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Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2961 - 2970

Chapter 2961 Larry Was Lying

Although Fred had now suffered quite a bit of loss, he was determined to find the culprit and propel the company to greater heights one day.

“Okay, I got it. I’ll definitely do my best to get to the bottom of it,” Larry promised. He knew that Fred wouldn’t be able to hang on for much longer considering his current condition, and Della was reckless at times, so he had no choice but to help in the matter.

“As for Della, I can only apologize to you on her behalf. You’ll hear no complaints from me no matter how you want to handle her in the future. It’s indeed time to teach her a lesson. I’m afraid that I won’t have the opportunity to educate her anymore, so Larry, I implore you to treat her like a sister henceforth,” Fred beseeched.

He was a reasonable person, so he naturally understood Larry’s feelings. Love couldn’t be forced in the first place, so there wouldn’t be any positive outcome no matter how hard one party tried if the other party didn’t feel the same.

“You’ll definitely recover, Mr. Duff. Didn’t the doctor say that there’s still a high possibility of recovery?” Larry hastily countered.

Truthfully speaking, he was a tad reluctant to part with the elderly man.

It was indeed a great honor for him to meet such a venerated elder in the intricate business world. Alas, that pleasure was almost all but extinguished by Della.

“I’ll be undergoing an operation shortly. I’ll be able to live longer if the operation is successful, but if otherwise, then I’ll be entrusting Della and the company to you.”

Of course, what Fred meant by that was only having Larry manage the company in trust until Della had matured and grown stronger.

“Don’t say such a negative thing, Mr. Duff. Don’t worry about the company and Della. Just rest at home, for I’ll handle everything for you,” Larry avowed, patting himself on the chest.

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As Fred looked at the man in front of him, a smile finally bloomed on his face.

Why isn't he out yet when it's been so long? Anxiety gripped Della as she stared at the study upstairs. It must be an exceedingly serious matter. Otherwise, why would Dad talk to him for such a long time? What exactly happened? And why is Dad keeping me in the dark?

Tilting her head, she plunged into deep contemplation as a faint sense of dread pervaded her.

At long last, the two men walked out of the study after what seemed like an eternity.

Suspicion plagued Della as she stared at the men who were descending the stairs. However, it seemed as though everything was fine from their expressions.

"Dad, I'll see Larry out." As she said that, she stepped forward and took Larry's arm with a smile.

Fred naturally saw through her, but he didn't stop her since had he had already reached a consensus with Larry earlier.

"What did my father tell you, Larry? What exactly happened? Tell me!" Della urged anxiously while shaking his arm.

Nonetheless, Larry remembered Fred's instructions, so he merely smiled at the woman before him.

"Nothing much. We just discussed work for a bit, so don't worry," Larry replied softly, patting her shoulder lightly.

Upon glimpsing the different look in his eyes, Della frowned slightly.

Despite not having known him for long, she was already very much familiar with his character.

For that reason, she knew that he was lying.

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She scrutinized his expression closely in an attempt to glean some clues. "Tell me the truth, Larry. What exactly happened?"

When did she become so perceptive? Nonetheless, Larry merely shook his head without saying anything. Then, he spun around to leave.

"Larry!"

Sensing her unease, Larry finally relented and murmured, "Your father isn't feeling well recently, so take good care of him. He merely asked me to make a trip overseas on his behalf."

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2962

Chapter 2962 Jake Confronted Abelyn

Is that really all? As Della stared at Larry's disappearing back, her expression was one of intense worry.

When Larry arrived home, Joan was already asleep on the sofa. He slowly walked over and reached out to carry her to the bedroom, but she suddenly woke up at that precise moment.

"You're back?" Joan immediately greeted him while rubbing her eyes.

"Yeah. Why didn't you go into the bedroom to sleep?" Larry inquired gently as he stroked her hair.

"I have trouble sleeping by myself in the bedroom." Joan hugged the man in front of her tightly, refusing to let go no matter what.

For some inexplicable reason, a thrill shot through Larry at the sight of her reliance on him. Now that our lives have finally settled down, we no longer have to live in fear like before. At that thought, Larry's hands around her tightened a fraction.

Indeed, everyone thought that life would be peaceful in the future. But unbeknownst to them, incident after incident would befall them in the coming days.

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“Drop the act! I’ve already investigated everything, and it was you who orchestrated Joan’s kidnapping back then!” Sitting in a corner in a café, Jake stared at the woman across from him coldly.

