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## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2151 - 2160

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Forget it! I don't want to tell him about it. I can't trouble him over everything that happens! Dustin is a very busy man. Not only does he have to deal with the supermarket, but he also has to handle Norton Corporation. It's best not to disturb him. Besides, Larry doesn't want me to be too involved with him anyway.

"No, what could I hide from you? Don't worry, they are just small matters. I'm leaving now, bye!" Joan then turned to leave.

A cold glint appeared in Dustin's eyes as he watched her leave.

There must be something troubling her but she just didn't want to say it.

Joan practically ran all the way to the hospital.

"Doctor, what happened to Caiden? Why would his condition suddenly worsen?" she was struggling for breath as she asked.

"What are you talking about? What happened to Mr. Owens?" the doctor asked her in confusion.

"Didn't you call to say that his condition has worsened?" Joan asked.

"No, he is fine. If his condition had really worsened, the nurses would have come to me," the doctor answered with a shock.

What is going on? She suddenly felt very frustrated.

"Alright, thank you, Doctor." Joan did not walk into the room but instead headed to the backyard.

How dare Caiden lie to me! Suddenly, anger rose within her heart as she went straight ahead for Caiden's ward.

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Upon seeing her entering, Caiden asked, "Hey Joan, where were you? I'm in real pain here!" He sounded rather upset.

How dare he continue to act this way?

"Alright, stop acting. I know what happened. Caiden, I think we need to have a chat," Joan said resolutely.

She didn't like to waste time and hated lies. Those pretentious moves had no impact on her whatsoever.

She was already at peace with all that was happening with the world. Naturally, she did not like to be involved with too many other people. Moreover, there were too many things going on in her life recently.

"Joan, what happened? Are you upset?" Caiden asked softly.

Of course I am upset. Is it fun to lie to people? Does it make you happy to treat others like idiots? Does the whole world revolve around you? Dissatisfaction appeared in Joan's eyes.

"How do you feel? If you are well, I'd like to treat you to a meal," Joan said in a low voice.

What is she up to? Why is she suddenly treating me to a meal? Suddenly, Caiden felt rather uneasy.

"If you can't make it, it's fine. Just stay in the hospital for a few more days until you are feeling better. I have something on, so I'll leave first." With that, Joan was about to leave the room.

"Hey, wait, Joan. I can leave right after I pack up," Caiden shouted.

Joan let out a snort. God knows how many times has he used the same tactic to lie to me? Who knows, he might have already planned everything and lay in wait for me to take the bait.

The dim lights and soft music in the scarcely-filled restaurant seemed to reflect everyone's mood that was as gloomy as the rainy weather out there.

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“Joan, why are you suddenly buying me a meal?” Caiden asked her quietly, afraid to look her in the eye.

He really didn't know? He is probably just feigning innocence! Joan sniggered to herself.

That was simply human nature. In a complex society, one had to be sharp-witted to survive. A college student who was innocent and kind would be tainted after stepping into society—not to mention someone as intelligent as Caiden.

“Tell me the truth, Caiden. What is your ulterior motive in approaching me?” Joan wasted no time at all.

She did not have any time to waste on that person. At that moment, she was already very annoyed.

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“Joan, what are you talking about? I have no ulterior motive at all!” Caiden replied emotionally.

He is still lying!

“All I have is this one question for you. If you can't answer it, I think there is no reason for us to continue talking.” With that, Joan got up to leave.

“Hey, fine, I'll tell you,” he shouted after her and tugged on her shoulder.

How can she not tell? I like her! A hint of avoidance flashed across Caiden's eyes.

“Joan, I've liked you since we were in school—this is the truth. I have never forgotten about you even when I was overseas,” Caiden said hesitatingly.

What? She looked at him with shock and suspicion.

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Larry had reminded her that Caiden was not as innocent as he seemed, but she shrugged it off. It seemed like Larry was right after all.

