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Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2097 - 2098

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2097

The whole time, Joan was completely lost in her thoughts. She kept wondering about the reasons why Larry did not answer her calls and whatever he might be doing now. Could he have forgotten about the field trip?

“Mom?” Lucius tugged on his mother again, a little forcefully this time.

“Ah? Yes, dear?” Joan said.

Oh, come on! Mom’s not even paying attention to me! Lucius hung his head low.

“Joan, Lucius says he wants to sponsor the school when he grows up.” Sensing the awkwardness between the mother and son, Caiden casually smoothed the matter over.

Thank goodness you’re here, Caiden. Joan grinned.

“That’s wonderful, Lucius. I’ll always support you.” Joan solemnly observed the boy in front of her.

He was still a kid, after all. As long as he had support, Lucius would get all excited, especially with Joan and Larry’s encouragement.

“Yes, Mom. You think so too, don’t you? Caiden’s really awesome...” Lucius exclaimed.

Caiden, who was listening from the side, could not believe his ears.

What an innocent and kind little boy! Perhaps this is how children from the villages turn out to be. Simple and modest, with none of the pretense usually found in city kids. Gosh, I think I’m starting to like this kid. Maybe, he’ll be able to help me out later on!

Soon, the teachers, the students, along with their parents arrived at the great outdoors. It did not look particularly dangerous in any way, just a lot more bushes and shrubs. Under normal

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circumstances, children were most afraid of the wild and unfamiliar, but they felt more courageous with their parents around, and so they were actively willing to take on any task.

As it got darker, the headmaster motioned for them to stop. They had arrived at the site where they would set up camp. They were relieved and put down their belongings.

“Alright, take a break, everyone. Let’s get down to cooking,” the headmaster bellowed excitedly.

All the kids cheered. Lighting a fire and cooking in a place like that seemed like a very dangerous thing to do, but everyone worked together and managed to pull it off.

“Come, everyone. Sit down and have a chat. Parents, can you share with us how your children are doing so far? Maybe talk about their dreams and plans for the future?” said the homeroom teacher, hoping to start a conversation.

In less than five minutes, all students and their parents had gathered. Lucius stuck close to Joan and Caiden. He was certainly an obedient child.

The homeroom teacher began, “Let me just say that there are some children who have been performing exceptionally well in school. They do an excellent job with their homework, and they get along very well with their classmates. Here, I’d like to commend them.”

The children straightened their backs as they listened to her. Lucius was also looking ahead expectantly, awaiting his teacher’s revelation.

“There is one student in particular I’d like to specially draw attention to. His name is Lucius. As every student here knows, he is the most hospitable one in class, and very hardworking as well. So, I’d like to invite Lucius’ mother to say a few words,” the teacher announced.

There was a round of applause. The parents were excited, most likely because Caiden was sitting next to the child. Who can resist someone like Caiden? He has the sophistication of a scholar!

“Come, now. Tell us, how do you look after Lucius at home?” The homeroom teacher threw a question at Joan.

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How shall I put it? Larry was the one, not her, who had been watching Lucius nowadays. Hence, she was not familiar with whatever was going on with Lucius lately.

She spent all day in the hospital taking care of Ms. Young, so much so that she barely asked about Lucius' performance in school.

"First and foremost, I apologize. There's a lot going on at home at the moment, so I've been neglecting him a bit. His father's been looking after him. I know, he's my responsibility. But actually, Lucius has always been a smart kid..." Joan spoke in a low voice.

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She spoke of Lucius' home life with passion and in detail.

She might not have participated in his past but, ever since adopting him, she remembered very clearly every single moment they spent together. She recalled the way he did his homework, and when he helped Ms. Young water her plants, helped Joan herself with the housework, laundry, among other chores.

Sometimes, after she ended her shift at the supermarket and was so exhausted that she collapsed on the sofa once she got home, Lucius would come over and massage her shoulders and back.

The parents around her listened very intently to her story. Even Caiden found himself attracted to Joan's tone and expressions.

"There you go. That's our boy, Lucius. I'm always thankful to the heavens for granting me such a wonderful child..." As her tale came to an end, a round of applause filled the air.

"Lucius really is a good kid..."

"I say, we really ought to learn from his mother..."

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"I do agree. Look at him. He must have inherited good genes, with such a handsome father and a good-looking mother. Both of them are so educated, well-mannered, and seem to have great parenting skills. No wonder Lucius turns out so fine..."

"Nonsense! Mr. Caiden's not the father. He's just attending the field trip on behalf of Lucius' real father." Another woman gently shoved the one in front of her for making the wrong assumption.

"Oh, my goodness! I've got it all wrong. I didn't know."

"Don't worry about it. Next, let's have Mr. Owens say a few words too, shall we?" The homeroom teacher arranged for the next speaker.

Caiden raised his head slightly and smiled at the group. He did not come prepared with a speech. He merely believed that no matter who the children lived with or where they stayed, happiness should take priority.

"Lucius, tell me. Are you happy?" Caiden patted the child on the back.

Lucius was stunned for a moment as he glanced at the man, and then quickly composed himself.

"Yes. I'm very happy," Lucius answered without missing a beat.

Caiden turned away to look at the adults at the campsite.

"It's just like what Lucius said. As long as he's happy, that's more than enough. To the children, it doesn't matter who attended the field trip with them, whether it be their parents or other relatives. And it doesn't matter how the trip starts and when it'll end. As long as they're happy, I suppose we've achieved our goal..."

A round of applause came from the crowd before Caiden even finished.

Although the field trip was a product of Caiden's selfish intentions, he truly meant what he said.

In the past, he did not like kids very much. In fact, one might even say that he hated them, absolutely abhorred them, because he thought of children as a menace. They would cry and

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cause trouble for no reason at all. And then it would be the parents or teachers who would have to clean up their mess. Now that he thought about it, it was exactly those experiences that allowed the children to gradually learn and grow into the adults they would one day become. Moreover, that was how he himself came to be. What excuse did he have to feel disdain or contempt towards them?

“So, please, I implore you. Take good care of your children, especially when it comes to morals. You’ll always be your child’s first teacher...”

He spoke in a formal manner, his delivery no different from that of the headmaster, and with the air of a wise scholar.

“As expected of a college graduate! He’s so classy even when he speaks!”

“Yes, he’s brilliant...”

Some parents, filled with admiration and envy, had begun to talk about Caiden among themselves.

The so-called “chat” went on for some more time after that. It was only over after the headmaster gave his final statement.

“Alright, everyone! Bear in mind, safety first. Every family gets a tent. Students, you’ll be helping your parents to set them up...”

It was then that Joan had an epiphany. *Oh my gosh! One tent? How are we supposed to sleep? Sharing a tent with Lucius is fine, of course, but Caiden? Why, if that gets out, we’ll be the talk of the town!*

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