So what? Didn’t they let me go in the end because they didn’t have sufficient evidence? Abelyn smirked as she took a sip of her coffee. I want her to die a ghastly death! I simply want her to disappear from the face of the earth! Only then will my anger be quenched!

“You’re the president of a company, so do keep your identity in mind. I think you know full well what’s appropriate and inappropriate, so I don’t need to remind you to watch your words, yes? And as long as you can furnish me with the evidence, I’ll admit that it was me,” Abelyn drawled with feigned seriousness.

Evidence? The evidence is those few men who took the negotiation abroad! Alas, Larry actually allowed them to escape! But then again, if those men hadn’t fled, perhaps Joan wouldn’t be alive now.

“Abelyn, don’t think I’m unaware that you’re working with Della Duff. So, why attempt to keep it a secret time and again?” Jake blurted out of the blue.

Huh? That’s strange. How did he know about that? Astonished, Abelyn gaped at Jake across from her.

“You should know that what is done by night appears by day. I already know everything you’ve done, so why bother putting on a hypocritical act in front of me?”

As Jake gazed at the people coming and going outside the window, a flash of delight flickered across his eyes. It’ll be great if I’m able to obtain evidence!

“My goal in asking you out this time is simply to advise you not to waste time anymore. You’re not their match. Abelyn, you have your own career to contend with, so why focus your energy and attention on such a trivial matter?” He sounded extremely sincere and solemn.

However, it was water off a duck’s back to Abelyn.

That’s my business, okay? She lifted her head and glowered at the man across from her with a hint of chagrin in her eyes. Damn it! Why is he so talkative today?

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"Is there anything else? If not, please excuse me." As she said that, she snagged her handbag from the side and whirled around to leave.

"Wait!" Jake abruptly called her back. "Don't hurt her anymore henceforth," he warned sternly.

Hmph! Why should I listen to you? Turning back to him, Abelyn stared at him stonily as aggravation surged within her. No matter what, I must have my revenge! Back then, I willingly got taken because of her, but in the blink of an eye, she then betrayed me! What a travesty!

Saying nary a word, she then strode out on her skyscraper heels that clicked against the ground. Without a backward glance, she slipped into the car while emanating a cold aura.

No one can stop me!

In the café, Jake remained sitting in the corner. While stirring his coffee, he watched the car that drove away. Abelyn, Abelyn... when did you become so foolish?

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2963

Chapter 2963 Who Would You Side With

Shaking his head, Jake heaved a sigh. Ah, this is all thanks to Della Duff!

"Where did you go that you're only home at this hour?" Dustin instantly sprang up from the sofa and strode over to the woman who was slowly making her way into the house.

Chuckling, Abelyn replied sheepishly, "I just went out for a drive."

Oh, really? But why did someone tell me that she was with Jake Wilson this afternoon? Could it be that the two have of them have again struck up a deal?

Dustin eyed the woman in front of her, his stomach in knots. He found her behaving rather out of character these days. She had lost her bubbly and cheerful disposition of the past,

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turning grim instead. Many a time, she would space out though he had no idea what she was thinking. Don't tell me she betrayed Joan?

"What did you do this afternoon?" he deliberately asked.

"Nothing. Why?" Abelyn swiftly replied.

As Dustin studied the woman before him, a wave of displeasure welled within him for some reason. He hated being lied to no matter who it was.

His hands clenched into fists, and suspicion glinted in his eyes. Argh! I love her so much, yet she went to meet Jake Wilson behind my back! No matter the reason, she should still tell me about it, no?

At the sight of his towering rage, something occurred to Abelyn.

"I went to meet Jake Wilson today," she admitted in a mere whisper with her head lowered.

All at once, Dustin's eyes lit up. Clutching her shoulders, he promptly questioned, "And then? Why did he ask you out? And what did he say to you?"

Fear seized him that she would be manipulated by Jake.

"He just wanted to instigate me to hurt Joan, but don't worry, for I've already declined. Joan is my best friend, so how could I possibly hurt her?" Abelyn murmured though the disdain brimming in her eyes told another story altogether.

Phew! Fortunately, she didn't get taken in! Breathing a sigh of relief, Dustin hugged her tightly. However, stark disappointment enveloped Abelyn.

Do I always come second to Joan Watts in his heart? At that thought, a cold gleam flashed across her eyes.

