrived at the office.

The moment she turned her computer on, she could sense that something was off.

Someone had used her computer.

In her field, the most frightening thing that could happen to you was having your documents stolen.

Because of this, Janessa deliberately set a login password to protect her computer.

The person who tinkered with her computer was obviously skilled at it.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to log into her account.

When she got assigned to the project with the Gu Group, Janessa installed anti-intrusion software to protect her computer.

Whenever someone logged into her computer, her phone would notify her of the activity.

The day before, she was so exhausted that the only thing she did before falling asleep was preparing the soup for Alana.

She checked her messages and found the notification of when someone had logged into her computer.

It happened at ten o'clock last night.

Why would anyone go to the office at ten o'clock to steal the documents from her computer? Janessa had a terrible feeling about everything.

The software she installed could only tell if someone had logged in.

It wasn't capable of telling her which documents were copied from her computer.

Janessa also made sure to encrypt her files, but it might be easy to decode them.

If the planning documents were leaked, it would be a serious issue for the company.

Janessa stood up to discuss the matter with Linda.

Before she could find Linda, Linda had appeared before her.

"Please come into my office, Janessa."

Linda had a stern look on her face.

Janessa could tell that something terrible was about to happen to her.

When they arrived at Linda's office, Linda immediately closed the door and the blinds.

She asked in a firm tone, "What's the matter with you? How could you make such a mistake? Do you have any idea what would happen to the company and our partners when the plan was leaked to the public?"

Janessa was stunned by Linda's words.

Not only was the plan stolen, but even posted online.

Janessa immediately searched it up on her phone to check it out.

The plan that she and Rayan had carefully created had been posted online for the public, free of charge.

Not only would this cause trouble for the two companies, but it could also place Janessa in legal trouble.

This could be considered as theft of trade secrets.

Although the document wasn't sold to another party, it would be a substantial loss to the company.

Who would do such a thing to her?

"I didn't leak the files. This plan is one of the Lu Group's most important projects for the year. Why would I do anything to destroy it? I've been working tirelessly to get this plan together. What would I gain out of doing this?"

There was no reason for Janessa to do such a thing.

The person responsible not only leaked the plans but even posted them under a name similar to Janessa's.

The files were posted under a user named "Jane".

That way, the people in the company would naturally think that Janessa was responsible for leaking the files.

The person who hacked into her computer was vicious! How could they frame her like this? Janessa couldn't understand why a person would think to do such a thing.

Why would they use that username? She couldn't decide if the person responsible was foolish or if the people in the company were too gullible to realize that she would never do such a thing.

Linda slammed her fist against the table.

“Isn’t the username a variation of your name? Do you think you could get away with doing such a thing? The board of directors have found out about this already. You should think about how you plan on explaining this to them!”

Linda couldn’t stand Janessa.

If it weren’t for Janessa, Linda would’ve gotten a promotion and pay raise by now.

Linda lost the opportunity to be promoted because she was accused of mismanagement because of what Sally had done.

At the end of the day, it didn’t matter to Linda whether Janessa did it or not.

There was no way she could stay in the Planning Department.

“It wasn’t me. I’ll find evidence to prove my innocence.”

Janessa was aware that Linda wasn’t interested in hearing anything she had to say.

It would be useless to plead her case to Linda.

After all, Rayan would make the final decision on the matter, not Linda.

Would Rayan believe her? ‘I doubt that he will,’ Janessa thought to herself.

She couldn’t help but smile bitterly at the thought.

Two people could be behind it, but Janessa needed proof to plead her case.

“Evidence? The company discovered that the plan was uploaded from your computer.

Don’t even try to worm your way out of this one!”

Linda was shocked when she received the news from the Technology Department.

However, this was something she could use to her advantage.

This time, she believed Janessa would finally be gone from the Planning Department.

Linda wanted her gone from the very beginning, which was why she continued to turn a blind eye to Sally’s misbehaviors.

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“What evidence do you have to pin this on me? I was mountain climbing this weekend and didn’t come to work until this morning. Do you have any evidence to prove that I was the one behind this?”

Linda’s words were groundless.

There was proof that Janessa wasn’t inside the office that weekend.

What evidence could there be to prove that Janessa was the one behind it? If she could steal and sell the confidential documents without coming into the office, why would she come to work at all? Janessa was aware of Linda’s hostility towards her, but she never expected Linda to use this opportunity to get her fired from the Planning Department.

Many people wanted Janessa to leave the company, and she couldn’t let them have the satisfaction.

“If that’s the case, then you must’ve done something to the computer. Whatever the case, the document was leaked to the public. The Gu Group is demanding the company to compensate for their losses. Do you have any idea how much money they’re asking for?”

Linda slowly handed the document over to Janessa.

The Gu Group was demanding a compensation of three hundred million.

The company invested a lot of money in this cooperation, and Janessa was aware of that fact during the preliminary planning stage.

However, she didn’t expect the Gu Group to demand this much compensation.

This number was much higher than the one she anticipated.

Janessa skimmed through the document in her hand and placed it back in front of Linda with a straight face.

Even if the company had to pay off the compensation for the Gu Group, it was Linda’s smug attitude that rubbed her the wrong way.

Linda could barely contain the predatory grin on her face.

She slowly walked around her desk, casually checked her nails, and said, “I’m afraid that even if you mortgage your family’s dying company, you won’t be able to make up for the losses.

Janessa, I think you’re done here.”

Linda was confident that Janessa would be fired this time.

Janessa narrowed her eyes as she inspected Linda.

It was unfortunate for Janessa that she only noticed Linda now.

Initially, she thought that Linda was an intelligent woman who knew where to place her bet.

It was disappointing to find out that Linda was only concerned with short-term interests.

“Don’t jump to conclusions so soon, Linda. Anything can still happen at this point. Don’t try and fool yourself. You never know. You might wake up one day and find that nothing is what you thought it would be,”

Janessa warned with a smile.

Linda couldn’t believe the words that came out of her mouth.

