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Based on the situation now, the possibility of a successful deal has increased. Larry smiled in satisfaction and walked out of the meeting room.

"Mr. Norton, is everything settled?" his assistant asked, trailing behind him.

"Yes. Book the tickets immediately and go back as soon as possible," Larry ordered.

In response, the assistant gazed at him with admiration and took out her tablet to book their tickets.

It had been a few days since Larry had last seen Joan, Lucius, and Delilah. I wonder how they are doing? And how did the field trip go? At that thought, he dialed Joan's number.

Meanwhile, Joan was cooking in the kitchen, so she did not hear her phone ringing in the living room.

As for Delilah, she was sitting on her bed, reading a floriculture magazine attentively. Therefore, no one heard Larry's call.

Then, a nurse came into her room and smiled. "Hi, Ms. Young. How are you?"

"I'm feeling fine. I would like to know when the surgery would be conducted?" Delilah whispered, looking at Joan, who was still busy in the kitchen.

"The doctor said it'd be on next Wednesday. It's time for you to make preparation, Ms. Young. But rest assured, this time, the surgery will be performed by a renowned surgeon invited by Dr. Silverman. He is specially invited from abroad to handle your surgery."

Unbeknown to Delilah, Joan overheard their conversation, but she pretended to be busy preparing their meal.

"It smells so good, Joan. Your cooking is awesome. Ms. Young, I'm so happy for you. Besides the delicious food, you also have a VIP room in our hospital, which basically looks like a presidential suite."

"You always have a kind word to say. Thank you." Ms. Young smiled.

The next day, Larry returned to the village. As soon as he entered the house, Lucius threw himself into his arms and pouted. "Dad, you're finally back! I miss you so much. Where have you been? Mom and I really miss you."

"Lucius, it's all my fault. Something came up on that day, so I had to go abroad to settle the issue. Besides, my phone was off at that time, so I didn't receive any calls. I'm sorry I couldn't make it to your field trip," Larry apologized, a trace of guilt gleaming in his eyes.

"It's okay, as long as you're back safely." Lucius hugged him tightly.

"Where is mommy?"

"She's still at the hospital, taking care of Grandma. Grandma will have surgery soon," Lucius said worriedly.

Larry held Lucius's hand and kissed him on the forehead. "Lucius, stay at home, okay? I'll go to the hospital for a while."

"Okay."

Then, Larry went out of Delilah's house and drove to the hospital.

The hospital was busy as usual. Most of the people here had an anxious expression on their face.

"Hi, Mr. Norton."

"Mr. Norton, you're back."

As he walked into the ward, several nurses greeted him, mesmerized by his good looks once again.

Larry smiled politely in response and entered Delilah's room, only to find that there was only Delilah in the room.

Where is Joan? He looked around, but she was nowhere to be found.

Hearing him entering the room, Delilah opened her eyes and said sarcastically, "Oh, here you are. I thought you'd never come back again."

It has been a few days since he left. Needless to say, Delilah knew that he had missed the camp and went abroad. Even if Joan wanted to hide it from her, she could easily guess from Lucius's expression that something was off.

Larry smiled awkwardly. "Hi, Ms. Young. How are you feeling?"

"You brat! Where have you been for the last few days? You missed the field trip and even went missing after that, not even bothered to answer any of their calls. You've made Joan and Lucius worried sick!" Delilah rebuked.

She was rather angry with him at the moment. I once thought that he was a good guy who was always considerate and competent, so I had thought of leaving Lucius in his hands later on. But how can I believe him again after seeing him being so imprudent?

"Ms. Young, that day, I had an urgent matter to attend to, and my phone was off because it had run out of battery. Please believe me, Ms. Young. You know what kind of a person I am. The project is extremely important to my company. If we lose the project, we would be losing hundreds of millions of profit," he explained frantically.

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Although Delilah did not know much about business, she definitely understood that profit meant a lot to a company. Other than charity organizations, no company could survive without making profits.

"Okay. Go to Joan and explain it to her. I can't help you with this matter." She looked away and gazed outside the window, sighing.

Lucius had already told her all the things that happened during the field trip. Sometimes, I'm quite worried that Joan might develop feelings for that guy, Caiden. Women are emotional; we tend to fall in love easily with the person who accompanies us, especially during moments of vulnerability.

"How's Joan lately?" Larry asked tentatively.

How ridiculous! Joan is his wife, and yet, he is asking me how she is doing.

"You can ask her yourself." With that, Delilah covered herself with the blanket and closed her eyes.

Larry sighed inwardly and left the room, dejected. I purposely rushed to the hospital to see Joan and tell her why I had missed the field trip. But now she is nowhere to be found, and I even got scolded by Ms. Young.

In the mall, Caiden came out of the fitting room and stood in front of a mirror, asking, "Joan, how about this one?"

"Looks good." Joan smiled and gave him a thumbs-up.

Besides Larry, she had never given other men any clothes suggestions, not to mention that she was not even that close to Caiden yet.

Upon hearing her answer, he turned around and frowned at her in a joking manner. "Joan, how can you be so irresponsible? Every time I try on a new suit, the only comments you give are 'good' and 'nice.' Are you trying to make me buy all the clothes in this store?"

"No. With your good looks, I honestly think that you look awesome in whatever clothes you wear," she hastily explained.

Caiden beamed the moment he heard her praise.

Did she just compliment me? Way to go, Caiden!

With a wide grin spread across his face, he took out the clothes he had tried on and showed them to her. "Joan, which one should I choose? White, black, or the pink one?"

That had put her in a tight spot.

Larry was the only man she had chosen clothes for, and that was because she was all too familiar with his style of dressing. However, for Caiden, she had absolutely no clue about his preference. Therefore, she could only give him a general answer.

"Of course you should choose the color that you like," she replied placidly.

In an instant, his eyes dimmed.

Why is she being so careful with her words? Is she uncomfortable being with me? Or is she still thinking about Larry?

"What's wrong, Joan? If you don't feel like shopping with me, you can go back home and have a rest." Caiden pretended to look hurt, trying to make her feel guilty.

Rubbing her neck awkwardly, Joan sneaked a glance at her watch and smiled faintly. "No, I'm fine. I just need to get back to the hospital to cook for Ms. Young later in the evening. It's okay. We can continue to shop. Have you found anything you like?"

"Yeah, I like these three, but I don't know which one fits me the best," he stated, pointing at the suits in front of them.

She looked at the suits and pondered for a while. "Oh. I think I like the white one."

Caiden touched the suit that she mentioned. Really? But I like the black one the most. Seems like we don't have similar taste. What a bummer.

After seeing the hesitation in his eyes, she realized that the black suit was the one he preferred.

Hence, she quickly added, "However, the black one suits you, too. You look quite charming with it."

Her words made his eyes light up with pleasure. We still get each other, don't we?

"Sure." He nodded and turned to the store's employee. "Excuse me. I'd like to have this."

While Caiden and Joan were shopping, Larry had decided to go back to his company after visiting Delilah in the hospital. Five minutes later, Caspian barged into his office with a twinkle in his eyes. "Larry, you're finally back!"

"Uh-huh. How's the company recently?" Larry asked, flipping through the documents on his desk.

After Caspian finished reporting to him, he was about to leave when Larry called out to him.