"Dustin, what if... This is a purely hypothetical question, okay? What if Joan and I had a huge row one day? What would you do? Who would you side with?" Abelyn asked, staring at the man in front of her seriously.

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In all honesty, Dustin had never found that question difficult.

Indeed, he had once loved Joan, but the person he now loved was undoubtedly Abelyn. However, regardless of whom he loved, he would still side with the person in the right.

In that sense, he was still very much rational.

“Why would you suddenly ask that?” he queried in a low voice, kissing her on the forehead gently. He knew that his answer wasn’t the one she wanted.

“Answer me! You must answer me!” Abelyn urged frantically.

“Alright, let’s have dinner, okay?” As Dustin said that, he headed in the direction of the dining room while dragging her along.

“Dustin Silverman!” Abelyn snapped as she blew a gasket. Could it be that everything he said back then was a huge lie? And don’t tell me that everything between us now is also fake?

“You would side with Joan, right? You still love her, don’t you? What about me, then? What am I to you?” Abelyn bellowed in a shaky voice.

Why did she suddenly become so unreasonable? Dustin regarded the woman in front of him skeptically as aggravation swamped him. While she still quibbled with me in the past, she never once acted this unreasonable and kept harping on the same thing! She knows full well that she shouldn’t bring up Joan before me, yet she has compared herself to her time and again. How pointless!

Suppressing the brewing fury within him, he forced the corners of his mouth up and flashed her a smile. “Alright, cut it out. Let’s eat, or the food will get cold.”

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2964

Chapter 2964 A Gift From Jessica

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"I'm not eating! I want a definite answer from you today, Dustin Silverman! Tell me, who exactly do you love? Is it me or Joan?" Abelyn roared.

What the hell? What nonsense is she spouting? Would I date her if I don't love her? What on earth is wrong with her that she suddenly flew off the handle?

"Abelyn, I won't take sides. Do you get it now? I'll naturally side with whoever of you is in the right!" Dustin hastily explained.

Finally, Abelyn understood. So, what he meant is that he won't help me wholeheartedly!

Her gaze abruptly darkened at his answer.

"I'm tired and would like to rest, so you go ahead and eat." As she said that, she turned around and went upstairs.

As Dustin gazed at her petite figure, a sense of helplessness flooded him.

Perhaps I should have coaxed her and said that I'd always side with her no matter what she did, but I just couldn't lie to myself. Why couldn't she be reasonable when Joan could? Anyone sensible would never force someone else to make such a promise. Also, why is she behaving so out of character today? Could it be because of Jake Wilson? What the hell did that b*stard say to her?

Meanwhile, Larry was typing on the keyboard incessantly in the office, appearing extremely busy.

"Larry!" All of a sudden, Jessica barged in.

Ugh! What is she doing here now? Larry lifted his head and cast her a seemingly nonchalant glance without saying anything. Hah! I haven't even taken her to task for kissing Joan back then!

"Aw, don't be so petty, Larry! I just kissed your woman, no? What's the big deal about that? You're so vindictive! If you want to get even, just go and kiss Caspian, okay?" Jessica offered wickedly, pouting.

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"No way!" Larry abruptly went into a coughing fit, probably having been irked by her suggestion.

"Goodness, take it easy, Larry! Don't be angry. Calm down, okay? Look, I even came here today to apologize!" As Jessica said that, she placed a gift in front of him.

Hmm? What is this? Larry eyed the woman before him with a trace of wariness in his gaze.

"This is a gift from me, so I'd be honored if you'd accept it," Jessica continued.

Huh? This doesn't make sense. She has always been stingy as hell, so why is she suddenly so generous to give me a gift today? Larry leaned back against the chair, suspicion written all over his face.

"Well? What's your purpose in seeking me out?" he drawled.

"Why are you making it sound so shady, Larry? I just want to give you a gift as thanks for having taken care of me all this while and even given me a bank card," Jessica replied sheepishly.

However, Larry wasn't taken in. Instead, he cut her off and ordered, "Get straight to the point."

"Hehe, well... do you mind giving Caspian some time off? I'd like to go on a vacation with him," Jessica murmured shyly, dipping her head.

Well, I rest my case. I just knew that she wouldn't be giving me a gift for no reason!

"Then, it depends on whether your gift is valuable." While saying that, Larry opened the gift box.

"Of course! It's extremely valuable! I spent almost a million on this watch!" Jessica hurriedly expounded.