Whether Janessa released the plan or not, she was still in charge of the entire project.

Janessa was still accountable for whatever happened to that plan.

Even if she were innocent, the result would remain the same.

It would be impossible for Janessa to pay off the compensation, and there was no hope for her to stay in this field in the future.

“Well then, let’s wait and see. Let’s see what the bosses have to say about this.”

Linda was sure that Janessa wouldn’t be able to stay in the company for long.

When Janessa was fired from the Lu Group, Linda would make sure to get a recording of it so she could post it online for everyone to see.

When Janessa noticed the suspicious look on Linda’s face, she could tell that Linda was probably scheming something.

However, Janessa thought it would be best not to call her out on it at that moment.

There was no reason to expose Linda just yet.

Janessa made sure to use this knowledge of Linda to her advantage when the opportunity came.

"Let's wait and see," Janessa repeated.

She turned around to go to Rayan's office to explain the situation to him.

After all, she was the person in charge of this project.

Even if she didn't leak the plan, to some degree, she was still responsible for what had happened.

Before Janessa could walk out of Linda's office, the door was pushed open violently.

The man's face was furious.

Janessa instinctively took a step back to look at the man in front of her.

It was Rayan! To her surprise, Rayan had come downstairs to the planning department himself. Did he come to scold her on this manner? Corbin followed closely behind him and winked at Janessa when he passed by.

"Get out," Rayan ordered.

Janessa turned to leave when Rayan suddenly gripped her wrist.

He held it so tightly that she felt like it was already bruised.

"What are you doing? Let go of me! Rayan!"

Janessa was furious at the way he was handling her.

If he had a problem with her, there was no need to get physical.

Why would he treat her like this in the office? It was probably because he believed that she uploaded the plan, but was he planning on murdering her in front of everyone? The atmosphere inside the office was intense.

Rayan glared at Linda, who quickly left the room with her mobile phone.

Before Linda left, she made sure to open the soundproofing equipment and to draw the curtains closed.

After a few moments, only Janessa and Rayan were inside the office.

With a hand gripping her wrist, Rayan dragged her into one corner of the room.

He towered over Janessa with a grimace on his face.

“Why did you sell out the company? What good would it do for you? The Lu family owes you nothing! Why would you stand against us like this?”

He placed a hand around the column of her neck and gradually tightened his grip.

Rayan couldn't believe it when he got the urgent call from the Gu Group that morning.

Janessa's idea was innovative, and he trusted her enough to put her in charge of this project.

The last thing he expected was for her to betray the company like this.

In the past, the Lu Group had helped the Qiu Group survive during tough times.

Without the support of the Lu Group, the Qiu Group would cease to exist.

He never expected Janessa to repay his family's kindness with enmity.

“I didn't do it! It was...”

Janessa hesitated.

She suspected that Gracie and Sally were behind this mess, but she had no proof to prove it at the moment.

There was no way for her to make a claim without proof.

If he wouldn't believe her, then why should she speak out? “If it wasn't you, then tell me who did it! I'm sure you didn't do this by yourself. You asked someone to do it for you, didn't you?”

Janessa's face turned red as he gripped her neck tighter.

As she began to feel breathless, Janessa began to struggle against him.

His grip tightened further around her neck.

When he was close to suffocating her, she suddenly gave him a small smile and closed her eyes.

The bitter smile on her face shocked Rayan, and he immediately loosened his grip around her neck.

Janessa grabbed her neck as she slid down the wall, coughing as she gathered her breath.

“What’s the matter? Are you growing soft on me? If you’re so sure that I leaked the plan, then why don’t you just kill me?”

There was a part of her that felt disappointed.

For a moment, she thought that her life would end just now.

If she died because of Rayan, at least he would be overwhelmed with guilt when he discovered the truth.

Why did he let her go? Did he believe that she didn’t do it? For a moment, Janessa couldn’t figure out what was on his mind.

Nonetheless, she had survived to fight another day.

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“If I killed you, there would be blood on my hands. And it’s not worth it.”

Rayan took out a handkerchief from the inside pocket of his suit and used it to clean his hands as if Janessa were a filthy animal.

After that, he threw the handkerchief down to Janessa and turned to take a seat on the sofa.

“Do you think I’m dirty? If that’s how you see me, then why didn’t you feel disgusted with yourself when you had sex with me so many times? You’re ridiculous!”

She couldn’t help but recall the way he abused her on their wedding day.

The memory was so vivid in her mind as if it happened yesterday.

If she was dirty, then there was no chance he would be clean.

Janessa stood up and threw the handkerchief into the trash can.

When she threw out the handkerchief, she suddenly noticed the pattern on it.

In the home she shared with Rayan in the past, she recalled similar handkerchiefs to his.

It was an ordinary handkerchief, except for the subtle moon pattern stitched onto it.

Gracie was fond of that pattern.

Either it was Gracie's, or Rayan had it specifically designed for her.

It was the handkerchief Rayan held dear to him because it reminded him of Gracie.

How could he throw away something like that?

"This conversation is not over. Don't avoid the issue! You've leaked the trade secret of the company and destroyed our partnership with the Gu Group. The Lu Group had to compensate for breaking the contract, and now, the company was facing a huge debt. This time, not even my mother can protect you!"

He hated the fact that Janessa always turned to his mother for assistance.

Now, no one would dare to back her up.

"What makes you think I did it? You put me in charge of this project. What good would it do for me to sell the company out like this?"

She could understand why Linda would judge her this way, but Rayan was different.

He was the sole decision-maker and successor of the company.

How could he pass the same judgment onto her? There was no reason for Janessa to leak the plan.

It would only put her in harm's way.

Her reputation and career would be destroyed by this scandal.

Why would she do such a thing if those things were at stake? Janessa hoped that Rayan would be able to assess the situation objectively, but she was mistaken.

His prejudices against her had clouded his judgment.

