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## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1476

After the incident, Joan asked for some time off from work. She locked herself in her house and refused to leave because she needed time to overcome the trauma that Larry caused her.

Dustin, on the other hand, became a regular visitor in Joan's place.

He didn't know what had happened, but he could tell that Joan had gone through a terrible ordeal. This is my shot at getting her to open up and talk to me.

Dustin knew that Joan was in love with someone else, but he didn't care. He believed that time would prove how much he loved her, and they could be together in the future.

"Joan, I came to visit. I made some soup for you. You seem weak lately and you'll need to replenish the nutrient you lost."

Dustin had tons of bags with him when he showed up at Joan's place.

"Dustin, I'm happy that you're visiting. But you don't need to take anything over. I'll feel bad about it," said Joan.

She sounded a little exasperated as she accepted the gifts from Dustin.

"Here we go again. You're treating me like a stranger once more. How many times have I told you? You don't need to be so courteous with me. I'm really gonna be mad if you keep treating me like that," replied Dustin.

He pretended to be angry, but his eyes carried a hint of warmth.

"Alright, alright, I got it," said Joan.

She smiled when she saw Dustin acting like that.

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She needed someone by her side at that moment, and Dustin was there every day. His gesture touched her because he had always been attentive and kind to her ever since they first got to know one another. At that point, Joan saw Dustin as a trusted friend she could confide in.

They interacted freely, and time passed them by. Before either of them knew it, Dustin had already spent a lot of time with Joan.

“Joan, I have to go back to deal with some things, and I can’t stay here any longer. It’s been nice hanging out with you,” said Dustin as he stood up.

“Thank you, Dustin. I am truly glad to have a friend like you,” replied Joan genuinely.

“Do you only see me as your friend?” asked Dustin.

He was eager to learn the answer to that question.

“I...”

Dustin’s question troubled Joan. Truth be told, she noticed his feelings for her some time ago, and she could see what a good man Dustin was.

Unfortunately, she was in love with Larry at the time, so she pretended to be oblivious and refused to deal with Dustin.

But things had since changed. Larry has found his better half, so should I give Dustin a chance?

“Truth is, Joan, I came to Marsingfill for you, but I have to return to A Nation in a few days.”

Dustin noticed how Joan was at a loss for words, so he continued, “Joan, I love you, and I’d like to ask... Will you go to A nation with me?”

Joan’s mind was in a mess at the time. Larry being in Marsingfill meant that they would inevitably see each other if she stayed in the city. However, she didn’t know where else she could go.

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Now that she knew Dustin flew to another country just for her, it would be a lie to say that she was not touched by that act. Still, isn't it a little impulsive for me to move to A Nation just like that?

"I have a few more days before I have to leave. Please take the time to consider my offer," said Dustin when he saw how hesitant Joan was. He could tell that she was swaying, so he spoke some more.

"It has been a while since you've recovered, Joan, and it's time you follow up on your condition. This is a good opportunity to go to A Nation and check if everything is fine. You won't have to be worried about it anymore once that is done."

Joan fell deep in thoughts as she stared at him.

Back then, she received her treatment in A Nation, so she didn't suspect the credibility of Dustin's words.

"Let me think about it," answered Joan. "I'll give you an answer soon."

Moving to another country was a huge matter, and Joan needed to talk to her parents about it.

"Okay, then I'd better leave now, Joan," replied Dustin.

"Let me walk you out."

Joan decided to go home and discuss the matter with her parents after she walked Dustin out.

Her parents lived in Zaprington, which is right next to Marsingfill, so it only took Joan two hours to reach their place via a cab.

"Mom, dad, I'm home!"

Joan called out to her parents as soon as she got into the house.

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## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1477

This was the place that sheltered her from wind and rain. She did not need to worry about getting hurt here.

“Joan, why are you back?”

Surprise was evident in her mother’s voice.

She wasted no time in expressing concern for her daughter’s wellbeing and chastised Joan for getting skinnier. On the other hand, Joan’s father was smiling with relief as he stood beside her mom, pretending to be calm about her return.

After going through the whole ordeal with Larry, Joan was afraid to return home to her parents. She was worried that she would break down and cry in front of them, causing them great worry.