Hmm... not bad. This is indeed a branded watch, and if my memory serves, this is probably a limited-edition watch. When did she become so generous?

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Lifting his head, Larry shot her a smile.

“It’s been a long time since we last went on a vacation. When I brought it up to him in the past, he always declined!” Jessica sounded exceedingly aggravated.

In that, Larry admitted that he had indeed been negligent.

Ever since Caspian started working with me, he rarely has time to rest. Now that he has a girlfriend, I should indeed give him some time off.

“Alright, I got it. I’ll talk to him. Also, thanks,” Larry said with a smile as he pointed at the watch on his table.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2965

Chapter 2965 A Sense of Dread

Yay! I’ve finally gotten him to agree to it! Jessica then happily left Larry’s office.

Meanwhile, Caspian, who was outside the office, was puzzled when he saw her elated expression. Has she gotten a boon from Larry or something again? He gazed at her disappearing back in mystification.

“You asked for me, Larry?” Caspian blurted the moment he pushed open the office door.

“Yup. Starting tomorrow, you don’t have to come to work. I’m giving you a week off, so spend it with Jessica,” Larry said solemnly.

Huh? What’s this? Why is he suddenly giving me time off? Don’t tell me Jessica said something or other to him?

“No, it’s fine, Larry. I’m not tired,” Caspian declined tactfully.

I can’t simply leave Norton Corporation when things have just calmed down. Who knows whether Jake Wilson and Della Duff will cause trouble again?

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“Why, are you not going to listen to me? You’re not allowed to come to work tomorrow onward, or you don’t have to come to work anymore.” Larry’s voice was extremely austere.

Upon seeing his resolute expression, Caspian didn’t argue further. Instead, he slowly left the office.

Raising his head, Larry stared at his retreating back. Out of the blue, a sliver of envy crept into him.

Ah, since Jessica and Caspian got together, nothing ever happened to impede their relationship. They’d been lovey-dovey and affectionate with each other, drawing the envy of others. Once, I had such a relationship as well, but everything is different now. Fortunately, Joan has returned to my side, so that’s enough for me.

Ring, ring!

“When are you planning to depart, Larry?” Fred sounded extremely serious.

That was an awkward question, for Larry had just given Caspian time off. It went without saying that Jessica wouldn’t be in the office as well these few days, so what would become of the company if he were to go abroad?

“Is the matter over there truly that urgent, Mr. Duff?” he asked, cutting straight to the chase.

“It’s exceedingly urgent,” Fred answered resolutely.

Oh well, it looks like I’ve got no choice this time.

“Okay, I’ll definitely depart tomorrow, so don’t worry.”

The two men then exchanged some pleasantries before they both hung up.

“I’m going abroad tomorrow, so keep a close eye on the company. Remember, if anything happens, you must inform me timely. It’s been too peaceful recently that I feel really uneasy,” Larry said to his assistant before him.

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“Should I find someone to go with you, Mr. Norton?” The assistant’s expression was colored with worry.

“Don’t worry about me, for I’ll be fine. I’m just worried about the company.” A hint of unease manifested in Larry’s eyes. For some reason, a sense of dread plagued him.

Could it be that Jake Wilson is again plotting something? Or is Della up to her tricks again? If they both team up against me, I’ll really have a problem dealing with them! Oh God, you’ve truly got to keep a close eye on Della, Mr. Duff!

Subsequently, Larry turned his head and gazed out the window, his expression a touch desolate.

Also, there’s Joan to consider. I’m really afraid that something will happen to her. She isn’t aware of Abelyn’s motives yet, so she likely won’t be on her guard against her. No, I’ve got to remind her to be careful!

“Nancy, I’m going abroad soon, so please help me take care of Joan if you’re free,” Larry implored softly as he held his cell phone to his ear.

He could no longer go to Dustin and Abelyn while Jessica and Caspian were going abroad for a vacation, so Nancy was naturally the only viable choice.

“Why are you being such a stranger with me, Larry? What’s this about taking care of Joan? I’m happy to have her chat, shop, and catch some movies with me!” Nancy countered at once.

But beside her, Jory was disgruntled with impatient etched on his face. Why is he always troubling the two of us? What could happen to Joan if she were to be left on her own?

“Alright, stop throwing a tantrum. Larry and Joan have helped me a lot in the past,” Nancy muttered while massaging his shoulders.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2966

Chapter 2966 Gabriella Came Knocking

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Yes, yes, it's exactly because they've helped her a lot that she keeps bringing up Larry Norton and Joan Watts every day! Worse still, she always agrees whenever they ask something of her!