How could he decide for the company based on his personal feelings? "It's obvious that someone is backing you up. Janessa, I don't think you can escape this. Don't be naive. How would you explain the fact that the document was uploaded from your computer?"

No matter what Janessa said, Rayan was determined to believe that she was the culprit.

It didn't help her case that the document was indeed uploaded from her computer.

Earlier that morning, the results of the investigation were forwarded to him.

Everyone in the Lu Group had confidential information stored on their computers.

The company required everyone to set a unique password for their computers that only they knew.

That way, they could ensure the security of the documents inside the computer.

Janessa was the only person that could log in to her computer.

How could she deny that she was responsible for this mess? "I wasn't inside the company all weekend. I only came to work today. How could I leak the document? You were with me on the mountain climbing trip all weekend. Can't you see that this doesn't make sense?"

As expected, Rayan didn't believe a word she said.

Still, she couldn't bear these false accusations.

Janessa had to do something to solve this.

She needed to find out who leaked the document.

"You're right. I was with you the entire weekend, but I noticed that you were restless all day on Sunday. You were also canoodling with someone," Rayan countered.

How could Rayan accuse her like this? He knew she was restless because she was worried about Alana.

He sent her to the hospital that day, but now he claimed that he didn't believe her? Janessa had no clue what to say to get him to listen.

"Do I have to keep repeating myself? You put me in charge of this project, and I wouldn't betray the company and let this become a stain on my professional record. Since no one wants to believe me, I'll have to find someone who can prove my innocence. Just wait and see."

Janessa knew that it was pointless for her to argue with him.

He wouldn't listen unless she had proof.

In that case, she would find the evidence and prove her innocence.

'Gracie, I'll make sure to get you for this one,' Janessa thought to herself.

She had a hunch that Gracie had hired someone to operate her computer in the office that night or to hack into it from somewhere else.

“Why should I give you a chance to prove your innocence? How can I know that you won’t take advantage of my trust again?”

Rayan knew that Janessa only came into the office that morning, but she would have hired a computer expert to do this on her behalf.

“I’ll make sure to find out who was behind this. I need the time to prove my innocence. If I can’t find out who leaked the plan in time, then I promise to take full responsibility for it.”

Someone had to take responsibility for this mess, no matter what happened.

Rayan was sure that Janessa was behind this, but she continued to deny her involvement.

The more she argued with him, the more suspicious she would look.

In the past, Janessa had agreed to divorce him if he allowed her to work in the Lu Group.

It was difficult for him to believe that she was up to nothing.

The determined look on her face however, made him doubt his judgment.

If someone else was behind this, could he deal with the consequences of falsely accusing Janessa? If Janessa were the culprit herself, she wouldn’t be able to present anything useful even she investigated and then he would still do as he planned.

“I’ll give you only three days to fix this mess. If you can’t find the culprit, then you have to take responsibility for this. I’ll hand you over to the Gu Group. As for what they’ll do to you...”

He hesitated before he spoke.

“I need five days. Even the technology department can’t figure out who leaked the information, so the culprit must be an experienced hacker. I’ll tell you who was behind this in five days,”

Janessa negotiated.

Whatever happened in the next few days would determine her fate.

Once she started, there was no going back.

Three days wouldn’t be enough for her to find the culprit.

If he didn’t agree to her request, she wasn’t confident that she could give him an answer after only three days.

“No, you only have three days. If you can’t give me an answer, then you’ll have to face the consequences,”

Rayan warned in a low voice as he stood up to leave.

Janessa had no doubt that if she couldn’t figure this out, Rayan would do as he promised.

When he left, Janessa breathed a sigh of relief.

After collecting herself, she stood up and followed him out of Linda’s office.

The moment the two came out of the office, many curious eyes were fixated on them.

Rayan merely ignored them and left without another word.

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Janessa left the house to go to the hospital.

While she was on her way to the inpatient ward, she saw a familiar figure walk out of the room.

The woman was in such a hurry that she ran into the person walking towards her.

After that, the woman left quickly without apologizing.

The man she knocked over pointed at her retreating figure and swore angrily at her until she was out of his sight.

Although the woman was wearing sunglasses, Janessa recognized her immediately.

The woman was Imani! She was leaving the gynecology and obstetrics department! It was already nighttime.

Why was Imani in such a rush to leave that department? She also looked like she was fiddling with something in her handbag on her way out.

All of a sudden, an idea crossed Janessa’s mind.

As she looked in the direction Imani was headed, she smiled to herself before she walked into the inpatient ward.

The moment she walked inside the room, she heard a burst of laughter.

"The big bad wolf was furious! He asked, 'Will you please leave me alone and let me use the bathroom in peace?'"

"You are amazingly talented at ruining bedtime stories! It was hilarious!"

Alana hugged her pillow as she grinned from ear to ear.

Eric was horrible at telling stories, so he resulted in retelling fairytale classics in his way.

After listening to him retell the stories, Alana thought that his versions were superior to the original.

"Thanks for being a great audience. Alana, have a piece of this apple."

Eric had prepared some sliced apples and handed them to Alana.

When she finished eating them, he gently wiped her hands with a tissue.

Janessa had been watching them by the door for a few minutes.

It seemed like the two intended to talk the entire night.

"I think I came at a terrible time. How about I leave the soup and let you continue telling your stories?"

Holding the soup in her hand, Janessa gave them both a knowing smile.

Alana's face blushed fiercely at Janessa's words.

Eric got up to give his seat to Janessa and explained, "What do you mean? We're just... We're just friends."

Alana gave Janessa a sheepish look as if to warn her to stop embarrassing them.

Eric and Alana's relationship was beginning to improve.

Though he hadn't made a move on her, Alana was satisfied with the progress she's made with him so far.

She was worried that their relationship would progress too fast and everything would be ruined.

Janessa got the hint and immediately stopped talking about it.

"You told me that the soup I brought this morning was delicious. I added more ingredients to it this time around. I hope it tastes better than before."

When Janessa turned to prepare the soup for Alana, she realized that Eric had already placed the soup in the bowl.

