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The photos or video clips of the news were plastered over the internet.

"Larry, calm down. That isn't like what it seems," Jessica quickly tried to calm him down.

What else can that mean? Are they acting? I don't think Joan ever wanted to be an actress.

"Forget it. You don't have to explain more," Larry uttered.

Caiden, that bas*ard! How dare he do something as low as this? He slammed the table with lasers shooting from his eyes.

"Well, at least Joan did not accept it. Besides, Caiden was never going to win her over in the first place. You should know that she only has eyes for you," Jessica rambled.

They are two separate matters!

"Mr. Norton, some of our partners called, and they requested to have a meeting with you," his assistant rushed into his room and announced.

Why do they have to be so keen on meeting me at a time like this? Larry frowned and looked out of the window, thinking about what to do.

"What time do they want to meet me?"

"Tonight," the assistant reported.

Are they that anxious? Is this because of the project? Larry mulled over it.

"Okay, go ahead and prepare for the meeting tonight. Please reschedule the engagements on my schedule for tonight to tomorrow morning," Larry instructed.

He was so overwhelmed with work that he did not have the time to deal with Joan's matter.

Whatever, I'll let him do things his way. I believe I'll still be able to capture Joan's heart regardless.

"Don't stand there like a wooden doll. Just get back to work," Larry ordered Jessica.

"Alright. If anything happens, let me know." Uh, why would I call her?

"Joan, what exactly happened?" Nancy anxiously demanded over a call to Joan.

What else can it be? Of course, Caiden went crazy. Joan's gaze darkened.

"Nothing. Everything is over," she assured.

She was deceiving herself to think that everything was in the past. At this point, she did not know if Caiden had given up yet.

"Joan, everything that has happened might be in the past. But what about his feelings for you? What is your opinion on this, and what does Caiden have in mind? Don't you understand what is involved? The Owens family is reputable, and you have to resolve this matter as soon as possible," the person on the other line advised.

Nancy was right. Keith did put a lot of importance on the Owens family's image, and he would never allow his son to do anything that might tarnish their reputation.

That was also something that Caiden was aware of and why he had kept to the rules thus far. Nevertheless, his proposal was clearly an act out of desperation.

He thought that Joan would at least consider his feelings if he knelt in front of her in a romantic setting. To his dismay, she was rational and stuck to her beliefs.

"I know. Don't worry, I will sort it out." Joan sighed.

She knew that she would have to face some pointless hurdles soon.

"Does Larry know about it? Have you explained it to him?" Nancy asked.

"No, but I do intend to explain to him." Following that, they chatted for a little while before they ended the call.

If she did not clarify the matter to Larry in time, the damage would have been done.

"Caspian, is Larry in?" Joan probed.

"He is in his office," Caspian replied, sounding as though he was upset with her.

Joan did not take notice of his tone and walked straight to Larry's office.

At that time, Larry was discussing the details of the project with the other directors.

Watching the heated discussion inside the room, Joan chose to wait outside.

After what seemed like an eternity, Joan fell asleep on the sofa outside. As Larry did not notice the woman's presence, he headed straight to his office after sending his guests away.

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"Mrs. Norton, wake up," one of the staff members came up to Joan suddenly and patted her on the shoulder as she called out softly.

"Oh, I dozed off..." Joan mumbled as she rubbed her eyes.

"Where's Larry? Is he still busy?" Squinting her dopey eyes, she asked directly.

"The clients have left. You can go in now. It's a little too cold out here," the staff member answered with a smile.

Looking at the busy scene in his office, Joan became hesitant all of a sudden.

Forget it. I can tell him at night! She then turned around and left Norton Corporation.

Should I go to the hospital?

On the roadside, Joan looked at her phone and dithered.

I wonder how Caiden is doing now.

What Noelle said to her previously when she chased her out of the ward sounded very awful, but it made sense. If I go to the hospital now, isn't it as good as giving him false hopes again? But if I don't go, it would make me look heartless!

This is a world where strange things happen every day. It's also a society in which moral standards are trending downward and human nature is getting more complex by the day. Looking up at the sky, Joan heaved a sigh.

It was said that those who liked looking at the sky were lonesome people. That was somehow true as Joan was indeed feeling a little desolate in that instance. In fact, she had a lot of friends whom she could confide in, but at that particular moment, she just didn't feel like telling anyone of her grievances and helplessness.

Her phone had been buzzing for some time in her bag and finally, she picked it up.

"Joan, where are you?" It was Caiden's voice from the other end.

"I'm outside. What's the matter?" she asked.

"Considering my current situation, aren't you going to come over and look after me?"

But isn't Noelle at the hospital?

"Noelle will take good care of you, I believe her," as soon as she said that, she was ready to end the call.

"Why are you such an ingrate? If it wasn't because of you, do you think I would have overworked to this extent? And if it wasn't for you, would I have come up with so many creative ideas?"

Caiden hadn't seen this woman for many days, and he was exceedingly anxious and irritated. Hence, he spouted some unkind words on purpose to trigger her.

"Caiden, calm down!" Abruptly, Joan shouted.

"How am I supposed to take it easy? I've been abandoned by the woman I love most in this world, and here I am, lying on the hospital bed without anyone to look after me..." Caiden said in an aggrieved tone.