Jory threw Nancy a look, not in the mood to entertain the woman in front of him anymore.

"Okay, stop sulking. It's just a few days, so there's no need for you to be this mad. Larry is a businessman, and the same goes for you, so the two of you may even have the opportunity for collaboration in the future."

"Hah! I have no interest in collaborating with him!" As Jory said that, he got up and stormed up the stairs.

In truth, he was merely sick of it all.

Life is between two people, so why should it involve others? When Joan was sick, we had to visit her; when she got missing, we had to send people to look for her; when she was angry, we even had to cajole her surreptitiously... If I'd known that this would've happened, I would've forbidden Nancy from keeping in contact with them!

Meanwhile, Joan was reading newspaper in the living room.

"What are you doing?" Larry inquired softly as he walked in.

"Reading newspaper for a bit. Why are you so late today?" Joan asked gently even as she stood up and headed toward him.

"There's quite a lot of work in the office recently. Oh yes, I'm going on a business trip tomorrow, so you must be careful at home alone," Larry urged with feigned calmness.

Truth be told, he was reluctant to part with her though his greater worry was over her safety. Nonetheless, he had no choice but to leave since he had already promised Fred previously.

"Huh? You're leaving tomorrow itself?" Joan echoed in disappointment, lowering her head as her gaze dimmed. Unbidden, reluctance welled within her.

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“Don’t worry, for I’ll be back very soon.” Larry hugged her tightly from behind and kissed her neck lightly.

Okay, then. I understand his situation. Joan nodded without saying anything.

“Joan, promise me that you’ll stay home as much as possible. If you really want to go out, have Nancy keep you company,” Larry urged while clutching her petite hands tightly.

What’s wrong with him? Why is he suddenly so apprehensive when it’s been rather peaceful recently? Puzzlement showed on Joan’s face.

“Alright, I got it. Don’t worry, for I’m not a three-year-old kid. I’ll be careful,” she promptly assured while gently caressing the hair at his forehead.

Sure enough, after Larry had gone abroad while Jessica and Caspian had started their vacation the next day, Joan obediently stayed home instead of going out. Nancy, on the other hand, was still mollifying Jory.

Very quickly, news of Larry having gone abroad and Caspian being away reached Della. And thus, she started scheming and plotting again.

Hmph! I’ll see who can save you this time, Joan Watts! A sneer played on her lips as she stood before the window, and a malicious gleam glinted in her eyes.

“Della Duff, let me warn you that I’m still in the country even if Larry Norton has gone abroad. So, you’d better behave. Don’t do anything to Joan!” Jake’s voice was threaded with steely warning through the phone.

Good God, he actually still wants to protect that b*tch! Della’s eyes shone with a murderous glint. “Mind your own business, Jake Wilson! Don’t go poking your nose where you don’t belong!”

After saying that, she hung up the phone. Hmph! What do I have to fear now? Her lips curved into a smirk. Then, she clenched her jaw tightly as her expression contorted with malice.

Well, well... You’ll never escape me, Joan Watts!

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Knock, knock, knock! A series of loud and urgent knocks rang out at the door.

Hmm? Who could that be? Upon hearing the knocking, Joan instantly bolted up with apprehension etched on her face.

“Larry!”

This voice sounds rather familiar... Joan slowly got out of bed and walked out of the room.

“Open up, Larry! It’s me, Gabriella!” Outside the door, the woman’s voice was exceedingly coy.

Gabriella? Don’t tell me it’s that Gabriella? What has she got to do with Larry? All at once, Joan’s guard went up. Don’t tell me she’s now his mistress? No, that’s impossible! Larry isn’t the kind of person who would cheat!

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2967

Chapter 2967 I Am His Girlfriend

“I missed you so much, Larry!”

That single utterance had fury blazing within Joan. Damn you, Larry! He has truly gotten himself a mistress out there!

“Larry isn’t here!” Joan snapped at the woman in front of her after swinging open the door.

Hmm? She looks rather familiar, but why can’t I remember who she is? Gabriella scratched her head as she scrutinized Joan intently. Likewise, Joan shared her sentiments.

But for some reason, besides familiarity, the first feeling that struck her at the sight of Gabriella was predominantly fear.

“Where’s Larry? Also, who are you, and why are you here?” Gabriella demanded loudly as she thrust a finger in Joan’s face.