He was now blowing on the soup to cool it before handing it over to Alana.

Janessa didn't expect Eric to care for Alana like this.

When Janessa saw him like this with Alana, she began to hope that the two of them could have a loving relationship one day.

This accident had been a blessing in disguise for Alana.

"Give it a try and tell me what you think."

Alana was excited to taste the soup.

Before Janessa arrived, she wasn't particularly hungry, but when she smelled the fragrant soup, her stomach suddenly grumbled. "I'm sure it will be amazing! Hand it over! I'm so hungry that I feel like I could eat a cow!"

"If that's the case, then maybe I should buy the cow for you. Maybe you shouldn't get a taste of this soup,"

Janessa replied.

Eric was about to feed Alana soup when Janessa suddenly stopped him.

Janessa was intrigued by Alana's claim that she could eat a cow.

She wondered if Alana could actually do it in front of her.

Alana wanted to groan in frustration at how dense Janessa was.

All she intended to do was express her love for Janessa's cooking, but Janessa didn't get the joke.

"Are you kidding me? It's a phrase people say when they're hungry.

How could you ask me to really eat a cow? I'm a patient! Please spare me!"

Alana pressed her palms together and batted her eyelashes at Janessa.

"Okay, fine. Eric, you can give her the soup,"

Janessa replied with a shrug.

Alana was cheeky! Eric was pleased to see the two bickering with one another.

He admired the strong friendship that the two of them shared.

Alana happily received the soup from Eric and drank it.

As she enjoyed her soup, she was able to get a closer look at Janessa's face.

She narrowed her eyes as she looked at Janessa and then at Eric.

"Is there something going on at work, Janessa? You looked quite exhausted," Alana asked.

When Eric heard her question, he also turned to look at Janessa.

It was only Monday, but Janessa already looked haggard at the start of the work week.

Janessa patted her face and glared at Alana before she said, "It's nothing. Don't worry about me. I'm fine. It's just been a bit tiring for me to go back and forth between going to the office, visiting the hospital, and coming home. If you're so concerned about me, then don't make me cook for you anymore."

Janessa pointed at herself as she pretended to give Alana a serious look.

It was enough to convince Alana that she shouldn't ask Janessa to cook for her.

Behind her, Eric didn't say anything.

He could still feel that something was troubling Janessa.

"Fine, go ahead and leave. You look exhausted. Go home and get some rest. I'll be fine here alone for the night. Eric, can you please drive Janessa home? I don't want her out on the streets this late by herself."

Alana was aware that Janessa was still terrified of driving, and she didn't want Janessa taking a taxi home so late in the night.

It would be best for Eric to drive her home.

"Alright. Are you finished with your soup? I'll go and wash the bowl. You two can talk first."

Eric took the bowl from Alana and then left the room.

When Janessa was certain that Eric was out of earshot, she took Alana's hand and asked curiously, "How have things been with you and Eric? Spill the beans!"

"Nothing's going on. We're just friends. Don't read into it too much."

Alana still wanted to be more than just friends with Eric.

Though Eric had been kind to her these days, he never explicitly told her that he wanted to date.

“Just friends? He’s been taking good care of you lately.

How do you feel about everything? Are you enjoying the time you have with him?”

Janessa teased as she tickled Alana’s waist.

They laughed as they laid down next to each other on the bed.

It seemed that Alana was no longer troubled by the fact that Eric had a tiny crush on Janessa.

Maybe after this incident, he would start to develop feelings for Alana instead.

Although Alana wasn’t sure how things would pan out in the future, she was satisfied with their relationship for now.

She started to hope that one day, he might be interested in pursuing a relationship with her.

“I’ve always thought he was a good man. Although, I doubt whether we could ever be lovers. Right now, I don’t think about that as much as I did in the past. I’m content with the days we’ve spent together so far,”

Alana replied happily.

Janessa smiled at her friend’s words.

She also hoped that Alana could get what she wished for with Eric one day.

The two were whispering with one another when Eric came into the room.

He stopped to watch the two friends laugh with one another.

The scene warmed him and brought a smile on his face.

“Alright! It’s getting late. Eric, please send her home. Let me know when she gets home safe and sound.”

Alana pushed Janessa out of her bed.

After saying their goodbyes, Janessa walked out of the ward with Eric.

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As they walked down the empty hallways of the hospital, Janessa and Eric remained silent.

“You...”

“You...”

The two suddenly spoke up at the same time and smiled at each other in embarrassment.

“Janessa, please go first!”

Eric insisted with an awkward smile.

“I wasn’t going to say anything important. All I wanted to ask was how you were getting along with Alana...”

Initially, Janessa had no desire to mediate between the two, but she couldn’t help but do so.

She hoped in her heart that the two of them could find their way to each other.

“We...”

As he looked back at Janessa, Eric couldn’t help but feel disappointed.

He suddenly realized that Janessa had always hoped for him and Alana to be a couple someday.

But that wasn’t what Eric yearned for.

The last thing he wanted to do was make Janessa sad.

He knew that if he did anything to upset Alana, Janessa would be forced to keep a distance from him.

If he wanted to stay close to Janessa, he had to reign in the affections he had for her.

“We’re just friends, that’s all.”

Eric didn’t want to think too deeply about the relationship he had with Alana.

As of now, he only saw her as a friend.

However, if things changed, they might become a couple in the future.

Janessa merely nodded with satisfaction.

She was relieved to hear those words from his mouth.

It seemed like she made the right move to invite both of them on the mountain climbing trip.

The next step was to watch and wait to see how things would develop between the two of them.

Janessa had no intention of interfering with their relationship.

Things had to happen naturally between the two of them.

If they were to encounter some problems, it wouldn't be too late for her to step in and mediate for them.

"Please take good care of Alana. Also, can you tell her that I won't be able to visit her in the hospital for the next two days?"

Now that things were progressing between them, she didn't want to be a third wheel.

Janessa wanted to be a proper wingman to her best friend.