Was I too innocent? Joan gripped her fingers anxiously.

“Caiden, you know that I am a married woman. There is no possibility between the two of us. Moreover, I see you as a regular friend. So please, stop looking for me,” Joan said coldly.

How could they continue being friends after this awkward incident? She did not believe that he could change his mindset overnight.

“Joan, I know you have a family and that Larry is the one you love. However, I don’t mind it at all. I believe that love can be developed over time. We just need to spend more time together, that’s all.” Caiden looked at her passionately.

What kind of nonsensical logic is this? Even if we were to spend every single day together, there is no way I would like him! I have never thought about him that way.

“Caiden, I’m here today to clear the air with you. Since you have expressed your intentions, I should make mine clear too. I, Joan Watts, belong to only Larry Norton. There will never be another man for me,” Joan said decidedly and earnestly.

She made her stance very clear. If he still wanted to cling onto her, the solution was simple. She would have no choice but to behave coldly towards him, even though it was not her preferred way.

“Joan, are you telling me that you have not even the tiniest feeling for me?” Caiden asked with a trembling voice.

I don’t believe it! How could she not feel anything after all that I have done for her?

“I’ve always seen you as my junior, my friend, and my savior. But you? You’ve lied to me multiple times, so what did you expect? You should know that I’ve always hated liars. You should have just confessed to me directly instead of lying to me,” Joan reprimanded him severely.

Human nature was very complicated and Joan was sick of it.

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“What does Larry have that I don’t? Is he more handsome? Is he richer?” Caiden asked through gritted teeth.

What a silly question. How could he compare to Larry? Larry would look good even in sportswear!

“No, you are great. It’s just that we are not suitable for each other. Look, Caiden, you can look for a better woman to spend the rest of your life with. It’s just that the woman is not me.” With that, Joan got up.

“No, that woman must be you. I don’t want anyone else!” Caiden shouted loudly while grabbing onto her shoulders.

He was on the verge of losing control, which frightened Joan.

“Let me go! We are in a restaurant!” she shouted out loud.

Of course, he knew where they were, but he just did not want her to leave him.

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“Joan, please don’t leave me! I really need you. I can’t live without you,” Caiden pleaded to her tenderly.

What is going on? Is he erupting into a crying scene now? Joan glanced at him and decided to let him continue.

“Hey look, are they arguing?”

“I don’t know. Wow, that man is so handsome!”

Finally, he released her. That was probably because he felt her irritation. They then parted ways unhappily.

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Joan did not turn around at all as she left the restaurant. Immediately, she hopped onto a cab to go home. On the other hand, Caiden remained rooted to the ground at the entrance and watched sorrowfully as she left.

Was I really wrong? Holding his head with both his hands, all he could feel was a pounding headache.

“Hey sir, there is a car right there!” a woman behind him screamed out loud.

However, he was so lost in his own world that he could not hear the voices behind him nor sense the movements around him. Before he knew it, he was in the middle of the busy road.

“Bang!”

A screeching slam on the break could be heard but alas, the driver could not stop in time.

“Joan,” was Caiden’s first word as he fell, and it was also his last.

Immediately, a curious crowd formed around him, and the ambulance arrived before long.

There was no one outside the operating theater when the doctors performed the surgery on him. No one could contact his family, and when they called Joan, she did not pick up either.

“Joan, your phone has been ringing for a long time. Why aren’t you picking it up?” Delilah asked her curiously.

“Oh, it’s nothing. I’m sure it’s one of those spam calls,” Joan said quietly.

I don’t think so. Who would make so many continuous spam calls? Delilah felt suspicious instantly.

“No matter what, this person has been calling you the entire afternoon. I think you should just pick up the call in case it is something urgent,” Delilah said purposefully.

Even though Joan did not mention it, Delilah knew that something was up. Joan was not one to ignore phone calls randomly unless she was deliberately avoiding something.