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Indeed, she had lost her memories a year ago. Apart from her family, Larry was the only person she remembered.

"I'm Larry's girlfriend," Joan answered firmly. Hmph! I just want to see what she's trying to do now!

"What? Larry has a girlfriend now? Why? Why didn't you wait for me, Larry?" All of a sudden, Gabriella crouched and started wailing.

Oh my God, what bad luck! How did I get stuck in this mess? Joan's expression turned dour.

"Um... Why don't you get up first? Larry is really not home. He has gone on a business trip, so I'll tell him that you came over when he returns," she suggested while helping the woman on the ground up.

In truth, she was truly incensed just now, but she then felt bad at the sight of Gabriella's heart-rending sobs.

"I'd like to have some water," Gabriella entreated coquettishly as she wiped the tears on her face.

"Alright, alright. Come, I'll get you some water."

As the two women sat on the sofa in the living room, the atmosphere was a tad awkward. Gabriella looked around with dejection in her eyes.

How could Larry date another woman? How could he abandon me? At that thought, the grief within her bubbled over, and she started weeping again.

As Joan stared at the tormented expression of the woman before her, unease welled within her. She didn't quite know what to say or how to face her. Ah, I must have owed her in the past lifetime! Otherwise, why would she suddenly turn up here?

"What's your name?" Gabriella abruptly stopped crying and asked seriously, her gaze pinned on the woman in front of her.

"I'm Joan Watts," Joan hastily replied, not daring to dawdle for a single moment.

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"Nice to meet you, Joan. I'm Gabriella Ward," Gabriella declared.

I know. And? She has had water and cried her heart out, so shouldn't she be leaving since Larry is truly not at home now?

Looking at her expectantly, Joan forced a smile.

"Come! Come here!" As Gabriella said that, she pulled her into the washroom.

"Say, which of us is more beautiful?" she questioned softly while pointing at the mirror.

Huh? What kind of question is that? Why is she suddenly debating such a pointless subject when she was just fine earlier?

"Well? Answer me! Tell me who's more beautiful!" Gabriella raised her voice and demanded in a near shout.

"You, you. Of course, you're more beautiful," Joan hastily replied. Well, she's indeed beautiful, but she's cuckoo.

"Then, why does Larry like you instead of me? Why?"

"Uh... please stop crying. You've been crying for a long time, so you should stop while you're ahead. If you continue doing so, your makeup is going to end up ruined!" Joan quickly cajoled.

"Who cares? Larry isn't here, so what does it matter?" Gabriella started howling at the top of her lungs once more.

Oh God, this is ridiculous! Taking a deep breath, Joan closed her eyes and tried to compose herself.

"Okay, okay. Then, how about having some water before you continue crying? Your tears are drying up, so you've got to drink some water to replenish." While saying that, Joan pushed her out.

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Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2968

Chapter 2968 Did You Not Take Your Medication

“Okay, I’ll have some water!” As Gabriella said that, she picked up the glass at the side and guzzled the water at one go. Then, she slumped back against the sofa and started wallowing in tears again.

Good heavens! Has she gone mad? What’s there to cry about? It’s just a man, no? Is this really necessary? There are tons of men who are more handsome and outstanding than Larry out there, so why must she show dogged determination on him? Ah well, she can just cry if she wishes to do so. Anyway, she’s not going to listen to me.

Joan then cast her a glance before heading to the kitchen.

After some time, Gabriella dozed off on the sofa. When Joan came out of the kitchen, she was actually snoring away.

Oh well, she’s probably exhausted from all the crying she did.

Joan shook her head while staring at her before sighing softly.

“I’m starving!” Gabriella suddenly shouted while rubbing her stomach. Her holler had the woman in the kitchen jumping in fright.

“T-The food is almost ready, so go and wash your hands,” Joan replied from the kitchen.

“Wow! It smells good!” While saying that, Gabriella charged into the kitchen. Snagging a piece of meat from the plate, she unceremoniously shoved it into her mouth.

“Hey, hey, what are you doing? Go and wash your hands!” Joan immediately stepped forward to stop her, pushing her into the washroom. Is she really that hungry?

In the next instant, a rare smile bloomed on her face. Actually, she’s quite adorable!

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"Your cooking is delicious, Joan! It tastes even better than my housemaid's cooking!" Gabriella exclaimed in delight while smacking her dainty lips.

