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Sensing her worries, Larry gave up persuading her. He respected her choice.

"Dinner's ready!" Delilah called out from the dining room.

It felt like such a long time since they had a meal together as a family. Now, everything was back to normal again.

Although Keith had stopped finding trouble for Joan, Larry was just getting started. He wanted revenge for the woman he loved.

"Mr. Norton, are we really doing this?" His assistant looked at him in disbelief.

"Yes. Cut all ties with the Owens family. We will not work with them anymore." There was not the slightest bit of hesitation in his voice. They got what they deserved for testing my limits.

Touching Joan was the worst move anyone could have made, for to hurt her meant hurting him. Larry did not care whether his opponent was Keith or a child, he would not let the person who hurt Joan off the hook that easily.

"Mr. Norton, maybe we can reconsider this? The Owens family is a large corporation with great influence. I think..." His assistant listed all sorts of reasons in an attempt to dissuade him.

Indeed, with a corporation of their scale, many companies would do anything for a chance to collaborate with them. Larry's decision would undoubtedly cause Norton Corporation some loss.

"My decision's final. I'll bear the consequences myself." Larry's resolute gaze silenced the assistant.

"Are you serious? Mr. Norton's terminating all our projects with the Owens family?"

"Exactly. I wonder what he's thinking. Why is he making an enemy out of them?" A few employees were gossiping about the matter discreetly.

News spread fast. Very soon, the whole company was talking about this. They could not believe that Larry had done this for a woman.

Meanwhile, Larry was in his office busy with work. He paid no heed to the gossips that were spreading like wildfire. His decision was not on impulse. There was plenty of preparation leading to this.

Caspian strode angrily toward the lift in the lobby. He pressed the floor to Larry's office.

"Larry! How could you do this? Your personal feud with Caiden is a separate matter from work. Your rash decision will only drag the company down!" he shouted at the top of his lungs.

"I know," was Larry's calm reply.

Does he really know? Caspian knew that once their collaboration with the Owens family falls through, they would have to search for another business partner. That would mean redesigning the project, brief, etc., This was not just an issue about time, many other things such as their employees' productivity were on the line.

"Larry, why don't you have a talk with Caiden? Heck, you can talk to Keith too, if you'd like. I'm sure things isn't as bad as it looks. If you're not comfortable with meeting them, I can go on your behalf! Caspian said hurriedly.

Larry, however, wanted absolutely nothing to do with the Owens family anymore. "Caspian, I have my morals to stick to. They hurt Joan and this is something I cannot forgive," he replied coldly.

"Let's just take a step back and think this through. Isn't Joan doing fine now? She's not saying anything, so why are you..."

"Have you forgotten your position? Stop interfering in this!" Larry lashed out.

At that, Caspian had no choice but to walk out of the room pitifully. Soon after, Caiden arrived. His presence meant that the Owens family had caught wind of Larry's decision.

"Mr. Norton, aren't you acting a bit too rashly?" Caiden asked in a low voice.

"If this is why you came today, you may leave now. My decision's final. I see no reason for us to collaborate anymore." Once Larry had decided on something, it was near impossible to change his mind.

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"So what if that's the case? Have you forgotten all those times you fell out with your family for Joan's sake?" Larry rebutted.

Caiden was speechless. He could not refute the fact that he had committed many ridiculous things for Joan. I guess I have no right to criticize Larry...

Since their conversation was not going anywhere, Caiden left the building for home. He needed to tell Keith about this.

"What'd you say? Larry didn't budge? That stubborn brat! He's not even concerned about his company anymore," said Keith.

Like you're one to complain. Things only escalated this way because you instigated the fight. Of course, Caiden kept his thoughts to himself and simply looked silently at his father.

"All right, I got it! We'll talk about this some other time." With that, Keith went back upstairs.

He couldn't be bothered to talk more about this topic since Larry had already made his decision.

"All right, don't worry about this too much. Just leave this matter to your dad." Olivia patted Caiden's shoulders.

Back at home, Joan was pruning the plants in the yard. CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL FOR FAST UPDATES <u>https://t.me/NovelsFuns</u>

Delilah called out to her, "Joan, take a break. I don't want you to tire yourself out." It had been a few days since she came home. They decided to put the past behind them and were interacting normally again.

"Don't worry, Ms. Young. I feel fine!"

The day went by in a flash. Joan spent the majority of her time in the yard with Delilah. Later that evening, Larry came home.

Joan enquired, "I heard you terminated the collaboration with the Owens family, is that true?" She looked firmly at Larry with a serious expression.

"Yes," was Larry's simply reply.

"Why'd you do that?" Joan probed further.

"No particular reason. I just didn't want to work with them anymore."