“Mm-hmm,” Joan responded and turned to return to her room.

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Indeed, the name on the screen made her feel rather disgusted.

“Caiden Owens, what is it that you want? How many times must I tell you to stop calling me? It’s impossible for the two of us!” she roared into the phone.

She was already very emotional, and his clingy persistence frustrated her more than ever.

“Hello, Ms. Watts. I am not Mr. Owens. He was involved in a serious car accident. We haven’t been able to contact his family...” the nurse said softly.

Oh, so we are playing this game again? How annoying! Fury rose in Joan’s heart.

“I’m not his family member nor his friend. I’m sorry, but you have gotten the wrong number.” With that, Joan was about to hang up.

“No, Ms. Watts. I’m serious. Mr. Owens is involved in a serious car accident. If you don’t believe me, I can send you a picture. He is in the operating theater right now. I can take a picture...”

She was stunned for a moment but soon resumed her angry expression.

“That’s it, I will never believe in this kind of thing anymore. Just call someone else. I’m hanging up now,” Joan replied with a low voice and hung up immediately.

Whether he was really in a serious car accident or not, it had nothing to do with her anymore.

She had already made it clear that they were to have no more connection and would not disturb each other again.

She had pretty much repaid Caiden for saving her life. More importantly, she had already lost every ounce of trust in him.

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Throughout this period of time, he was the reason why Larry had misunderstood me! Why else would there be a woman sending breakfast to Larry? Frustration flashed across Joan's eyes.

Her phone rang again. She hung up immediately before leaving her room.

That's it! I'm just going to ignore it! I'll just head to the garden!

"Ms. Young, I am going to the garden!" she shouted and headed for the door with her jacket.

"Hey, what are you doing there? I've already done cleaning up." Delilah rushed out but Joan was already nowhere to be seen.

Why did that silly girl look so absent minded? Delilah frowned rather unhappily.

Finally, she could have some rest at home. Delilah lounged on the sofa and flipped through some magazines while soaking in the peace and quiet.

However, the buzzing sound from Joan's phone disrupted her concentration. Annoyed, she went into Joan's room and picked up her phone.

Hmm? It's Caiden... Did Joan purposely leave her phone behind?

"Hello Ms. Watts, please come to the hospital. We really need you to sign some papers in order to proceed with Mr. Owens' procedure. There are less than five people in his call record and we could only get through your phone," the nurse said worriedly.

What's going on? Delilah was a little confused.

"Hello, I'm not Joan. What happened to Caiden?" she asked softly.

"Mr. Owens was involved in a serious car accident but Ms. Watts does not seem to believe it. Could you get her to come to the hospital please?"

As they exchanged a few words, Delilah could immediately sense the gravity of the matter. Hence, she immediately ran out with the phone.

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What's wrong with Joan? How could she assume that something as serious as this could be a joke?

"Joan, quick, to the hospital!" The moment she entered the garden, she began dragging Joan away.

Joan was rather dumbfounded. She did not understand what Delilah was doing.

"What's going on, Ms. Young? Did something happen? Are you not feeling well?" she quickly asked as she touched Ms. Young's forehead.

"You silly girl! It's not me, but Caiden. He is your savior. How could you ignore him when he is in such a serious car accident?" Delilah sounded rather disapproving.

So she knew as well. Joan suddenly felt rather embarrassed. She had been fooled by Caiden for so long and had only just discovered it.

"Ms. Young, you found out about it. Well, never mind him. I'll never fall for his tricks again," Joan said softly.

What is going on? What is she talking about? Shouldn't she be really anxious right now? Is her nonsense linked to the fact that she hadn't had breakfast yet?

"Joan, are you alright?" Delilah asked her cautiously.

"I'm fine."

"Then what are you still doing here? Go to the hospital before it is too late!" With that, Delilah pushed her out of the garden.

"No, Ms. Young. He is lying to you!"