Eric's brows furrowed at her request.

"You seem a bit off tonight, like something is on your mind. Is there something bothering you?"

The moment Janessa stepped into the ward, she had a frown on her face.

Even though she tried her hardest to conceal her worries from Alana, Eric could immediately tell that she wasn't her usual self.

Janessa was only able to deceive Alana, not Eric.

"Don't worry about me! I just don't want to be a third wheel, that's all."

Janessa tried her hardest to look relaxed.

When she turned to look at Eric, she suddenly felt a pang of guilt for lying to his face like that.

She never expected Eric to be so perceptive when it came to her.

“Is it something you can’t tell me about?”

Eric stepped forward and blocked Janessa’s path.

He placed his hands on her shoulders and looked down on her with a sullen face.

“You see me as your younger brother, am I right? You can tell me anything.”

Eric was over six feet tall, and Janessa was more than a foot shorter than him.

She had to crane her neck to look him in the eye.

At that moment, she suddenly felt comforted by the fact that she had a younger brother by her side.

No matter what burdened her, there was someone she could share her difficulties with.

At that point, Janessa didn’t know what to do next, so she ended up telling Eric everything.

“That’s what I was suspecting. I have a feeling that Gracie is behind this whole mess, but I don’t have the evidence to prove it. I feel like my investigation’s hit a dead end, and I don’t know what to do next.”

Janessa sat on the edge of a nearby flower bed and looked up at the sky as she took a deep breath.

“It would be tricky for you to locate the hacker. I know someone who majored in computer science. I could ask him to check it out for you. Maybe he could find something.”

Janessa nodded in reply.

All of a sudden, she noticed a flash of light coming from behind her.

She stood up and looked back suspiciously but she couldn’t see anything but darkness.

Eric found an abandoned piece of cardboard and laid it onto the edge of the flower bed for Janessa to sit on.

After that, he took off his coat and placed it around Janessa.

“What are you looking at, Janessa?”

Eric also looked back, thinking that Janessa might have seen someone she knew.

Janessa shrugged off his coat as she said, "You might catch a cold. Put it back on. I'm not cold right now."

Although she trusted him enough to share her troubles with him, she couldn't accept his coat like this.

The smell of him on the coat made her feel uncomfortable.

His act of kindness was too intimate for her.

Even though he was becoming a dear friend of hers, she wanted to keep him at a safe distance for Alana's sake.

"Come on! It's no big deal. I'm your brother, okay? How could I stand around and watch you shiver?"

Eric adjusted his coat on Janessa's frail shoulders and bent down to button it.

Janessa had no choice but to let him do so.

"Don't worry about it so much. You need to get a good night's rest. I'll contact my friend to see what he could do for you. Everything's going to be fine."

'There's no way in hell I'll let anything terrible happen to you,' Eric silently swore to Janessa as he followed her out of the hospital.

They walked side by side as Eric escorted her back to her apartment.

During the walk, Janessa had the feeling that someone was watching her, but she never saw anyone.

"What do you keep looking at?"

Eric asked when he noticed that Janessa kept looking behind her.

He saw nothing but the road and the street lamp behind them.

"I have a feeling that someone is following us. I don't know! Maybe I'm delirious from overworking myself," Janessa replied.

"Let's go. Stop worrying so much."

Eric looked back one more time to make sure, but he still didn't see anyone around.

He walked with her until they reached her doorstep.

After he dropped her off, he checked around her apartment for anything suspicious but found nothing.

When he was sure that she was safe, he left her apartment feeling relieved.

Hidden in the bushes not too far away from the apartment, a man dressed in disguise also turned to leave carrying a camera with him.

He soon disappeared into the darkness.

As Janessa was soaking in her tub, she drifted into a deep sleep and recalled what had happened to her during the past few years.

While she slept, she dreamt of the precious days she spent with her parents.

All of a sudden, her dreams morphed into a nightmare.

She had flashbacks of her encounters with Rayan, their fights and inevitable divorce, and the criticism she faced from the Qiu family.

All of a sudden, she woke up with tears streaming down her face.

Fortunately, it was only a dream.

Janessa's eyes were sore from crying so much.

By that time, the water was already cold.

Janessa quickly rinsed the foam that coated her body.

She sighed to herself as she inspected her red and swollen eyes in the mirror.

The last thing she expected was to break down in tears while she slept.

Janessa left the bathroom and collapsed onto her bed, feeling exhausted.

After finishing her nap in the bathtub, Janessa couldn't sleep anymore.

The only thing she could do was lie on her bed and look up at the ceiling as she waited to fall asleep.

She wondered how she could find the evidence to prove her innocence.

After a few moments, she still couldn't sleep, so she sat up to think about the whole thing one more time.

Someone hacked into her computer Sunday night about ten o'clock.

The plan was then uploaded to the Internet at around midnight.

At the time, Janessa wasn't at the hospital with Alana.

She was alone at home, and no one could verify that claim if she took that route.

Janessa didn't know what to do next.

As she sifted through every detail, she still couldn't figure out what truly happened.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 88

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

Janessa wasn't able to sleep until early morning.

When her phone suddenly rang, she had only been sleeping for a little more than two hours.

Without opening her eyes, she picked up her phone and answered, "Hello, who am I speaking to?"

"Is this Miss Qiu?"

A woman's voice which she couldn't recognize came from the other end of the phone, which made Janessa sit up in bed.

She checked the number on the screen and realized that she'd received a call from an unknown number.

"Hello, may I know who I'm speaking to?" she repeated.

After that, she turned the bedside lamp on.

She didn't know why the woman was calling her or what her intentions were.

Janessa slumped against the end of the bed and rubbed her forehead to wake herself up.

"I have some information regarding the matter you're investigating on. If you're interested in hearing what I have to say, meet me at the cafe along YH road by ten o'clock today."

The woman ended the call without another word.

Janessa was left in awe to wonder who this mysterious woman was.

