# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1471

"I'm glad to hear that. Let's go have dinner together now."

"I'm sorry, Dustin. But I don't think I can go have a meal with you tonight. I'll make up for it some other day," promised Joan.

She sounded apologetic and hurt. At that moment, all she wanted to do was to go home and have a good sleep.

"Then, let me walk you home," offered Dustin. "We'll have plenty of opportunities to have a meal together. It's fine to postpone this one."

"Thank you."

"You don't need to be that courteous with me."

Seeing Joan and Dustin walking side-by-side together, Gabriella finally revealed herself from the dark.

"My, my, Joan. You really are a popular succubus, but you won't defeat me this time," said Gabriella with a gleeful smile before she left happily.

Meanwhile, Larry was deep in his thought while hiding in the dark as well. He needed some time to process everything that happened that day.

As it turned out, he didn't actually leave earlier. The reason being when he turned around, he caught Gabriella spying on Joan.

Larry was a little suspicious and had his guard up when he saw Gabriella there. She is the one who hired the guy to bully Joan. I wonder what she has up her sleeves this time.

Gabriella showing up also helped calm Larry down quickly. He was no longer furious when he observed everything from the side.

From his position, he could somewhat make out the conversation between Joan and Dustin.

Ah, so Dustin's not her boyfriend... His mood immediately brightened upon realizing that.

But why did that foolish woman lie to me? Looks like I will have to investigate the matter further.

Larry drove his car and disappeared into the night.

Gabriella sent someone to investigate Dustin as soon as she got home.

The Wards had always had a good rapport with the underworld society in Marsingfill, so she was able to learn everything quickly.

Gabriella grinned at her discovery.

So Dustin is a renowned doctor who treated Joan in the past. If I can get my hands on the old photos they took together, I can send them to Larry and tell him that Joan heartlessly dumped him for the doctor. After that...

Gabriella suddenly felt as if her fantasy of being with Larry was within reach and could indeed become reality.

She decided to strike while the iron was hot. The first thing she did was gather photos of Joan and Dustin together. She collected anything that could make anyone mistake those two as a couple. Then, she had her people printed everything out.

All that's left now is to get them to Larry.

Gabriella grinned happily at that thought. Unbeknownst to her, however, Larry had already seen through all her schemes.

On the following day, Gabriella walked into Norton Corporation confidently with the printed photos in hand.

The evidence is all here. I'd like to see how you defend that b\*tch now, Larry!

"Larry, can I come in?" said Gabriella.

She deliberately made her voice sound sweet while waiting patiently behind the door.

"Come in," said Larry.

He sounded as calm as he had always been.

"Larry, I need to tell you something," informed Gabriella with a straight face on.

"What's wrong, Gabriella? You can tell me anything," replied Larry.

He had put his pen down and stopped working entirely because he wanted to see what Gabriella was up to.

"It's... Well, I think I should just show you these photographs," said Gabriella before handing the photos over.

Larry accepted the folder and checked the photos out. That was when he realized that those were photos that Joan took with Dustin. The two of them weren't physically close, but it was obvious that they were good friends.

Larry was uncomfortable when he saw the photos of Joan hanging out with other men. Still, he turned to Gabriella and asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"Larry, these photos are taken from a few years ago. That means Joan was already with that Dustin guy back then. She left you for him, and this is proof of her betrayal!" announced Gabriella firmly. It was as if she had investigated everything thoroughly.

Larry nodded. He had already gotten used to Gabriella's tricks.

"Alright, I got it," replied Larry. "You don't need to worry about this anymore."

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Gabriella was stunned. Why does Larry sound so calm? It's as if he already knows all that. Also, what does he mean when he says that I don't need to worry about this anymore?

"Well, what do you plan to do? You can't let her get away with it!" insisted Gabriella, who was starting to feel nervous.

"I have my plans, so don't you do anything to hurt Joan."

"After everything I've shown you? How long are you going to keep defending her blindly?" roared Gabriella.

"All you need to do is keep my words in mind. I'm tired and you should leave," said Larry.

He showed no signs of hesitation as he chased her away.

Gabriella was so angry that she was gritting her teeth. Unfortunately, there was nothing she could do about it. In the end, she stomped on the floor and left begrudgingly.

Joan Watts, since things have turn out this way, don't blame me for being cruel and ignoring our past friendship!

Gabriella grinned evilly as a vile scheme made its way to her mind.

She got home and sat on the sofa for a while before dialing a number.

"Hello, who is this?" asked the man on the other end of the line.