Delilah did not know what she was talking about and merely dragged her to the hospital. Indeed, Delilah did not know anything about Caiden and her.

"You are finally here, Ms. Watts!" the nurse said anxiously.

However, Joan looked rather disinterested.

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What is going on again? Is he in pain again? In another car accident? Alas, she did not believe him anymore.

“Mr. Owens is still in the operating theater, but he should be coming out soon,” the nurse said.

Wow, it looked very real this time.

“Ms. Young, I’ll make a move first as I have something that I need to attend to.” Joan turned to leave.

“Joan, what are you doing? You are already here. How could you just leave now?” Delilah immediately grabbed her by her shoulder.

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“Yes, Ms. Watts. Mr. Owens really needs you right now. I am not lying to you at all,” the nurse said with tears brimming in her eyes.

Joan suddenly softened at that sight.

Could she be telling the truth? So Caiden is not acting? She looked up blankly at the lights above the operating theater.

“Please listen to me, Ms. Watts. The last time was indeed a fraud. However, it’s different this time,” the nurse said.

What accident could he be involved in? How could anything happen to him? Joan shook her head.

“Alright. Why can’t you just wait for a while? Let’s see what happens after he is out,” Delilah said.

He better not lie to me. Otherwise, I will really cut all ties with this man!

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Bang!

After some time, the light was switched off and the bed was pushed out. The doctors heaved a sigh of relief as they removed their face masks.

“How was it, doctor?” the nurse asked worriedly. Caiden had become close to the nurse during his previous admission. Naturally, the nurse was concerned about him.

“Thankfully, he was brought here in time. Otherwise, he would have lost his leg.” The doctor then left immediately.

Suddenly, Joan stared blankly at Caiden, who was lying on the bed.

What is going on? He is not just acting? How could this look so real? She suddenly panicked inside.

“Ms. Watts, I really did not lie to you. Look, all these are real,” the nurse said in a low voice as she pointed at Caiden.

Yes, she could see it clearly for herself. But how did this happen? She was in a daze.

“Caiden?” she shook him gently and called out his name.

However, there was no reaction from him at all.

“Wake up, Caiden. It’s me, Joan!” For the longest time, Caiden still had no reaction at all. Joan was suddenly frightened. She did not expect Caiden to really be involved in an accident.

“Look, I told you so! How could you hesitate and dawdle when something so serious had happened to him?” Delilah grumbled.

Who could have known that he would really be involved in an accident?

“My son!” Suddenly, a woman’s voice could be heard.

It was Caiden’s mother who was sobbing from the moment she came in through the entrance. Her emotions were completely out of control.

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“Don’t cry, Mrs. Owens. Caiden is fine now,” Joan consoled her.

Suddenly, Caiden’s mother turned around and glared at Joan angrily.

“It’s all because of you! My son is in this state because of you! Joan Watts, I’ve just found out that you are not only married, but you also have a child. Why are you still involved with my son? Why are you still seducing him?” she screamed at her.

Delilah was completely shell shocked.

Joan wouldn’t do such a thing! Could there be some misunderstanding here?

“Madam, I think you might have misunderstood. Joan and Caiden are just regular friends,” Delilah immediately explained.

“Liar! Ask her whether she was here to take care of him for an entire week? Didn’t my son accompany her son on a field trip? Didn’t he buy clothes for her son?” the woman pointed at Joan’s nose and continued shouting.

Yes, everything she said was the truth.

Delilah immediately went to Joan and looked at her quizzically while waiting for her response.

At that moment, Joan’s eyes were filled with hot tears. Suddenly, she looked up at the ceiling in an attempt to hold back her tears.

“Mrs. Owens, I am indeed married. I have a husband, a son, and Ms. Young here who loves me very much. I came to the hospital to take care of Caiden because he saved my life once. Apart from that, there is nothing else between us,” Joan said resolutely.

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What a joke! Despite being married, she came to the hospital to take care of a stranger just because the latter saved her life once? Why didn't she just marry him? Why did she get involved with my son?

