Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2453 - 2455

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2453

Indeed, Jessica was over-occupied in recent days; thus, she had been neglecting Caspian lately. Apparently, Caspian could no longer stand it and started to blow off on her.

"That's enough. You know better than me what kind of woman Jessica is. She expressed clearly when she agreed to be your girlfriend that her focus would be on her career. And you promised that you would help her with that. Now, how will you be able to help her with all these negative emotions?" Joan cut him with a frown.

Since you have known everything about her, you should accept them. Isn't this what love is all about? To tolerate each other and try to be in the other's shoes. That's the only way to build a stable relationship, and both of you can get along better. If I behave like you, without a doubt, I would have long broken up with Larry.

"Even though that's true, I still wish we could have a little quality time together." Caspian looked utterly dispirited.

"Hahaha!" Joan failed to suppress her laughter.

Since when did you become such a clingy man? You used to be tough and masculine, without a single sense of romance. But look at you now. I bet you must have fallen for her deeply.

"Wait and see. I'm sure she will come to find you as soon as she finishes her work." Joan patted his shoulder while trying to comfort him.

Nonetheless, sometimes a man could behave like a kid. Actually, there is no harm to coax in front of the woman he loves occasionally. In fact, women dig that. Right at that moment, Joan suddenly thought of Larry. It's been so long since he came to find me. He must be worn out at work.

"Joan, when you started dating with Larry, was it like this too?" Caspian stared at her earnestly, anticipating her answer.

Surely, all relationships will sail through tribulations and difficulties. Sometimes they come from people around us, while sometimes, they come from within the couple. Nevertheless, the secret is to keep an easy mind.

"Of course. Larry and I have been through a lot. He has a successful career, and he is always busy. But I understand that, plus he tried his best to take care of my feelings," Joan responded honestly.

Realization instantly hit Caspian. It seemed that I have been overthinking. In other words, I have been selfish. Even though Jessica is not exactly a workaholic, she is a woman with ambition. I should be caring for her and protecting her instead of creating unnecessary troubles that distract her.

"Okay, I think I got it. Thanks, Joan." Upon saying that, he rushed out.

What a cute man! Joan's lips curled into a contented smile as she stared at Caspian's back figure vanishing into the air.

Just then, her phone rang beside her. She immediately picked it up and turned to speaker mode.

"How are you?" A man's voice echoed from the phone.

A simple three-word phrase was sufficient to warm her heart to the fullest.

"Yup, everything's fine. How about you?" Joan asked caringly.

"I'm fine. But I am swamped these few days, so I can't go back yet..." Larry said hesitatingly.

"Don't worry. I understand. You just go on and focus on your work. Everything's great at home."

Larry let out a sigh of relief after hearing Joan's lovely voice.

Joan was fully aware of the current incidents within Norton Corporation, so she refused to give Larry any extra burden. If it were before, she would seek Larry's opinion in almost every decision around the house. But now, she tried to reduce Larry's worries as much as she could.

The two of them continued to exchange a few words before they hung up.

Joan lifted her head and stared at the cotton-gauze-shaped clouds in the sky, while her face displayed a faint smile.

After all that she had gone through, she came to realize that a peaceful though dull life was indeed the best life. It was indeed a blessing without having to worry about sudden ups and downs in life.

"Joan!" To her surprise, a familiar male voice emerged from behind.

A chill went up her spine and she hesitated to turn her face towards him. How she wished she could ignore him and leave just like that. But the second she lifted her foot, that man appeared in front of her and blocked her way.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2454

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2454

"What a coincidence." She had no choice but to greet him.

Caiden was gazing at her with a complicated expression. "Long time no see."

All his deep yearning for Joan was perfectly expressed with these four words.

Joan was slightly startled by his gesture but immediately resumed her calm and let out an awkward smile.

"Long time no see," she replied faintly.

"I didn't expect to run into you here. Let's dine together," Caiden continued to speak.

Forget it. I should keep my distance from him. I won't want to put my peaceful life at risk!

"I'm sorry, but I need to get home." She gave a quick reply.

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"Joan, are you avoiding me?" He did not seem to let her go easily.

Joan lifted her head slowly to observe him while thinking in her heart. He's changed.

He was wearing a black suit and leather shoes, along with his elegant hairstyle, making him look like a domineering businessman. He is no longer that kid who liked to fool around and was arrogant at times. Joan felt somehow gratified in her heart.

"Nope. Why would I?" Joan flashed him a smile.

"Joan, I'm sorry about what my Dad did to you. I was totally in blind. If I knew..."

"Caiden, it was all history now, isn't it?" Joan interrupted him abruptly.

She's right. It's all history now. But what about them? Are they history too? No way! Caiden had never stopped thinking about her all this while.

"So... can we still be friends then?" A few seconds later, Caiden spat out an unexpected question.

For a moment, Joan was lost for words. If it is just friends, why not!

"Of course. We've always been friends." After some thoughts, she gave a steady response.

"Great. As a friend, I would like to treat you to dinner. Would that be okay?"