How did this stranger know that she was investigating something? What information did she have? Was she playing a trick on Janessa? For the moment, Janessa couldn't decide if the woman was lying to her or not.

Maybe, this woman was setting another trap for her to walk in to.

Nonetheless, Janessa decided that she had nothing to lose if she went.

By ten o'clock, Janessa walked into the cafe the woman instructed her to go to.

When Janessa looked around, she spotted a woman sitting by the window.

The woman only had a small cup of coffee in front of her.

She had long, wavy hair and large sunglasses that concealed most of her face.

The woman would look out of the window from time to time.

It seemed like she was waiting to meet with someone.

Without hesitation, Janessa approached the woman and asked, "Excuse me, are you here to meet with someone?"

The woman immediately recognized her voice and took off her sunglasses to reveal her face to Janessa.

"Have a seat," she instructed.

When the woman took off her sunglasses, Janessa immediately recognized her.

It was Courtney, the daughter of the Leng family.

This woman had nothing to do with Janessa.

Why would Courtney ask to meet with her all of a sudden? "Thank you for the seat, Miss Leng.

May I ask why you asked to meet with me today?"

When a waiter approached them, Janessa only asked for a cup of water.

Janessa decided to get straight to the point.

There was no need to make useless small talk with Courtney.

"Miss Qiu, I see you want to get straight to business. It also seems like you already know who I am."

Courtney asked arrogantly as she looked at Janessa.

Her cold appearance reflected the standoffish attitude she had.

However, the arrogant look on her face suddenly reminded Janessa of Rayan.

The Leng family and the Lu family have been friends for generations.

It wasn't a surprise to see that members of their families had the same cold disposition.

Courtney was also around the same age as Rayan.

All of a sudden, Janessa recalled that someone told her before that Courtney once pursued Rayan.

Rumor had it that Courtney was infatuated with Rayan back in the day.

It was a huge scandal in their circle.

As Courtney took a sip of her coffee, Janessa also recalled that this wasn't the first time they crossed paths.

She met Courtney for the first time three years ago on their wedding day.

While Rayan was proposing a toast to the guests, a drunk woman suddenly staggered towards him with a glass in her hand.

"Rayan... Why couldn't you love me? How could you choose this woman to be your bride? I'll make you regret your choice sooner or later."

Courtney swayed while she spoke until she suddenly collapsed on the guest closest to her.

The two of them were supposed to be rivals in love.

Why was Courtney helping her now? What was she planning? Janessa stared Courtney in the eyes as she said, "Miss Leng. I recognized you the moment you took those sunglasses off. I heard that you recently came to the Lu Group to visit me. Is that why you're here right now?"

If Courtney only reached out to her now regarding the investigation, why did she visit Janessa back then? Did Courtney assume that she was trying to win back Rayan's love and become his wife again? 'I'm a divorced woman.

Am I worth spending so much time and energy on?' Janessa thought to herself.

After taking another sip of her coffee, Courtney replied, "I know what's troubling you. I could help you make this all go away."

Janessa didn't say anything as she waited for Courtney to finish her words.

When Janessa didn't reply, Courtney gave her a faint smile and replied, "Of course, all of this won't come without a price. There are some conditions you have to agree to. If you help me get what I want, I'll help you get out of this mess."

This wasn't the first time Courtney had experienced something like this.

None of these cheap tricks seemed like a problem if she wanted to help Janessa put an end to it.

Courtney reached out to Janessa because she was probably the only person who could help Courtney get what she wanted the most.

Furthermore, Courtney didn't want the Lu Group, headed by Rayan, to be put in harm's way.

"What's your condition, Miss Leng? I believe such a huge favor comes with a huge price too."

Janessa knew what Courtney was truly after.

This woman was a skilled businesswoman.

"It's not a difficult condition. Even though you've divorced Rayan, that doesn't mean that the two of you will stay separated. I want your help to get Gracie out of the picture. If you do that for me, then I'll give you what you want."

Courtney took out a small USB flash drive from her pocket and placed it on the table.

Her biggest rival in love was no longer Janessa, who had already divorced Rayan.

It was Gracie.

Three years ago, she lost to Gracie.

Now that Gracie and Rayan were back together, the chances of Courtney winning his heart were slimmer than ever.

"Why would you do this for me? I'm also your rival in love. Why would you cooperate with me to get rid of Gracie? Aren't you afraid that I would get back together with him?"

Janessa couldn't understand why Courtney would want to join forces with her.

Why would she join forces with another one of her rivals? Janessa couldn't understand what this woman was thinking.

Courtney had prepared for this question before she came to the cafe.

"I could tell that you have no feelings for Rayan. However, Gracie..."

Courtney's eyes went cold when she said Gracie's name out loud.

Janessa could feel the hatred Courtney had for Gracie.

After all, Courtney was a member of the Leng family.

They were notorious for being cold-hearted and ruthless when it came to dealing with competition.

"Should I refuse your claims?"

Janessa countered.

"What difference would it make?"

Courtney could see through Janessa.

Anyone could see that Janessa wasn't in love with Rayan anymore.

"What can I do to help you then?"

Janessa replied.

Now that the two of them had joined forces, Janessa was relieved to have an ally with a common enemy, even if it was Courtney.

"The first thing you need to do is..."

Courtney proceeded to tell Janessa some details of her plan, but she made sure not to reveal everything.

In the end, she asked Janessa to wait for further instructions.

"I wish us a pleasant cooperation," Janessa said.

She offered a handshake to Courtney, but she only took her belongings and left the cafe.

Janessa awkwardly withdrew her hand and picked up the USB drive from the table.

Her meeting with Courtney had been a blessing in disguise.

She couldn't believe what had just happened.

Yesterday, she had no idea what to do, but now, Courtney might have just given her the evidence she needed to prove her innocence.

Even though Courtney had been her rival in love before, Janessa had no hard feelings towards her.

Instead, Janessa suddenly had the urge to make this woman her friend.

However, since Courtney wanted to be Rayan's wife, it would still be impossible for the two to be friends.