"Whatever! I won't believe anything that you say now. You better pray that my son is fine. Otherwise, I will never let you off!" she said while caressing Caiden's hair.

Delilah immediately pulled Joan to the door and looked at her sternly.

"What is going on? So you have been out for the whole day all because of Caiden?" Delilah asked while suppressing her emotions.

Joan remained silent and nodded.

Suddenly, Delilah began pacing up and down.

"Joan, how could you be so silly? You could have gotten him a nurse. Why did you do it yourself? You are not married to him and neither are you in a relationship with him. You have your own family as well. How would others view you if they found out?"

Joan looked completely helpless.

There was nothing else that she could say. She had given the same suggestion to Caiden before, but he refused to accept it. She had no choice. There was no way she could just heartlessly leave him alone in the hospital. It was only then that she realized everything was part of Caiden's master plan.

"Oh yes Ms. Watts, this is Mr. Owens's medicine. When he is awake, don't forget to give this to him. You are his favorite and he will definitely listen to you and take his medication." The nurse then left after handing her the medication.

Delilah patted her head and felt a migraine coming.

Does Larry know about this? If he finds out, this could be the end of it.

This time he didn't lie to me. He was really in trouble, Joan thought as she stood guiltily at the door.

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This happened just after I left the restaurant. Does the accident have anything to do with me? Was I too harsh to him?

“Joan,” he called out to her from the bed.

Joan immediately ran into the room and looked at Caiden worriedly.

“I’m right here. You are awake, Caiden,” she exclaimed excitedly.

Olivia glared at her angrily.

“Why are you here?” Caiden said the moment he opened his eyes.

Instantly, Olivia felt rather embarrassed.

She felt like she had lost all of her pride when her son spoke to her in that tone.

“Caiden, I’m here to see you. You were in an accident, so of course, I have to be here to take care of you,” she said softly while helping him smoothen his blanket.

Could she be that kind? Caiden sniggered. She probably has an ulterior motive!

“If you are here to make me go home, I can tell you right now that I will never go back in my lifetime. Also, I am definitely not inheriting any of your companies or businesses. I have my own things going on, and I cannot care less for your property,” Caiden said coldly.

Delilah grimaced at his ruthless words.

Unless they have never shared a good relationship, who speaks to their own mother like that? Looks like Caiden has been through a lot too, Delilah sighed.

“Just leave,” he continued.

Is he throwing me out of here? Olivia stared at him quizzically.

“Yes, you. I want you to leave. I don’t want to get angry.”

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He had suffered enough. He had given her enough respect when she first came to the hospital, and he did so just because of Jaden. He knew very well that Jaden had been reporting his every move to Olivia these few years. It was just that he had chosen to ignore it.

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On top of that, he knew very well that if Olivia continued staying in the hospital, it will decrease the chances of Joan coming over. Since he had no existing relationship with his mother, he might as well put his energy and affection on the woman he loved.

“Joan, I’d like to have some water. Could you get me a glass of water, please?” Caiden turned his head and asked Joan quietly.

“Oh, sure,” Joan answered immediately and quickly went to pour him a glass of water.

Olivia felt a wave of embarrassment wash over her and her heart felt like it had shattered into a million pieces. Never could she have imagined that her son would treat her as heartlessly as this.

Or was this just his way of taking revenge?

“Fine, I’ll leave.” With that, she left the room, leaving nothing behind but the clicking sound of her platform heels.

At that moment, only Delilah and Caiden were left in the room. A suffocating silence loomed over them.

“Are you alright? How do you feel?” Delilah asked him softly.

“I’m so sorry that you had to make this trip, Ms. Young. Don’t worry, I’ll recover in no time,” Caiden replied.

Should I be honest with him? This does not seem to be the best time. Never mind, I don’t have to say it now.