He sounded utterly determined and sincere, with a sense of begging within his tone.

"Let's go then." Eventually, she gave in to his invitation.

However, unbeknownst to Caiden, someone had been spying on him all these times, monitoring all his actions and his private life.

"How are you nowadays? Your life must be a lot more peaceful without me, right?" In the restaurant, Caiden was the one who initiated the conversation.

"Yup. I've saved lots of worries without you around," Joan purposely responded.

With that, the previous awkwardness between them faded while they started to chat like good old friends.

Meanwhile, a mysterious figure hid in a corner while taking endless photos, trying his best to capture their meeting.

"I heard that Larry went overseas," Caiden spoke while sipping on his coffee.

"Yeah. He's busy recently," Joan responded without much thought.

"It seems like he really loves you."

Why does he say so out of a sudden? Joan lifted her head and stared at him with a puzzled look.

"You must have known that he terminated all the deals with my family because of you, right?"

At that instant, Joan was dumbstruck by his statement.

She did guess of that before, but Larry assured her that he did so out of the consideration of the company's long-term future. Thus, she did not further suspect after that.

"Is that so?" She asked with an awkward smile.

Caiden could fully comprehend Larry's reason behind that particular decision. After all, no one would want to bear the risk of his loved one getting hurt. This was the exact reason Caiden gave up on Joan back then.

"Let's not talk about this. Who knows, there might still be a chance for us to partner in the future?" Caiden said.

Despite what happened, he still believed that one day Larry would come to know his true personality. Right at the moment, there was somewhat anticipation shining on his expression.

"Mr. Owens, these are the photos for you." A man in the cap handed over a sealed envelope to Caiden's father in the living room.

Keith opened up the envelope and scanned through every one of them.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2455

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2455

Bang! Out of a sudden, those photos were slammed onto the floor.

Joan the sl*t! Why does she still cling on to Caiden? And also Caiden, why must he still hang out with her? Keith rose slowly from his seat and wandered towards the balcony. His gaze darkened as he stared into the distance.

"Keith, what's going on? What are you mad at?" Caiden's mother rushed into the room and asked gently.

"It's all because of your son!" Keith was beyond exasperated.

Caiden? What has he done? Isn't he performing well in the company? She confusedly stared at Keith, unable to wrap her head around it.

"Take a look yourself!" Keith pointed at those photos with his trembling finger.

I see. Both of them were dining in a restaurant. Yes, they looked happy, but this could hardly be considered inappropriate behavior, could it?

She observed all the photos closely but failed to detect any issue.

"What's wrong with the photos? I don't see anything bad. They were just dining together, weren't they?" She gave her opinion with a soft voice.

It's not as simple as it seems. Obviously, that woman is clinging on to my son!

"She is trying to get close to Caiden!" Keith stomped his foot in exasperation.

Unexpectedly, the woman in front of him started laughing. "Keith, you are overthinking. I know my own son perfectly to know that he will never take back his words. And he said that he would never have any relationship with Joan."

As a mother, she was unshaken with her confidence for her beloved son, even though they did not spend much time together. She was sure between him, and Joan was nothing but pure friendship.

"I can't allow this. I must do something." Keith was still mumbling angrily.

Concerned by his motive, Caiden's mother stepped towards Keith.

"Keith, don't act harshly. Joan has not done anything to Caiden, and Caiden is currently excelling in the company, isn't he? If you stick your nose into his business, I'm afraid he will create a fuss later," she persuaded anxiously.

However, Keith was too furious at the moment to accept her wise advice.

What a stubborn old man! He says that Caiden never comes back until there is a dead end. Wasn't he the same when he was young?

Slowly, darkness began consuming the city. Staring at the desolate moon in the sky, Caiden was feeling extraordinarily lonely.

Back when Joan was still by his side, he was easily satisfied by her presence alone. She would not need to do anything, and he could still feel like the luckiest man on this planet. Unfortunately, reality had changed. Even if Joan might be close with him physically, their hearts felt like light-years apart.

"What's concerning you? Are you alright?" Joan asked with care, supposedly as a normal friend.

"Nothing." Caiden shook his head while displaying a helpless expression.

Maybe he's just tired. She turned her face away and gazed out of the window.

"Joan, I wanted to ask you something." Just then, Caiden opened his mouth again.

"Yes?" Joan shifted her gaze back to him.

"We've known each other for such a long time. Tell me something. Did you ever love me? I want an honest answer."

Apparently, that question was meaningless at the moment, and the answer was rather obvious.

"Where is this coming from?" Joan smiled with a complicated look.

If she answers a yes, I will give all in to pursue her. I will love her, protect her, take care of her and never leave her. But I know her answer would be a no.

"Nothing. I was just curious about it. Please give me an honest answer," Caiden said.

Joan knew perfectly that she could not possibly say yes, even if that was true. Moreover, there had always been one man in her heart, and that was Larry.

"Caiden, we have always been friends, haven't we?" Joan wisely directed the question back to him.