Bye, My Ex-husband Chapter 89

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As soon as she got home, Janessa opened the contents of the USB flash drive.

There wasn't much inside, but the information Courtney provided was invaluable.

'Where did Courtney find such a skilled hacker who was able to track the person who hacked me?' Janessa wondered.

Even though Janessa suspected who was behind this mess, the identity of the hacker was still unknown.

The flash drive didn't contain enough evidence to prove her innocence, but it was certainly enough to point her in the right direction.

Would this be enough evidence to convince Rayan? Janessa wasn't sure.

She still needed to locate the person responsible for this.

Gracie was with Rayan the entire weekend, so she couldn't have orchestrated this on her own.

Someone must have helped her.

Otherwise, her plan wouldn't have succeeded.

By the time Janessa arrived at the office on Monday morning, she noticed that her things were slightly out of place.

Someone must have used her computer after she left last Friday.

Who could this person be? Janessa ran through a list of everyone in the company when a name suddenly crossed her mind.

"Could it be her?"

Janessa didn't want to believe that the person she suspected was capable of doing this, but all the signs pointed to that person.

That person was the only one who had the time and opportunity to log onto her computer.

However, it didn't explain how the person managed to avoid the surveillance cameras.

A flood of questions rushed into Janessa's mind, but she couldn't answer any of them.

Whenever it seemed like she was making progress, she suddenly hit a dead end.

The sound of her phone ringing disrupted her thoughts.

When Janessa saw the caller ID on the screen, she was surprised.

Why was Imani calling her at this hour? Imani was her cousin, but they weren't close to each other.

They didn't interact with one another unless there was something wrong.

Was her uncle Aydin planning something again? Janessa didn't have the mental capacity to worry about the Qiu family.

She didn't want to deal with family matters right now because she had enough to deal with without them.

Aydin had wanted the Qiu group for a long time, and he wouldn't put the company in harm's way.

Even if he wasn't the best choice to run the company, he could hold things together for the time being.

When the opportunity came, Janessa would demand the company back from him.

Janessa intended to reprimand Imani when she answered the phone, but she was stunned when she heard Imani sobbing over the phone.

The sound of her cries was so loud that Janessa winced.

"Janessa, I need...I need your help.I'm so scared. I..."

Imani's voice was trembling over the phone.

Janessa could barely hear what she was saying over the sound of her crying, but it seemed like she was in a quiet place.

It all seemed suspicious to Janessa.

If Imani was in trouble, she should find her parents as soon as possible.

She shouldn't be contacting Janessa like this.

Was this another one of her family's tricks? "What's the matter, Imani?"

Janessa asked tentatively.

"Janessa...I was...I don't want to live anymore.They..."

Imani cried harder the more she tried to speak.

She couldn't tell Janessa what happened to her.

Janessa's brows furrowed at her words.

What on earth happened to her cousin to make her freak out like this? Imani had always been an open girl, and she usually had no problems hooking up with men she just met.

However, this seemed different.

Was she raped or something? "What happened? Who hurt you? Take a deep breath and calm down, okay?"

"They filmed me while I was naked and threatened to release the video if I didn't give them thirty thousand dollars.I don't know what to do.What if they...What if they post the video of me online? I will be ruined!"

Janessa knew Imani well enough.

Ever since Imani was a little girl, her dream had been to marry a handsome and rich man.

Although she hadn't been able to find such a man yet, her lifelong dream would blow up for good if that video was released.

Her problems would go away sooner if she confessed to Aydin.

Nonetheless, Janessa chose to give Imani the benefit of the doubt.

Before she hung up the call, she spent a few minutes comforting Imani.

After that, she left the house and met up with Imani.

According to Imani's instructions, she was currently in a four-star hotel.

It was a good place for the two of them to meet.

After Janessa asked the receptionist which room Imani was staying in, she quickly went upstairs to find her.

Inside Room 1366, Imani was looking out of the window with a glass of wine in her hand.

Her bright red lips looked alluring as she took a sip of her wine.

A muscular man was pacing back and forth near her door.

Today, his job was to rape Janessa and ruin her reputation forever.

When Janessa didn't show up, he began to worry.

He picked up the belt beside him as he pointed to Imani and asked, "Why isn't she here yet? Are you playing a trick on me? You failed to get your cousin here!"

"Don't worry about it. I know Janessa. Even though she looks smart, she'll actually not that bright. It's easy to manipulate her with a lie. She'll be here in a minute. Be patient!"

Imani finished her glass of wine in one gulp.

The subtle blush on her cheeks made her look more enchanting.

Her beguiling eyes were enough to stir desire within the five other men in the room.

It was a pity that their boss specifically instructed them not to touch Imani.

When she saw the predatory looks on the men's faces, Imani couldn't help but smile to herself.

"Janessa, come and enjoy this gift I've brought for you!" she said to herself.

Imani couldn't help but close her eyes and got a thrill out of the image of Janessa being abused.

If she did this, the company would receive their investment, and her father would no longer force her to marry a disgusting older man.

When Imani recalled the wrinkly older man she met with a few times, a shiver ran down her back.

He was old enough to be her father, but he was still eager to marry her.

Imani couldn't stand Janessa.

How come she got the chance to marry the dashing and wealthy Rayan, while Imani had to marry an older man to maintain her family's riches? They were family, so Janessa should also make a sacrifice for the Qiu Group! This time, Imani's plan had to succeed.

All of a sudden, the phone in the room rang.

Imani answered the phone and asked, "What is it?"

"A lady asked which room you were staying in. I think she's one of your friends," the receptionist replied.

Typically, she wouldn't be allowed to reveal the guests' privacy, but she received specific instructions from this VIP guest to do otherwise.

Imani hung up the phone and clapped her hands together to get the men's attention.

"The prey is on her way up. Everyone, prepare yourself!"

Janessa, you should be here soon.

You chose to come here, so don't blame me for whatever happens to you next.

You offended someone you shouldn't have.' The men were rubbing their hands together in anticipation.