Of course! How can my cooking compare to that of the average person? Joan lifted her chin slightly as pride suffused her. Although this incident today is rather bizarre, it's quite lucky to meet a fellow foodie!

However, she was a foodie who loved to cook scrumptious fare.

"Why do you love cooking so much? I only like to eat. I don't like to cook," Gabriella commented softly as she suddenly raised her head.

Joan had indeed never considered that question. She didn't know when she started growing fond of cooking.

Well, perhaps it's after I met Larry. Yeah, that's right. For some reason, I love making various types of food for him after meeting him. And every time I see him enjoying the food I make, I feel especially gratified.

"Joan." All of a sudden, Gabriella feigned a pitiful expression.

Good Lord, what is she up to now? In a flash, Joan's senses went on high alert.

"Cook delicious food for me often in the future, okay?"

Huh? Why? Joan's eyes went wide as incredulity flooded her. Of course not! I'm not her housemaid! Furthermore, why should I cook for her? I've got tons of work to do, so I don't have the time to do so!

"Um... I'm usually pretty swamped, so you should just ask your housemaid to cook for you," she declined tactfully.

"No! I want to eat your cooking! Your cooking tastes far better than theirs! How about..." Gabriella abruptly dipped her head, seemingly in contemplation.

"What is it?" Joan prompted while looking at the woman in front of her curiously.

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"How about we start an eatery together?" Gabriella exclaimed out of the blue.

Hearing that, Joan instantly was stumped. Why is she going all over the place? Starting an eatery is indeed a good idea, but it's not something to be done on a whim. After all, it requires tremendous time and effort.

"Did you not take your medication before leaving the house today, Gabriella?" Joan could sense that she wasn't in the right frame of mind.

"How did you know that? You're amazing!" The woman in front of her clasped her hands and looked up at her in adulation.

Goodness, what on earth have I experienced today? Joan thumped her head hard in a bid to clear her mind.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2969

Chapter 2969 Gabriella Stayed

"Pretty please? I'll contribute financially, while you contribute in terms of labor. Then, I'll get to eat your cooking," Gabriella murmured sheepishly. "If you don't agree, I'm going to stay right here until you do!" she suddenly declared at the top of her lungs.

Fine by me. Just stay here, then. Joan threw her a disgruntled look. I indeed want to open an eatery, but I don't want to collaborate with a stranger, who's also not quite right in the head!

"Sure! It's just me in the house, so you can even keep me company if you stay," she deliberately remarked while chewing the food in her mouth.

Hmm? It's just her in the house? That's great! Gabriella's lips curved into a mischievous smile.

Oh dear, she must have thought of something dreadful again! As Joan gazed at the freaky expression in front of her, unease pervaded her.

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“Will you please lend me your cell phone, my dear Joan? I forgot to bring my cell phone when I left the house today.”

My dear Joan? Am I hearing things? Why did she suddenly become so amiable? No, she must be up to something!

“Why do you need to use my cell phone?” Joan demanded bluntly.

“To give my father a call and tell him that I’m not coming home tonight.”

Huh? She’s really not planning on going home? Is she serious? Surprised, Joan gaped at the woman in front of her. All of a sudden, a headache assailed her. “Uh... Look, Gabriella, you’re still young, so your father will be very worried if you spend the night outside. I’ll drive you back later, okay? Let’s not...”

“No!” Gabriella screeched, slamming her hands on the table.

Her grit and tone truly shocked Joan greatly. Good grief, it’s really difficult to sway her!

“How could I bear to abandon you here alone? We’re business partners, so we should naturally stick together through thick and thin!”

Has she lost her mind? Who’s her business partner? I didn’t assent with her suggestion earlier, okay? Besides, what can she do if she stays other than bother me? Most importantly, our relationship isn’t that close, no?

“Do you not like me, Joan?” Gabriella abruptly questioned in a quivering voice.

“No, not at all! How could I possibly not like you when you’re so cute?” Joan hastily fibbed.

Inwardly, however, she groused, Of course! Any ordinary person will be able to tell that I’m already at the end of my patience!

“If so, you definitely won’t kick me out, no? Look, it’s already getting dark. Could you stand having me walk home alone at night? I’ll be scared since I’m afraid of the dark.”

“I can drive you home,” Joan blurted.

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“So, you don’t like me! You disdain me for being dumb and not knowing anything!” Gabriella unexpectedly burst into tears.

Oh God, please have mercy on me! Lifting her head, Joan closed her eyes and composed herself.

