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"How has Joan been recently?" Caspian stiffened as he hesitated to answer. Of course, Larry noticed his apprehension instantly.

"What happened? Tell me!"

After listening to Caspian spill his heart out, Larry had a bitter taste in his mouth.

It hasn't been more than a few days, and she's already starting to cling onto other men? She's married, for goodness' sake!

What the hell does she think she's doing?

Bang! Larry slammed the office door closed, making a beeline for his car.

"Where to, Mr. Norton?" The chauffeur asked.

"The hospital!"

The poor chauffeur nearly jumped out of his skin at the murderous aura that was emanating off of his voice. Without a second thought, he floored the gas pedal.

Larry was going to wait in the hospital until Joan appeared and then ask her about what was going on.

Anxiously rubbing his hands together, he stared at the unchanging red traffic light and wondered if God was playing some kind of mean trick on him. Noticing Larry's stress, the chauffeur tried to start a conversation in order to distract him.

"It'll be alright, Mr. Norton. The light will turn green soon."

"Mm."

It was a simple sound of affirmation, but it betrayed the fact that his patience was already at its limits.

The cars behind them were starting to honk as if it would make the traffic light change faster. Larry winded the car windows down for a breath of fresh air, but suddenly caught sight of something he probably shouldn't have.

In the corner of a Western restaurant sat two people, or more specifically, Caiden and Joan. They looked very happy together, and she even giggled when he occasionally reached out to brush her hair away from her face.

"You must be tired after today," Caiden told Joan in a low voice.

After all, she hadn't wanted to come outdoors in the first place, but he'd insisted on dragging her along with him to go shopping for clothes.

"I'm fine," Joan smiled kindly. "It's the least I could do for the person whom I owe my life to."

Caiden froze for a second before regaining his composure.

Does she think of me as nothing more than a lifesaver? Is she really unaware of my feelings towards her?

"Joan, I..." Caiden gulped, stopping himself.

He wanted to confess to her. He'd thought about it for a long time coming and had merely been waiting for the right chance. Unfortunately, he hadn't expected her to still view him as an outsider.

Am I not doing enough? Caiden lamented internally, feeling disappointed.

"What's wrong?" Joan glanced at him curiously.

"Um— I want to ask you something."

"Sure." She put down her knife and fork, fixing him with a sincere stare. "I have nothing to hide."

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"What if, and this is just 'if', you fall in love with another man?" Caiden asked carefully. "What would you do?"

"That won't happen," Joan instantly replied.

Huh? Why not?

"If I wasn't in love with Larry, I wouldn't have chosen to get married to him. The very fact that I've chosen to do exactly that should be proof enough that I've decided to spend the rest of my life with him. Thus, that hypothetical situation that you brought up will never happen. If anything, I don't have any respect for women who would fall in love with men other than their own lover." Joan sipped from her cup of coffee.

He hadn't predicted that answer. Usually, women were very emotional beings; even if they were already married, it wasn't rare for them to get divorced in order to chase after the man they thought was their one true love. Cases like Joan's, where she vowed to be loyal to her marriage no matter what, were rare nowadays.

Unbeknownst to him, Caiden's interest in her increased even further.

"I was just saying 'if'..."

Joan cut in, "There is no 'if's about it."

"Okay, then I'll ask something else." Caiden quickly changed the topic.

"If one day, you discovered that your husband was having an affair, what would you do?"

What a timely question. She'd just dealt with a similar situation recently.

"First of all, my husband would never do that. Second of all, even if he did, it would be a trap set up by someone else," she answered firmly.

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Caiden couldn't wrap his head around why she trusted Larry so much. Men having affairs outside of their marriage was normal. Hell, even he couldn't guarantee that he wouldn't do such a thing when he got married in the future.

"Joan, you need to understand that sometimes men's wants and needs are very strong..."

"Can we not talk about this anymore, Caiden? I love my family and my husband very much, as does he. He treats me well, and we are happy. Nothing that you just said will ever happen.

"Is there anything else? If not, I'll take my leave. I need to get back to the hospital to take care of Ms. Young." Joan got to her feet and picked her bag up.

"Wait! Don't go! I was just joking around," Caiden hurriedly rushed to make her stay. "Don't take my words so seriously, okay?"

So she truly is firm in her own beliefs. No wonder Larry didn't give up even after so long. What a weird woman.

"I know you were joking, but I really have to go..."

"Joan!" A familiar voice suddenly called out.

"Dustin?" She turned around at the sound of her name as he walked towards them. "What are you doing here?"

Who is he? Is he close to Joan? Caiden squinted at the man in front of him with suspicious eyes.

"Hi, my name's Dustin. I'm Joan's friend and one of her admirers."

"What are you talking about?" Joan rolled her eyes and hit his shoulder lightly. "I'm married."

Dustin could tell that this Caiden guy was clearly in love with Joan, and was in the midst of struggling to get her attention. He wasn't a bad-looking fella. It was just too bad that he fell in love with a woman that he shouldn't have.

"You two can continue talking. I'm going to go upstairs to do some stuff," Dustin gestured towards the floor above them.

He wasn't worried about Joan being stolen away by someone else; he knew that she would always reject their advances.

"It's getting late, Caiden. I should really get going," Joan insisted, getting a little desperate.

"I'll send you there." He opened the door for her as he said so.

Larry watched all of this happen, not budging an inch from where he sat in the car.

"Are we still heading for the hospital, Mr. Norton?" the chauffeur inquired.

He, too, had witnessed Joan leaving the restaurant with another man.

"Go. Now," came Larry's cold answer.

The temperature in the car felt like it had dropped several degrees, and the chauffeur felt chills run up his spine.

"There's really no need," Joan argued, trying to block Caiden's way. "I can hail a taxi. Don't you still have work, anyway?"

"Relax! My work hours are super flexible," grinned Caiden.

This won't do. If the nurses at the hospital see us, they're going to gossip again.

"Are you angry because of what I said?"

Unable to convince him otherwise, Joan had no choice but to let him send her to the hospital.

"What's going on? Why did Mrs. Norton arrive with that guy?"

"Who knows? I just saw Mr. Norton go in, too..."

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The nurses hid behind the counters and whispered to one another. They could easily see that Caiden's gaze was filled with admiration and envy whenever he looked at Joan.

"Bye, Joan! Call me if you need anything!" Caiden gave her a sunny smile, waving at her before he walked away.

I hope we never call each other again. The happenings of the past few days were more than enough to make her feel wrought with guilt. She didn't need yet another thing to worry about. Joan took a deep breath to steel herself and walked into the ward.

"You're back," Delilah noted out loud.

Joan greeted her in a soft tone, "How are you today, Ms. Young? Do you feel any better? Your surgery is tomorrow." She only noticed Larry's presence when approaching Delilah's bed.

"Larry? Why are you here?" She tilted her head in confusion.

She'd thought that the Norton Corporation was swamped with work and that he was too busy to come to visit Delilah. The memory of how he'd broken his promise last time was still fresh in her mind. Of course, it wasn't as if she'd been completely sound of mind herself these past few days.