They hid in the position Imani discussed with them as they waited for the knock on the door.

Ten minutes later, they heard a knock.

Imani stood up and hid in the bathroom, motioning for one of the men to open the door.

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The room was eerily quiet as they waited for their prey.

When the door was pushed open, a man in uniform entered the room.

"Mr. Wang? This is the bag that someone left for you at the front desk downstairs. Please check it."

The waiter looked expectantly at the man seated on the chair, believing him to be Mr. Wang.

The man in the chair glared at the bathroom door.

He quickly took the bag from the waiter, then instructed him to leave.

When the man left the room, Imani came out of the bathroom and looked at the paper bag on the table in confusion.

Judging by the thickness of the bag, there was cash inside of it.

If Janessa was already here, then why didn't she come into the room? "What is this? Imani, what's going on?"

The muscular man glared at Imani as he impatiently pounded his fist on the table.

"I...I'm not sure. Janessa was supposed to be here by now. I told her I was in trouble. She... She wouldn't leave me here!"

Imani was beginning to grow frantic.

Things weren't going as she planned.

How could her plan fail? "Are you sure you don't know? You promised us that she would be here. How would I explain this to my boss?"

The muscular man tore at his clothes and slowly walked towards Imani.

By now, Imani was scared out of her mind.

She could see from the desire in the man's eyes what he intended to do with her.

Did he want her to take Janessa's place? Refusing to become the victim, Imani seized the opportunity to gain the upper hand again.

"Wait a minute! I'll call her and see what's going on. Maybe she wants to know if I'm safe or not before she came here!"

As Imani spoke, she took out her phone and dialed Janessa's number with trembling hands.

She was so terrified that it took her a few attempts to dial Janessa's number.

"Why aren't you here yet? Aren't you concerned about what would happen to me if you don't arrive?"

Imani couldn't imagine what was in store for her if these men laid their hands on her.

The thought left Imani petrified.

Their boss had specifically chosen these men for the job.

It would be impossible for her to escape from them.

"I've already handed you the money. All these men want from you is money, right? If you give it to them, they won't do anything to you."

"Janessa, how can you be so heartless? Don't you remember how I cared for you back then? Janessa, please come and bring the money to them yourself. Only you can save me! How can you refuse your family like this? You're a wicked woman!"

Imani was losing her mind.

By that time, she wasn't mindful of what she was saying. If Janessa didn't arrive today, she would be in trouble.

"This is the best I can do for you. As for the care you claim you gave me..."

When Janessa thought back to her childhood with Imani, she sneered to herself.

"I'm glad you reminded me of our precious childhood together. Do you remember that time you broke something and blamed it on me? You watched me get scolded and beaten, and you didn't say a word. Is that what you consider as care? What a joke! Can you even count how many times I've stood up for you and let myself get beaten for your sake? Even though you never showed me kindness as a child, I will help you this one last time. You are my family after all. But that's it. After this, I don't want you contacting me anymore,"

Janessa said in a firm voice before she ended the call.

' As she looked at the door of Room 1366, Janessa handed an envelope of cash to the waiter before she turned around and left.

"Don't tell anyone what you saw here today. When the police come, you know what to tell them. Are we clear here?"

Janessa explained patiently to the waiter. This time, she had to teach Imani a lesson.

"Don't worry. I'll do as you say."

The waiter took the envelope of cash from her and gave her a small smile.

He actually got such a generous reward for only delivering a message! This offer was too good for him to refuse.

Janessa put her mask back on and left the hotel without looking back.

Imani was now in a tough situation.

Despair and desperation overwhelmed her when Janessa ended the call.

This was all her fault.

If Janessa did as Imani planned, none of this would happen.

Imani vowed to herself that she would never forgive Janessa for leaving her like this.

Resigning to her fate, Imani sat on the bed with a sullen face.

The man beside her already knew that Janessa wouldn't come today.

There was a predatory look on his face as he admired the beautiful woman beside him.

"Is your cousin coming or not?"

The man had overheard her conversation with Janessa on the phone, so he already knew the answer to his own question.

"She...Stay back! I'm a friend of your boss! You can't do this to me!"

Imani attempted to frighten them, but all the men only scoffed at her.

"Our boss? You have failed him. Do you think our boss will still back you up after the mess you caused?"

The muscular man grinned from ear to ear as he waited to see what trick Imani would do next.

No matter what she told them, there was no chance they would let her go.

It was as if the two of them were playing a cat-and-mouse game.

The man didn't want to devour her right away.

He wanted to savor this moment with her.

Some of the rest men took out their cameras to film Imani, while others began to undress.

Without saying another word, Imani leaped out of bed and attempted to escape, but the man dragged her back to the bed.

“What do you think you’re doing? Your boss gave you specific instructions not to touch me!”

Imani waved her fists in the air and swatted at the man who continued to press down onto her.

The muscular man was delighted by the scene that played out in front of him.

“Scream all you want.No one will come to save you.”

His men had booked the entire floor for today’s event.

They were the only people left on the floor, and they instructed the staff to stay away from the room.

Imani refused to give in to these men.

Janessa should have been in this position.

Why should she take the fall for her?

“Ah”

Imani wailed as the muscular man tore at her clothes.

The man next to him whistled, “Bob, don’t be so violent.”

“Get off of me! Don’t touch me! Get away from me!”

Imani used every bit of strength she had to get the men off her, but she wasn’t strong enough.

She clutched at the last layer of clothing she had on and screamed for her life.

Suddenly, a group of policemen rushed in from the front door and pushed all the men against the wall.

“Don’t move! Raise your hands!”

Within minutes, the police subdued the men.

The men were handcuffed and escorted out of the room one by one.

One of the police woman grabbed a bathrobe from the bathroom and wrapped it around Imani’s trembling body.

"Are you okay?" she asked Imani.

Imani gave a slight nod in reply before she closed her eyes wearily.

Her faraway prayers were answered.

Someone had really come to save her.