“Alright, alright, here you go.” As she said that, she handed her cell phone to the woman before her.

Snatching the cell phone joyfully, Gabriella made her call without an ounce of hesitation.

“Hello, Dad, I’m not coming home today. No, I won’t be coming home for the next few days. My friend is alone at home, so I’m worried about her.”

Ugh! Who’s the worried party here? Joan massaged her temples in a bid to soothe her nerves. Ah, how unlucky of me!

However, while regarding Gabriella’s excited expression, her anger dissipated for some inexplicable reason. Actually, she’s quite pitiful. She must have few friends. As she gazed at her petite figure, a sense of compassion filled her. In reality, she’s innocent at heart! What a pity!

“Here. I’m done using it, Joan. Thank you!”

During the days when Gabriella was with Joan, she inexplicably grew more cheerful. And perhaps she was now close with her, but she didn’t even care about Larry’s return.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2970

Chapter 2970 Della Phoned Nancy

“Um... Gabriella, why haven’t I heard you mentioning Larry in the past few days?” Joan inquired softly on the sofa in the living room, her eyes colored with a hint of puzzlement.

She’s here to look for Larry, yet she hasn’t once mentioned his name. This is rather strange.

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“Why should I mention him? I’ve got you now, no?” Gabriella teased while blinking her eyes at her.

For some inexplicable reason, a burst of joy filled Joan up upon hearing that.

“When are we going to start an eatery, Joan?” Gabriella asked urgently, grasping her arm.

Hmm... This is a question that really necessitates me to think long and hard. Joan hadn’t made up her mind about the location since she was worried that someone would come and make trouble. Too many things have transpired previously, and Larry urged me not to leave the house alone, so there might be frequent incidents in the future. Thus, I’m afraid that an eatery might not be in the cards.

“I’ll be honest with you, Gabriella. It’s not that I don’t want to start an eatery, but there are tons of preparations to be made. For that reason, we can’t accomplish it anytime soon,” Joan explained at once.

Starting an eatery was also her dream, but it was truly not a good time to start a business when the situation was so precarious.

“What’s all the fuss about? We’ll just make the preparations, then. If you don’t want to do that, I’ll do it. Don’t worry, for everything will be done timely with my father’s help!” Gabriella avowed as she patted herself on the chest.

Well, that’s true. The Ward family is indeed very powerful. However, I can’t drag them into my troubles. No, no, I still need to think about it long and hard.

“Let me ponder upon it so that I can come up with the perfect solution, okay?” Joan hastily proposed.

“Okay. Don’t worry, for it’s not all that urgent. I just wanted to know whether you’re committed to the plan,” Gabriella replied with a pout, dipping her head.

At the sight of her mischievous expression, Joan pinched her cheek and giggled.

“What did you just say? Gabriella Ward is at Larry’s villa?” Della roared incredulously in her office.

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"Yes. I don't know why either, but that woman went to Larry Norton's villa for no apparent reason," the assistant answered cautiously with her head lowered.

Damn it all to hell! I'm more than anxious to implement my plan, yet that woman simply has to be a hindrance! Why on earth did she have to go to Larry's villa?

Della rubbed her hands vigorously, her expression tense.

While the Ward family's power is no match for my family's, their influence within the country isn't to be underestimated. If I truly make a move against Gabriella Ward, the patriarch of the Ward family will never let me off easy if he were to learn of my involvement!

Bang!

Della slammed a hand on the table, and her palm quickly turned bright red. Why did that b*tch, Gabriella Ward, have to go there at just this time?

"How about we ask Gabriella Ward out, Ms. Duff? Then, we can make a move against Joan Watts," the assistant promptly suggested, her head snapping up.

That will indeed work, but if I were to ask her out, isn't that tantamount to an admission of guilt? Larry is no fool, so he'll naturally be able to figure it out! No, no, that idea is definitely out of the question!

"What if we have someone else ask her out?" the assistant continued.

Hmm... This one might work. Della nodded, her brain whirring at warp speed.

"Hello, is this Nancy Barrymore? I'm Della. When I went to look for Larry yesterday, I heard two women arguing in the villa, but I didn't dare go in."

On the phone, Della sounded exceedingly gentle.

Nancy was initially chagrined to hear her voice, but the moment she digested her words, she instantly went on alert.

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Two women? Joan should be alone in the villa, so what's going on here? Don't tell me Larry has a mistress out there?

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