"How about Noelle? Where is she?" Joan asked.

"She has already gone home, and she's a busy woman!"

What's with this girl? How can she not keep her promise? Joan was rather tense and worried, and soon, she showed up at the hospital.

"I brought you lunch," she handed the lunchbox over to the man lying on the hospital bed as she said that.

"You're finally here. I miss you so much," Caiden said kittenishly.

Is this another trick? Joan looked around her in suspicion. She looked a little doubtful.

"What are you looking for?" Caiden asked.

"Nothing, why don't you enjoy your lunch?" Little did she know that Noelle had actually gone to buy him lunch as well.

"When is Noelle coming back?" she asked straightforwardly.

"I don't know, maybe tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow. Perhaps she won't ever come back anymore," Caiden murmured.

Joan was a little surprised at his answer.

Noelle had always been very fond of Caiden. Of course, she wouldn't leave him just because of such a trivial matter. Nevertheless, why had she disappeared just like that?

"Caiden, here you go. It's your favorite meatloaf!" Out of the blue, Noelle called out cheerfully as she barged in.

For a moment, both women were stunned.

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Why is she here again? Didn't she agree to leave Caiden alone previously? Glaring at her furiously, Noelle was exasperated.

Joan understood at once that it was all an act that Caiden had put up!

"I still have other matters to attend to, so I better get going." With that, Joan was about to leave.

"Stand right there," all of a sudden, the man in bed yelled.

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"Don't go. You're not the one who's supposed to leave," Caiden added.

"Joan, I've asked you to come today because I want to clarify something with you. I don't like Noelle. Don't try to push me to this woman. Also, Noelle, the only feeling I have for you is the feeling of an elder brother to his little sister, and there's absolutely nothing else. Please behave yourself in the future."

His tone was so serious and stern that it gave Noelle who was at the side a fright.

"Fine, I'll make myself clear as well then. Caiden, I don't care who you like. It has nothing to do with me whatsoever. Hence, don't contact me ever again in the future!"

Such ruthless remark coming from Joan alongside a strong aura of resolution hurt the feelings of the man in bed deeply. Nevertheless, Noelle who was standing on the side was truly excited with her declaration.

Great. That's exactly the effect that I wish to see! With a gloating look on her face, Noelle had her eyes fixated on Joan who was standing across from her.

"Joan, do you really want to let go?" Caiden asked all of a sudden.

The question itself was illogical. I've never even held onto anything. What is there to let go of?

"Caiden, if you agree, we can still be friends. But if you don't, it's fine. I'll choose to leave this city," Joan answered in a simple yet direct manner.

She couldn't bear with it anymore. All she wanted was to lead a peaceful life.

No way! I can never let Joan disappear from my sight!

"Is it true that you don't like me at all?" Caiden who was still lying in bed asked pitifully as he looked at Joan eagerly.

Isn't that obvious? If she has any feelings for him, why would she have treated him in such an indifferent way? Noelle snorted, and she was utterly out of sorts.

"There is only one man whom I love, and he is Larry. It has always been him all along and he will be the only man I'll ever love!" With that, she left the ward straight away.

The tension in the ward was so thick you could cut it with a knife. At that point in time, Caiden felt as though he had been swamped with bitingly cold water, and he couldn't stop quivering.

He thought he should have been used to Joan's rejection by then and that he would be able to maintain his emotional stability. Nevertheless, his heart still ached terribly when he was turned down once again, much to his surprise.

"Caiden, Joan doesn't love you at all. Why are you so stubborn?" Noelle splurted out on purpose.

She knew Caiden was a very faithful man, but she also thought that he was in love with the wrong person.

"It's none of your business," Caiden answered atrociously. He was still as vile as ever. Without saying anything else, Noelle ran out of the ward.

At that time, Delilah was still engrossed in tending the plants in the garden. Therefore, Joan went straight there as she was afraid that Delilah wouldn't be able to do everything on her own.

"Joan, what's the matter with you today?" Delilah asked softly from the side.

Oh, no. I must look miserable now, but I shouldn't let Delilah worry about me.

"Nothing, I'm fine," answered Joan.

Fine? That's nonsense. The heavy-hearted way she looks never lies.

"Now now, anything that upsets you, you can just spout it out. Don't let it eat you up," Delilah urged softly.

Joan didn't say anything but remained silent. They spent a long time in the garden. Little by little, night fell. When the two women were done tidying up and were ready to get home, a few strangers barged into the garden out of nowhere.

"You're Joan?" A sturdy man asked aloud in an overbearing manner.

"Yes, I am. How can I help you?" Joan asked.

"Well, your appearance is not bad indeed. Our chairman wants to see you," the man replied in an ill-mannered way.

Who the heck is their chairman? Joan tilted her head thoughtfully and plunged into deep contemplation.

As far as I remember, I don't seem to know any chairman from other corporations.

"I'm sorry. I don't know any chairman. You must have mistaken," Joan replied.

"Just come with us. What a load of bullsh*t!"

With such a rude and crude attitude, one could almost be certain that the 'chairman' behind them was certainly not some kind soul.