"It's me, Gabriella Ward."

"Why are you calling again?" demanded the other party angrily when he heard her reply.

The man in question was none other than Quincy, who didn't accomplish his mission of bullying Joan and instead got his arm broken by Larry.

At first, Quincy thought that he got a lucrative job, but he hadn't even gotten anything before someone else broke his arm. Hence, he was furious with the situation.

He was also filled with resentment for Gabriella.

"I want you to do something for me," requested Gabriella, who seemed to be ignorant about how angry Quincy was at that moment.

"I'm not interested. Find someone else," said Quincy. He didn't dare to accept any more jobs from Gabriella.

"I will transfer a million into your account once everything is done."

The man on the other side of that line turned quiet. He was just a street hooligan, and a million was a fortune to him.

He didn't hesitate for long. Unable to resist the tempting call of wealth, Quincy gritted his teeth and asked, "Tell me what you need."

"Go after the woman I targeted earlier. I want you to kidnap her and drug her before getting someone else to sleep with her. Then, I want you to videotape the entire thing and share it on the internet. I don't care what you have to do to accomplish it. Just know that I will pay you a million when it's done, and you are to leave this city immediately after," said Gabriella in a cruel tone.

Quincy gasped a little as a chill ran down his spine. He never thought that someone as beautiful as Gabriella would turn out to be that evil.

Still, he had no reason to reject her request. I'll leave Marsingfill as soon as I get the money and I'll be able to lead a good life.

He gritted his teeth before agreeing, "Fine, I will do as you asked. However, I want the money paid to me immediately after the deed is done. You know what we will do to you if you don't pay up."

"Don't worry, it's just a million. I'll definitely pay you."

Gabriella didn't hesitate to agree to those terms. After all, the money meant nothing to her. In fact, she was willing to pay ten million if it meant destroying Joan.

"It's a deal, then!" both parties agreed to the plan.

Meanwhile, Joan, who had her guard down at the moment, was oblivious to the fact that a devious scheme to bring her down was in the making.

She had a rare day off, so she slept in. After she woke up, she went for a walk to relax her mind

Getting out of the house and having some fresh air eased the depression she had been feeling over the past few days.

As she walked, she thought about what meal she should treat Dustin to that night. They agreed to meet up yesterday, and Joan wanted to welcome Dustin into the city.

Suddenly, two men with a baseball cap on ambushed her from behind. They walked up to Joan and tossed a sack over her head immediately.

It was obvious that it was not the first time they committed a crime like that. They clamped her mouth shut and dragged her into a white car that was parked at the side of the road.

"Mmm! Mmm!"

Joan tried to call out for help, but all that could be heard were muffled sounds. She struggled endlessly to try to get someone else to notice her.

That was when one of the men hit the back of her neck and made her faint on the spot.

When she finally came around, Joan discovered that she had been taken to an abandoned warehouse. They had tossed her to the floor and had bound both her hands and her legs. She was also gagged.

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Joan scanned her surroundings fearfully. Hopelessness filled her heart, and she had no idea what she would have to endure later. She didn't know if anyone would come to rescue her, either.

Larry, please come and rescue me, was the first thought that surfaced in Joan's mind. She was frantic at that moment and the scene of Larry rescuing her back then kept replaying in her mind. He was now her only hope.

The door to the warehouse opened, and two men with masks on entered. They removed the gag they placed on Joan.

"Who are you? Why did you kidnap me?" asked Joan.

Her big, round eyes were shining with fear.

"Hahaha!"

The two men laughed maliciously as they stared at Joan.

"We don't really have an agenda. All we want is to put on a show with you," replied one of the men before he got a pill out of his possession. He then walked over to feed it to Joan.

"Here, take this. It will make things so much better later!"

"Hehe."

The two men chuckled as their gaze burned with lust.

Joan clamped her mouth shut. She could tell from the two men's tone that the pill was nothing good. She tried to fight back as much as possible.

Seeing how stubborn Joan was got one of the men to pinch her nose. He laughed and taunted, "Let's see how long you can keep your mouth shut."

Joan couldn't breathe because her nose was blocked. All she could do was hold on for as long as she could. A minute later, she finally parted her lips.

The man with the pill pinched Joan's mouth the second she opened them and threw the pill in.

Cough! Cough!

Joan tried to cough the pill out, but she couldn't.

The men grinned evilly. Everything is done. All that's left now is for the drug to take effect.

At that moment, Larry was inside his office in Norton Corporation.

A private number suddenly showed up on his phone and checking the screen prompted Larry to jump up.

