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Time flew, and Larry had left the country for a week. Although Joan felt a little lonely, she hesitated to give him a call for fear of bothering him.

"Joan, what's up? Do you miss Larry? Just give him a call if that's the case," Jessica said worriedly.

"How can I? He's busy enough with work, I can't bother him," Joan replied.

"Come on, Joan. You should know that to Larry, you're more important than anything else in the world," Jessica comforted her.

Joan couldn't help but feel a little shy upon hearing that.

"To be frank, I really admire the relationship you share with Larry. I mean, you two are still lovey-dovey even after so many years," Jessica murmured.

No matter what happened between Larry and Joan in the past, they were always able to push through all challenges and still love each other as before. Getting a divorce was the most serious incident in the course of their marriage. Nonetheless, they eventually got back together and still love one another.

"There's nothing to admire about because you and Caspian will live together happily as well," Joan added.

Even though Caspian wasn't a romantic man, he was definitely a caring man. Just that trait alone would have gotten him the approval of many women.

In fact, there were a lot of mature women who had taken the initiative to court Caspian in the past. However, none of them had managed to capture his heart until Jessica came along.

"Joan, can you tell me what kind of a man Caspian was in the past? I mean, he's never told me anything about his past," Jessica asked impatiently while sitting down next to Joan and grabbing her arm tightly.

Well...

Joan was hesitant to share it with Jessica because a part of Caspian's past was related to Nancy.

No, I should let Caspian tell his own story to her.

"You should ask him directly if you want to know. I don't know too much about him, after all." Joan shrugged.

"Come on, Joan. Please tell me about it. Since I like you so much, just share it with me." Tugging on Joan's sleeves, Jessica gazed at the former with the most innocent-looking face she could muster.

I almost can't resist it when she acts cute like this! A moment later, Joan flashed Jessica a smile and gently shook her head in response.

"What's with you? Can't you be more polite toward Joan?" said Caspian loudly as he suddenly came up to them.

Urgh... He's yelling at me again! The next moment, Jessica sprang up and walked over to him.

"How dare you talk to me like that?" She glared at him.

"Please spare me from embarrassment in front of Joan. Once she's gone, you can punish me however you want, okay?" Caspian nudged her gently and pled.

Fine! All men wish to preserve their dignity. Jessica relaxed and stop acting coldly.

"Alright, I've got to get going now. There's a lot of work at home that I have to do." Joan gave them an excuse to leave.

She didn't want to stay here any longer to be their third wheel. Besides, she knew that Caspian and Jessica were always acting lovey-dovey to each other whenever there was no one around. As such, she didn't want to bother them too much.

"Joan, wait for me! Let me drive you home!" As he spoke, Caspian started toward her.

Feeling displeased, Jessica caught his necktie, forcing him to stop.

"What are you doing? Let go of me. I have to drive Joan home," Caspian said immediately.

"There's no need for you to drive Joan home," she huffed.

"Come now, stop messing around. I promised Larry to protect her."

"It's fine. You guys just carry on. I'll go home on my own. Don't worry about me!" Standing some distance away, Joan raised her voice so that she could be heard. Jessica chuckled delightedly upon hearing that.

"See, Joan doesn't need you to drive her home," Jessica said playfully.

"You naughty woman!" Caspian pinched her face gently before planting a kiss on it.

"Is everything fine?" Joan asked in a lowered voice in her room.

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"Everything's fine, but I still need more time to complete it," Larry answered.

"I see," Joan replied.

Larry could sense Joan's sadness and helplessness over the phone, and he instantly felt guilty.

"How are you today? Are you unhappy?" Larry asked directly.

"Nope, I'm fine. By the way, I have some good news to share with you. Caspian and Jessica are dating! But they are keeping it as a secret for now," Joan said excitedly.

Hearing that, Larry was still as composed as ever. After all, he had guessed that Jessica would end up with Caspian sooner or later.

"Do you miss me?" Larry blurted suddenly.

Joan froze, not knowing what she ought to reply.

Of course I miss him! I even dreamt about him when I was sleeping. Alas, he isn't by my side now.

"I do, but you have to finish your work first before coming home," Joan replied hurriedly.

Larry was greatly comforted by her answer, and his lips curled into a grin. She truly understands me!

"Sure, I'll be right back once I've finished everything," Larry replied.

They chatted for a little longer before ending the call. As Joan gazed at the crescent moon from the window, her mind wandered into deep thoughts.

"Joan, let's eat some fruits!" Delilah called out suddenly.

"Alright," Joan replied.

"Mom, what's wrong? Are you feeling down? Do you miss Dad?" Lucius asked from the couch he was sitting on.

Why does this kid know everything? Joan took the boy into her arms, tapped on his forehead lightly, and smiled.

"You really know everything. Come and have some fruits." She picked up a piece of apple and stuffed it into his mouth.

"Well, I know a lot because I observe a lot of things. By the way, a boy in my class is fond of a girl. They always go home together after school..." Lucius said blandly.