Joan could not help but think he had done it for her. She looked at him, doubt swimming in her eyes.

"Larry, I'm sure you already know this, but I'm not one to care about things like revenge." She wanted him to know that there was no need to jeopardize the company's future for her.

"Don't worry, I didn't do it for you." Larry pulled her into a tight embrace.

"Then tell me why you did it. If not, I can't feel at ease."

"I have my own morals to keep. I won't work with someone of such character. If Keith was able to do such despicable things to you, I can't see how he'll fare well as my business partner." Larry kissed her forehead gently.

Hearing this, she heaved a sigh of relief. The creases on her forehead disappeared.

"There, is my reason enough to placate your unease?" Larry uttered.

With that matter out of the way, they were back to being all lovey-dovey again. It was only later that day they came out for dinner.

"Mom! Dad! I scored full marks for my exam today!" Lucius ran excitedly toward Joan and Larry.

"Wow! My son is such a clever boy. You're always scoring full marks," Joan exclaimed proudly.

"Mom, look! I am the 'star of the week'!" announced the boy while waving his certificate.

Larry smiled as the mother-son pair chatted away happily. At that moment, he was contented with life. Being able to come home and have a meal with his loved ones, spending intimate moments with Joan, and falling asleep in each other's arms was everything he could have ever asked for.

"Larry! What are you spacing out for? Dinner's ready!" Delilah called out from the dining room.

"Coming!"

"Dad, you've been really busy these days. Here, have more meat." Lucius placed a piece of meat in Larry's bowl.

Looking at that piece of meat, Larry's heart melted.

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Both Joan and Delilah smiled at that sight too. Lucius is all grown up!

"Lucius, why are you so bias? Where's my meat?" Joan pouted childishly.

"Of course I didn't forget about your share, Mom! Dad just happened to be sitting closest to me, that's all. Here you go!" Lucius proceeded to place a piece of meat in both Joan and Delilah's bowls.

His little gesture lit up the room, making their mealtime feel like a return to the blissful and happy times of before.

The next day, the warm morning sun rays shone through the window and drew a diagonal line across Joan's face. She stretched while slowly peeling her eyes open. The nice weather had her in smiles. Just as she turned to hug Larry, she was met with an empty bed. He had already left for work.

That was early. Joan pursed her lips in displeasure.

Back at Norton Corporation, Keith paid a visit to Larry. "Mr. Norton, aren't you making a big deal out of this matter? I didn't even do much to Joan."

His words ticked Larry. Is he saying he could have done things that were much worse to Joan? He continued reading his newspaper. If there was one thing he hated, it was people who challenged his limits.

"Mr. Owens, you should leave. The deed is done, and I have nothing left to discuss with you. Besides, you should know best about the truth," uttered Larry.

This brat! How dare he threaten me! Keith gritted his teeth in an attempt to hold back his rage.

"Mr. Norton, we've already worked together for so many years. We can't just stop so abruptly."

Larry wanted to throw the words back at him. Since he know that we had worked together for so many years, why would he still dare to touch my woman, then? He snorted.

"Send our guest off!" Larry called out to his assistant.

Infuriated by his unbudging attitude, Keith glared ominously at him.

Right then, Caspian came in to diffuse the tension. "Larry, since Mr. Owen already made the first move, why don't we just talk this out and..."

"Shut up and get out!" Larry cut him off.

Caspian hesitated for a few moments before leaving the room, feeling aggrieved.

Just like that, Norton Corporation no longer had any ties with the Owens family. Larry was determined to see this through to the end. In the future, there would be no need for him to hold back on Caiden if he ever harassed Joan again.

Back in the office, Jaden paid Caiden a visit. "Have you really given up on Joan?" he asked dubiously. Jaden was still in disbelief at the fact that not only did Caiden returned to the Owens family, but he had also given up on Joan.

"What are you implying?"

"Nothing. Just curious, that's all!" Based on Jaden's understanding of Caiden, the latter did not seem like the type to give up that easily. Furthermore, Caiden had been in love with her for so many years.

"I only see her as a friend now," Caiden muttered. Now that is a 180-degree change in his attitude, thought Jaden upon hearing that.

"Right. That's that then. Well, now that you've inherited your dad's company, just focus on your work." With that, Jaden left his office.

Now that Caiden was alone, he got up from his seat and went to sit on the couch. He rubbed on his temples methodically. Deep down, he was actually still very much in love with Joan but the latter simply did not have the same feelings for him. Perhaps staying as friends was the best option for both of them.

"Caiden!" The familiar voice worsened his headache.

"What are you doing here? Leave now." Caiden was sick and tired of seeing the woman everywhere.