"Hello, what's wrong?" asked Larry grimly.

"Something happened to Joan Watts, Mr. Norton," replied the man politely from the other end of the line.

"What? Explain!"

Larry had sprung up, and he seemed nervous.

"Someone kidnapped her this morning, and I'm tailing her right now. It looks like they are leaving the city."

"Follow them. I will go to you right away!"

"Understood."

After hanging up the call, Larry grabbed his coat and ran out of the office immediately. He felt as if his heart was burning at that moment.

"Please be alright, Joan," prayed Larry silently.

After the last incident with the three hooligans, Larry sent his bodyguard to keep Joan safe. He didn't want her to get hurt again.

However, Joan was unaware of any of that.

When Joan was kidnapped, Larry's bodyguard observed from the dark, so that he wouldn't alert the culprit. He wanted to get to the bottom of it all, and that was why he chose to tail the culprit while calling Larry.

Larry sped down the road. He knew that the faster he went there, the less likely Joan would be hurt.

Fifteen minutes after Joan took the pill, her body started reacting to it. At first, she felt thirsty, followed by a burning sensation all over her body. It was as if a fire was burning in her abdomen.

That was when she finally realized what the pill was. It's an aphrodisiac drug.

Joan fought endlessly to combat that strange feeling inside of her, but she was so thirsty that she was burning. She started to lose consciousness, and her vision blurred.

The two men noted that it was about time. With sly grins on their faces, they approached Joan.

Joan, however, was completely unaware. The burning in her body made her feel like stripping.

Bang! Just then, a loud noise came. Someone had kicked the door down.

Larry got there in time to rescue Joan.

He sighed a breath of relief when he saw that Joan was not hurt. It only took him a few moves to deal with the hooligans, and he pulled her into his arms after that.

"Joan, are you alright?" asked Larry in a worried tone.

Joan didn't realize that she was rescued. In fact, she couldn't even recognize Larry at that moment.

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"Hot... I am so hot..."

Joan's gaze was blurry, and she stripped as she spoke. Her beautiful skin revealed itself in front of Larry.

It was only then that Larry noticed her abnormality. Her body's burning, and she's panting so much that it's obvious that someone drugged her.

Larry was infuriated when he discovered that. The woman I loved was almost...

"Drag them out of here and break their limbs. Wait for me by the door after that," instructed Larry.

His demeanor was frigid when he gave that order to his bodyguard. This is considered the lightest punishment I will give after what they have done.

"Understood."

The bodyguards dragged the two men away after receiving the order.

Larry loosened the ropes that bound Joan's arms and legs before he took off his coat and draped it over her.

She plastered herself to Larry as soon as she was free. Her hands locked his face in place as she kissed him fervently.

Larry could guess what drug they used and knew that the drug would crush Joan if he didn't sleep with her.

Seeing how engrossed Joan was in the kiss instantly got Larry aroused as well. He pulled her into his arms and kissed her back passionately.

Soon, the entire warehouse was filled with a romantic aura.

A few hours passed before Joan woke up groggily. She opened her eyes and saw chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.

"Where am I?" she murmured.

It took her mind some time to clear up. Wait, wasn't I kidnapped and trapped in a warehouse? What am I doing here?

Joan struggled to get up. She suddenly sensed a sharp pain in her body and recalled that she was drugged.

"No, this can't be real. It can't be!"

Joan muttered mindlessly as tears slowly rolled down her cheeks. That was her first as she had kept herself pure. She never expected that in just a matter of hours she would lose the virginity she had treasured for over twenty years.

Joan suddenly heard a soft sigh coming from the corner of the room, and she realized that someone else was there.

"Who are you?"

Joan's voice guivered with fear. She was traumatized.

She didn't know how else she would be abused in that foreign place.

"Don't be scared. It's me," said the man in the corner before he walked to Joan's side.

It's Larry!

When Joan saw who the mysterious man was, she instinctively sighed a breath of relief. She soon realized something, though.

"W-were you the guy who..." asked Joan.

Her voice was trembling.

Larry stood there without saying a word.

Slap! A crisp voice echoed, and a clear palm print showed up on Larry's face.

"You assh\*le. H-how could you?" shouted Joan with a broken heart.

She couldn't believe that the man she loved and trusted the most had drugged her. At that moment, she felt like her life had just turned grim.

"Rest up, and don't move about too much," advised Larry when he finally spoke. He then added, "This is my responsibility, and I will do right by you. Also, just so we're clear. I'm not the one who drugged you."

