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That remark caught Caiden off guard. He's right. Mom will never approve of my decision in pursuing Joan, but what right does she have to meddle in my life? Since I was a child, all she and Dad ever did was throw money at me. They never once showed genuine concern for me. Since they weren't present for my entire childhood, they sure as hell don't have the right to dictate my life now!

Just then, Jaden came out of his room to add, "By the way, your mom wants you to go home for a meal this week. She threatened to come straight here if you don't. You better get your thoughts straight. I've already done my part by delivering her message, but you can do whatever you want."

Seated downstairs, Caiden's lips curled into a sneer. Home? Do I even have a home to begin with?

"Tell her I'm not going home," Caiden said in a clipped tone.

The resolve and animosity in his tone rendered Jaden inarticulate.

Forget it. It's up to him!

In the quiet office, Larry was leaning back on the sofa while resting his eyes. Outside his office, everyone was busy with their work. Larry's devotion to the company boosted their confidence. Naturally, they didn't dare to slack when their boss was working overtime every day.

"Larry, why don't you go home and take a nap? This isn't the way to go. Your health is more important." Caspian studied the man with worry and distress written across his features.

"Don't worry. I'll catch a few winks here. How are things going with the foreign manufacturer?" Larry queried in a weary voice.

"I haven't been able to contact their boss yet. Apparently, he's a very difficult person to get in touch with. It appears that he rarely returns to the country, but don't worry. I'll utilize all our connections to find him," Caspian reassured.

It's already been so long, yet there's still no news about the foreign manufacturer. The domestic manufacturers are disappearing without a trace, one after another. If this goes on, it'll only be a matter of time before Norton Corporation faces a severe withdrawal of shares.

"Find him as soon as possible. Once you do, I'll fly over immediately. Look for his assistant or perhaps his relatives; anyone who's affiliated with him," Larry ordered while massaging his temples.

He was probably too exhausted. After giving Caspian some instructions, he fell dead asleep on the sofa. He didn't even hear his assistant knocking incessantly on his door. Left with no choice, the assistant could only open the door without his permission. She quietly walked over to his desk and placed the documents in her hands there. Then, she picked up a blanket and covered him with it.

The assistant sighed softly. It must be really hard on him.

Outside the office, no one criticized Larry for sleeping during work hours because they knew that he hadn't gone home for a good night's sleep in a very long time.

"Miss, you can't go in there. Mr. Norton is busy," the assistant exclaimed, blocking Jessica's way.

"Busy or not, I have something to discuss with him!" Jessica snapped.

"Miss, if you could just wait here until he's done with his work before going in." There was a plea in the assistant's tone.

After all, she had been working as Larry's assistant for quite a long time. Hence, she knew him as a person quite well. She was merely concerned about her boss. Apart from dealing with all kinds of problems, he also had to face doubts from many shareholders.

"I already told you that I'm here to discuss business matters with Mr. Norton. Don't try to stop me." Jessica shook away the assistant's hand and strode forward, only to be blocked by the woman again.

What the hell? Does this assistant have a thing for Larry or something? Why else would she be so adamant on stopping me? Jessica shot a cold glare at the assistant.

Faced with her chilling gaze, the assistant subconsciously backed away a few steps.

In the end, she decided to come clean. "Miss, you really can't go in there right now. Mr. Norton has been working overtime recently. He's tired. He's currently sleeping in his office, so can you wait until he wakes up before going in?"

She knew this woman would make a scene just like how Gabriella had done in the past if she didn't tell the truth.

This was how such women were. Once provoked, they could very well go off the deep end. Some of them looked virtuous and docile, but that was only because they hadn't reached their tipping point. Once they did, even their boyfriends and family wouldn't be able to stand in their way.

"Oh. Well, why didn't you say so? I thought you were intentionally stopping me from entering because you had a crush on your boss or something." Jessica sized up the woman in front of her.

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"Of course not. Mr. Norton and I have a regular employer-employee relationship. Besides, he has a family." The assistant huffed out an awkward laugh.

She couldn't deny that she had indeed harbored inappropriate thoughts toward her boss before, but she had quickly nipped them in the bud.

Larry's heart already belonged to another woman. Hence, she was happy as long as he was.

"What? You don't have the guts to confess? What's there to be afraid of? So what if he's married? Divorce is so common in today's society," Jessica continued.

The assistant flushed with embarrassment.

She quickly bowed her head and denied, "No, it's not like that, miss. Mr. Norton and I are really just superior and subordinate. Besides, I have a boyfriend."

This woman spells trouble. If I don't get myself out of this now, it might come back to bite me in the ass. It's best to stay away from rich people like her. The assistant's eyes flashed with a hint of hostility.

Without warning, Jessica sashayed right into Larry's office. "Mr. Norton!"

Then, she directly sat on the sofa and asked the obvious. "Sleeping?"

"What are you doing here?" Larry, who had been rudely awakened, rubbed the sleep from his eyes.

"I came here to see you. It's been quite some time since I last saw you, and I kinda missed your presence," she flirted.

She sure has some nerve coming here and saying such things. She must be crazy. Larry slowly got to his feet and walked to his desk.

"Don't you have anything better to do today?"

"Nope. I came back to attend a friend's wedding, so there's nothing much for me to do actually."

"Ms. Zimmer, I think you'd better stop coming here so often," Larry asserted, cutting curtly to the chase.

This woman obviously doesn't intend to tell me where her father is, and that father of hers is dead set on avoiding me. This family is truly a conspiring bunch!

"Why? Are you afraid people might gossip?" Jessica slowly inched toward him.

"A manufacturing company abruptly stopped working with us for no apparent reason, and the boss has gone off the grid. Meanwhile, the boss' daughter keeps coming here every day. Do you think this is appropriate?" Larry lifted his head slightly and enunciated.

What's so inappropriate about this? I like you! It has nothing to do with the collaboration! A coy smile tugged on the corner of Jessica's lips.

"Fine. I'll be frank with you, Larry. Indeed, I deliberately acted that way in front of you the first time we met. But you must know, I'm a very picky person, so... Yes, that's right. I'm interested in you." Her brazen words momentarily stunned the man.

This woman really is a nut job! How could she say something so absurd? Larry shot her a fleeting glance, then looked down and got back to work.

"What? You don't believe me?" Jessica narrowed her eyes at him, slightly curious.

A man like him must have many admirers. He shouldn't be very surprised by my confession... In fact, he's probably used to this!

Truth be told, it wasn't that Larry didn't believe her; he simply didn't want to. He already had more than enough on his plate. The last thing he wanted was to invite unnecessary trouble.

"Ms. Zimmer, I think you've got the wrong person. If you're really that lonely, go to a bar. You won't find whatever you're looking for here. The door is right there. Kindly see yourself out." Larry's voice was bitingly cold as he made known that she wasn't welcome here.

He's doing this on purpose, isn't he? I've already made it so obvious. Doesn't he feel anything? Jessica's eyes dimmed.

No. One way or another, I'll make this difficult man submit to me. I don't believe he can remain immune to my charms for long. All I have to do is put in a little more effort.

"Whatever. I'll get going now, but I was serious about what I said earlier." With that, she strutted out of Larry's office in her expensive heels.

The moment she left, Larry held his head in both hands as another wave of exhaustion washed over him.