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“You have to be careful when you go out next time. There are a lot of cars on the road these days with even more reckless drivers,” Delilah continued.

Caiden had thought that Delilah would blame him for troubling Joan all the time. Little did he expect that she would show care and concern for him instead.

Of course, Delilah had wanted to give him something to think about, but she relented at the sight of his exhausted look.

“Come on, Caiden. Have some water,” Joan said and handed him the water.

“Joan, is the water very warm? I’m so sorry,” Caiden said to her apologetically.

Delilah could immediately sense that something was up. Even though Joan did not respond to him that much, it was clear that he was taking the initiative.

No, if this goes on, Joan will be taken away by Caiden sooner than later.

“Joan, go back and get some rest. Lucius is looking for you. He says there are some school activities tomorrow, so it’s better that you get home early to prepare for it. Don’t worry, I’ll take care of things here,” Delilah said.

Joan was perplexed as she stared at Delilah. In her mind, she could not recall much interaction between Delilah and Caiden. Why would she volunteer to stay behind with him?

“Ms. Young, you still need to care for the flowers in your garden. Don’t worry, I can stay here,” Joan mumbled.

She knew very well that Delilah would spend the rest of the day worrying about the flowers if she did not get home.

“Just take care of the garden for me. You are probably more efficient than an old lady like me,” Delilah then deliberately assigned her a few tasks in order to distract her.

What is going on with Ms. Young?

“Joan, Ms. Young looks rather frail and she is getting along in her years. I should not make her do things for me. I think it is best that you stay behind,” Caiden murmured.

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Delilah suddenly shot up from her seat.

"I said I am the one staying here," she replied icily before walking out of the room.

Fine, she can stay here. Why is she getting angry over this? It doesn't matter who stays behind.

"What do you think, Joan?" Caiden asked her cautiously.

What do I think? Of course I am going to respect Ms. Young's decision. Yes, listening to Ms. Young's advice is the right thing to do.

"I need to participate in Lucius's school activity tomorrow and I need to prepare for it tonight. Let's just have Ms. Young stay with you today. Don't worry, she will definitely take good care of you," Joan said while patting his shoulder reassuringly.

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He knew that Delilah was capable of taking care of him. However, losing Joan would mean losing all sense of excitement and fun in life.

"Then, you have to come back as soon as the event ends tomorrow."

Joan's heart was shaken upon seeing Caiden's somewhat coquettish expression and the way he pouted his lips.

Larry, we'll talk about it in the future.

She wanted to explain to Larry so badly, but did not have the time to do so.

When Delilah entered the ward, Joan was nowhere to be seen. There was only a dejected Caiden sitting on the bed, looking out the window.

It was true that Lucius had an event organized in school, which Delilah did not inform Joan beforehand.

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“Mom, will you accompany me to the school event tomorrow?” Lucius asked softly while burying his head in Joan’s embrace.

“Yes, I’m going to school with you tomorrow, all right?” Joan replied as she gently pinched his cheek.

“Sure! I called Dad just now, but he said he won’t be free.” A tinge of disappointment flashed across his eyes.

Oh yes, Larry hasn’t been home for a few days already. I wonder how he is right now and if the matters at his company are handled well.

Meanwhile, only Larry’s office at the Norton Corporation was still brightly lit. He was sitting on the sofa with his fingers typing on the keyboard non-stop, looking extremely busy.

Jessica was waiting for him to get off work impatiently.

“Mr. Norton, do you know what time it is? Shouldn’t you be going home?” Jessica muttered.

“I’m not going home tonight because I still have a lot of pending work. You can go ahead and have dinner,” Larry answered.

Why is he so busy? Jessica approached him and leaned forward. There was something unusual about her gaze.

She draped her arms on Larry’s shoulders. “Are you feeling very tired lately? Is it because of the incident with the manufacturer?”

Sensing a strange atmosphere in the office, the man rose to his feet and pried her off.