"Who else would've drugged me, then?" demanded Joan loudly. "Am I supposed to believe that you just happen to be there to rescue me and had no choice but to sleep with me?"

Larry found himself at a loss for words when faced with Joan's accusations. He couldn't give a plausible explanation for what happened, because even he himself thought that everything was unbelievable.

"Stop pretending, Mr. Norton. I don't need you to do right by me, either. All I want is for you to fade out of my life completely because I don't ever want to see you again!"

Joan sounded extremely firm when she said those words. She wanted to believe him, but the events of the day made it so that she couldn't.

After lashing out, Joan got up to walk away. The sharp pain, however, got her to hiss. Nonetheless, she was still adamant about leaving.

Larry knew that Joan wouldn't listen to him at that moment, so the only thing he could do was leave.

"Rest well here. This hotel is under my management, so you don't have to worry. It's safe here," murmured Larry.

"The most dangerous place to be right now is beside you, Mr. Norton," scoffed Joan.

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"I know that there is no point in saying anything right now. Try to calm down. I'll have my chauffeur take you home once you're feeling better."

Larry didn't want Joan to refuse his help, so he added, "If you don't want to owe me anything, then I will have my people send you the hotel bill later, and you can pay for it all."

After saying his piece, Larry walked out of the room. He instructed the manager to take care of Joan before driving away.

Gabriella Ward, you have crossed the line this time.

When Larry left the room, he clenched his fists as a dangerous glint flashed across his eyes.

He decided then and there that some people were not worthy of forgiveness.

Joan slowly calmed down after Larry left.

She knew Larry well. He would never lie... could it be that he's really not the one who drugged me?

But if he's not the culprit, then how did he show up within such a short amount of time and become the one who sleeps with me? There are simply too many coincidences.

The harder Joan worked to analyze the situation, the more confused she got. In the end, she gave up.

It doesn't matter if he was the one who drugged me. He is still the reason I am no longer a virgin, not to mention he still has a girlfriend from the same social status as he is.

Too much had happened that day, and Joan was both physically and mentally weary. She fell asleep soon after.

After parking his car in Norton Corporation, Larry made a beeline toward Gabriella's office.

He didn't knock on the door politely. Instead, he kicked it down.

The loud bang surprised Gabriella, who was touching up her make-up at that moment.

Annoyed, she turned around to yell at the intruder, but she became frightened when she saw that it was Larry.

Quincy didn't tell her that he would kidnap Joan that day, and she definitely didn't know that her vile plan had failed and been exposed. All she could do at the moment was stay calm and feign confusion. "Larry, what's wrong? Why are you so angry?" asked Gabriella.

Larry lost control when he saw Gabriella's pretentious expression.

Without saying another word, he stepped up and slapped her right across her face.

"Why did you slap me?" demanded Gabriella.

Larry's merciless slap ignited Gabriella's fury, and she had her hand on her face as she howled.

"Why? You're asking me why even at a time like this?" shouted Larry angrily, "I've always thought that you were immature and will grow out of it soon. Turns out, you are a purely evil b\*tch. I can't believe you'd stoop as low as hiring others to drug her!"

Gabriella was stunned.

She didn't expect Quincy to initiate the plan so quickly, and she certainly didn't think that Larry would discover everything.

"Listen to me, Larry," said Gabriella. "I am not the one behind this. It's Quincy! He has been upset about you breaking his arm. That must be why he went after Joan again. It's not me. I'm innocent."

"You're still denying it?"

Larry knew then that Gabriella was beyond help.

"Pack your things right now and get the f\*ck out of Norton Corporation. The company doesn't need a malicious creature like you!"

"No! Larry. Please, don't chase me away."

Gabriella was panicking. If she left Norton Corporation, she would lose her only avenue of getting close to Larry.

"I was wrong, Larry. I was blinded by my love for you and couldn't bear anyone threatening our relationship. I promise it won't happen again. Please give me a chance to redeem myself. Don't chase me away," begged Gabriella pitifully as she gripped Larry's hand.

"You no longer have the opportunity to do so!" growled Larry. He didn't believe her and demanded, "Leave immediately. If I ever see you near Norton Corporation again, I will make sure your entire family suffers along with you!"

With that, Larry left without ever looking back.

Tears rolled down Gabriella's cheeks. She stared at Larry's back as he walked away heartlessly.

She simply couldn't understand it. Why is Larry unmoved even though I'd loved him persistently?

Joan abandoned him once. Yet, she has always had a place in his heart. Why?