Joan and Delilah had the urge to laugh upon hearing it.

My gosh, they're just kids, and yet, they are in a relationship already? I guess the era has changed now, huh.

"Well, what about you? Any girl caught your fancy?" Joan probed.

"Me? Of course not! I aspire to be a scientist when I grow up! I don't have the time to think about this kind of thing!" Lucius exclaimed as though he was worried that they wouldn't believe him.

The two adults were relieved to hear that. Although they believed that Lucius was a good student in school, that doesn't mean that he wasn't pestered by girls at school.

"That being said, there is a girl who always plays with me, and she's rather pretty..." Lucius hesitated.

"Larry, when will you be back?" Caspian asked hurriedly over the phone.

Since it had been a long time, he was worried that something untoward would happen to Larry when he was abroad. Given that the situation abroad was way more complicated, Caspian understood that it wouldn't be easy for Larry to solve the problems.

"I still need some time," Larry answered.

Indeed, the problem turned out to be way more complex than what Larry had imagined.

"Larry, you must tell me if you're facing any trouble, okay? Joan and I are worried about you."

"Alright, I get it. I've got to get going now." With that, Larry hung up the phone.

In truth, Larry was a little anxious lately. He initially thought that he could solve all problems within several days. He never expected that the overseas manufacturer, Mr. Lancaster, had disappeared. Everyone said that he had escaped, but Larry didn't believe the rumors.

"Young man, you should go home. He's not coming back," an old man came up to Larry and persuaded him.

"Since it has come to this, he would only be asking for punishment if he comes back," he added.

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Although what the elder man said made sense, Larry believed that Mr. Lancaster wasn't an ungrateful man.

Many days had passed, yet Larry still stayed in the hotel near Mr. Lancaster's house to wait for his return.

As for Mr. Lancaster, he had indeed gotten himself in a tragic situation. He was betrayed, not by an outsider but by his own brother.

To be exact, he was framed by his own brother. Previously, Mr. Lancaster's brother had tried many times to get rid of him so that the former could own the entire factory, but his plans had failed every time. It was only due to Mr. Lancaster letting down his guard that he fell for his brother's trap this time.

Naturally, Larry had no idea about the feud happening in Mr. Lancaster's family and never had any information about his brother. As such, he had no choice but to wait for Mr. Lancaster to show up. Even if Larry were to take the initiative to find Mr. Lancaster's brother, it would have been futile, for the man always hid behind the scenes.

"Why are you still waiting here? I suggest that you stop waiting. Who knows, perhaps he has died long ago," an old lady came up to him slowly and said.

"Indeed. Since the situation is rather chaotic here, we sometimes don't even know if someone is dead already. You should go back and stop wasting your time," another old lady added.

If he's really dead, who will be in charge of everything in his company? Larry felt that something was off.

"Since his business is still here, I don't think he will die so easily," Larry murmured to himself.

The two old ladies chuckled.

"Young man, don't you know that he has a brother? If he's really dead, his brother will take over the company."

"She's right. Who knows, maybe it was his brother who caused all this mess."

Instantly, Larry had his guard up upon hearing that.

"Ma'am, can you tell me where his brother is now?" Larry immediately asked.

"We have no idea because his brother rarely shows himself. However, whenever he does, he likes to make a grand entrance." With that, the two old ladies left.

As Larry watched their retreating figures, a thought suddenly flashed through his mind. He immediately took out his phone and made a call.

"Hello, may I speak to..."

"I'm sorry, our boss isn't here." The receptionist wanted to hang up as soon as she finished.

"What about your boss's brother, then?" Larry added.

The receptionist was stunned for a moment.

"I-I'm sorry, but I'm busy." The receptionist hastily hung up.

Judging from her tone, I'm sure his brother is in the company!

Indeed, what Larry guessed was true.

"Mr. Matthew, someone's looking for you," the receptionist ran hastily into the office and said.

"Who?" The man in the office asked.

"I don't know. He didn't tell me his name."

"Okay, I got it. You may leave now," he said, waving his hand.

Meanwhile, Larry headed to their company without hesitation.

"I want to meet your boss," Larry said politely.

"I'm sorry, sir. But you can't enter without an appointment." The receptionist stopped him.

"Miss, please understand one thing. I am not your customer, and I came all the way from another country. I don't need an appointment!" Larry was insistent on entering the office.

"Sir, I'll have to call the police if you insist," the lady yelled.

Does she think I'll be scared off by her threat? What a joke? Since when have I been afraid of cops?

"I told you, I am your company's partner. Do you hear me?"

Larry brushed her hand away and entered the office.

Bang! The door to the office was flung open abruptly. The next moment, Larry walked into the room, emanating a ferocious aura.

"Who are you? How dare you barge into my office like this?" the man in the office questioned.

"I could ask you the same thing. Are you Mr. Lancaster's brother?" Larry ignored the man's question and got straight to the point.

"Young man, don't be so hasty. Come and have some tea. I've just made it. I'm sure you'll love it," the man said calmly.