“I repeat, Ms. Zimmer, we’re just friends and it’s impossible for us to develop anything beyond that line. I’m a family man and you know that very well. As for my wife, I’m certain that she will tell me what she did as soon as I get home. It’s getting late, so you’d better go.” Larry continued working after making himself clear.

He’s such a stubborn man with no fun. Had it been any other men, they wouldn’t be able to resist me. I didn’t ask for his commitment, so why is he so uptight?

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“Mr. Norton, I don’t intend to wreck your family. We can be friends with benefits and gratify each other’s needs, don’t you think so?” Jessica winked at him.

This is an interesting perspective. Squinting his eyes, that woman had successfully piqued Larry’s interest. Then, what are her needs?

“What do you want exactly?” he asked directly.

Jessica was completely stunned as the question came like a bolt from the blue.

It seems like he’s not as smart as I think he is. Isn’t it obvious from my gesture? Or is he just feigning ignorance?

Actually, Larry knew what Jessica was suggesting, but he wanted to confirm his speculation as he could not believe that her thought process was bordered on the absurd.

“I want you. I just want you.” As she spoke, Jessica hugged Larry tightly from behind and heaved a breath into his ear.

She sure has some guts! Larry scoffed.

He had met many outrageous personalities, but only one as bizarre as Jessica. It was the first time a peculiar character like her appeared before him.

“Jessica, can you tell me the reason why you bring me breakfast every single morning?” Larry turned around and looked at her attentively.

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Because I like you! What other reason could there be? The woman looked at him suspiciously while trying hard to guess his intention.

“If you are lonely, go hit the streets and you’ll find many handsome guys you can pick up. Some are even more good-looking than me. You don’t have to waste your time on me. Deep

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down, I believe that you're aware of your own feelings. You don't love me. Instead, you love the challenge of conquering me because you enjoy it as a cheap thrill," Larry uttered.

His analysis was accurate. From the very beginning, Jessica was attracted to his looks. She wanted to prove to everyone that she had the ability to make a married man like Larry fall for her.

Unfortunately, Jessica misinterpreted her own feelings. She assumed that she loved that man, but in truth, it was just a mind game.

"What are you talking about? Larry, I really really like you. How could you say that about me and mock my feelings for you?" she roared.

This is such a joke! She's treating herself as an object. Yet, she still claims that she likes me earnestly.

She was too blind to realize her own heart, but Larry saw through her intentions. "Frankly speaking, Ms. Zimmer, it's not a must for Norton Corporation to collaborate with the Zimmer family. I just thought that it's a pity to terminate this business relationship after years of working together."

"Since your father had made an unswerving decision to discontinue our partnership, we won't push it any further. However, the party who will be suffering hefty losses is definitely the Zimmers, not Norton Corporation." Staring at the woman sternly, Larry was resolute in his speech.

Jessica had analyzed the situation before and that was one of the objectives why she approached Larry. She could not understand her father's decision to end the collaboration with Norton Corporation. Therefore, she had been monitoring each of their moves since her return.

"Do you mean that you've found a more suitable manufacturing company?" she asked curiously.

Yes, Caspian sent me a text saying that he's located the foreign manufacturer. I just need to negotiate the terms with him personally.

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I've given the Zimmer family sufficient time and plenty of opportunities. If they're still unwilling to collaborate, we'll cut off ties with them and end up going our separate ways.

"You don't need to know about that. Jessica, you ought to remember that I've not done anything bad toward the Zimmers. My conscience is clear. I've given all that I could and I've never cut corners. That's it for us." With a helpless look settling upon his face, Larry shrugged his shoulders.

He knew that it was not Jessica's fault, but her father who terminated the collaboration without any valid reason. As a result, the Zimmers had to bear a bad reputation and huge losses.

"Mr. Norton, I'm not too sure about my father's plans. Could you let me understand the entire situation from him first before making your final decision?" Jessica asked desperately.

Panic-stricken, she never expected Larry to have found a manufacturer within such a short timeframe.

"No need. Your father should be the one discussing with me, not you," Larry replied softly.

Although Jessica was the only heir to the Zimmer family, she had not taken over the operations of the company. Therefore, she was in no position to make any business decisions.

"Everything's ready, Larry," Caspian said under his breath. Great, it's time to set off.

"Let's go." Larry picked up his briefcase while on the way out of his office.

"Um... Larry..." Caspian faltered.

"I think it's best we inform Joan so that she won't be worried," Caspian mumbled.

Upon hearing that suggestion, gloom veiled Larry's face.

Do I need to inform her? Does she care about how I feel when she didn't return home for the night? He was infuriated when he recalled the night when Joan stayed out all night.

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"No need. We'll come back right away once the matter is settled," Larry murmured.

Anxiousness was written all over Caspian's face.

Both Larry and Caspian did not know that someone was tailing them during their trip abroad.

"How's everything? All good?" Larry asked when they were on the flight.

"Rest assured, Larry. Everything's been arranged. They're looking forward to our arrival," Caspian reported confidently.

This is the only chance I've got and I must secure it no matter what the few bosses of the manufacturing company back home think. I can't afford to lose this opportunity.

"Should I send a text to Joan?" Caspian asked cautiously.

What the heck? Larry was so annoyed by what happened the other night.

"No need. If you have the time, use it to read the documents instead," Larry answered while fixing his shirt.

That was the first time Caspian encountered a determined Larry.

Did something happen between them? Otherwise, why is Larry acting so cold whenever I bring up Joan?

Forget it! I shall let them settle it among themselves. An outsider like me should not interfere.

Suddenly, a woman in sunglasses and thick clothes sat beside Larry. He did not notice her as his eyes were fixated on documents projected on his tablet screen.

"Ahem!" the woman cleared her throat loudly.

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To her dismay, both Caspian and Larry did not react to her at all.

Being a workaholic, Larry would not be distracted even if someone was dancing beside him.

“Ahem! Ahem!” the woman did it again, coughing even louder this time.

A flight attendant who was standing nearby came dashing to her.

“Miss, is your throat all right? Would you like a glass of water?”

With her head lifted slightly, the woman waved at the flight attendant to signal her to leave.

Larry is so serious that he didn't even notice that I'm sitting next to him.

Feeling a little exasperated, Jessica was rendered speechless.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the plane is about to take off. Please fasten your seat belt...”

Right then, Jessica had dozed off.

Due to the early morning flight, she could not fight the feeling of exhaustion, so she shut her eyes and fell asleep without buckling her seat belt.

Larry was never a man who would pay attention to strangers. As expected, he did not notice that the woman next to him had dozed off without wearing a seat belt.

Thud!

When the plane accelerated during takeoff, Jessica jerked forward and had her head bumped into the front seat.

“Ouch, this is so painful!” holding her head, she whined.

“Miss, are you okay? Let me take a look.” A flight attendant dashed toward her to check on her injury.

“Here, let me apply some ointment on your forehead.” The flight attendant did as she said.

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“Jessica? Why are you here?” Larry was shocked to the core.

He had been reading his documents and neglected the troublemaker sitting beside him.

“Can’t I go out of the country? You don’t own the flight, do you?” Jessica grumbled.

“Why didn’t you fasten your seat belt?”

I wonder how did she survive studying abroad when she lacks common sense?

“Are you blind? Didn’t you see that I was asleep?” she refuted coldly.

Irritated by the bump on her head, her speech became harsh.

“Well, Ms. Zimmer, that’s your own fault, isn’t it? Why are you releasing your anger on Larry?” Caspian said indignantly.

Oh, he’s trying to be righteous and stand up for Larry, huh? She glared at Caspian.

Although he looks good, he’s incomparable to Larry. What did Larry have in mind when he picked such a person as his assistant?

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