“I just came back to see you. There is something that I would like to discuss with the two of you.”

Joan took a deep breath and said to her parents sweetly.

“Come, sit down. There is no need to hurry. Let me cook you a meal.”

In the blink of an eye, Mrs. Watts prepared a feast.

While they were eating, Mr. Watts asked affably, “So Joan, what did you want to discuss with us?”

Joan told them that she needed to go to A Nation to follow up on her condition and her plan to stay abroad. However, her lips were sealed when it came to her recent misfortune. She did not disclose anything about that.

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“I understand that the follow-up is crucial. As for going overseas on your own... Do you have any idea how difficult it is for you to live there all by yourself?” asked Mr. Watts solemnly.

“Don’t worry, Dad. I’m all grown up now. I can take good care of myself,” answered Joan.

She tried to make light of her plan.

“Joan, I don’t agree with you going abroad and staying there alone. You should come home right away after the check-up. I don’t want you to suffer hardships on your own over there.” Mrs. Watts’ eyes watered as she spoke.

“Alright, let’s not talk about this anymore. We will wait until you get treated before we discuss anything else concerning the future.”

Mr. Watts concluded the discussion with a tone of finality. The family then enjoyed their precious time together.

In Larry’s room.

“Caspian, what are the results of your investigation?” Larry asked the bodyguard next to him.

“I have completed the investigation, Sir. Dustin Silverman is the doctor who treated Joan Watts a few years ago,” he answered respectfully.

“Treated Joan? What illness did she have?”

Larry was confused. He never knew that Joan had any illnesses.

“Sir, these are the investigation results from our people. Just have a look and you’ll have your answer.”

Caspian passed a notebook to Larry.

After scanning through the contents in detail, realization dawned on Larry, and he scolded himself severely for being stupid at the same time.

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It was only then that he knew Joan had only left him because she had a tumor in her brain. The fact that she was uncertain of how much longer she could live made her decide to cut off all ties with Larry so that he would not pine after her. As a result, she made up a lie about leaving him for someone else.

As for Dustin, he was the doctor who was in charge of Joan's treatments.

Upon learning the truth, Larry was guilt-ridden. Joan had suffered so much in silence these few years... But what did I do? I had been rude to her at every opportunity and made life immensely difficult for her. There's no doubt that I had hurt her deeply...

With that thought in mind, he decided to go find her immediately. Right now, all he wanted was to be right next to her and pull her into his embrace. He wanted to apologize to her.

Before long, Larry reached the place where Joan was renting. He eagerly knocked on her door.

"Joan, it's me! It's Larry!" he called out at the top of his lungs.

"I know everything now! I'm sorry for treating you horrendously. Can you please forgive me?"

All he got in response was silence.

"Joan, can you please open up? I know I've hurt you. But I will treat you well for the rest of my life. So please just give me another chance!"

Larry rapped on the door for a very long time, but he did not get any response. Instead, the racket he made caught the attention of the neighbor next door.

"Young man, the girl who lived here left this morning. She seems to have moved away," said the old lady.

"Do you know where she went, ma'am?" Larry asked in a hurry.

"I have no idea," replied the old lady slowly.

"She went with a young man who was roughly your age."

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“Thank you, ma’am!” responded Larry.

Upon hearing what the old lady said, he hurried down the stairs while dialing Joan’s number.

“Sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable...”

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1478

Joan did not give any chance for Larry to contact her. Even her phone was switched off.

The young man that the old lady mentioned must be Dustin.

But, where could they have gone? Larry racked his brains but nothing came up.

After he got into his car, Larry dialed another number urgently.

“Caspian, find out where Joan’s parents live! Be quick!”

Larry barked his order into the phone anxiously.

“Yes, sir. I’ll get to it immediately.”

Caspian replied swiftly before hanging up.

Larry could only wait in his car apprehensively.

After ten excruciating minutes, Larry received an address on his phone.

He read the address and stepped on the gas, heading straight for Zaprington.

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He drove like a madman all the way. In a little over an hour, he was at the doorstep of where Joan's parents lived.

"Mr. Watts, I'm Larry! May I know where Joan is?" asked Larry.

Joan had mentioned Larry's name while talking to her parents previously. As such, Mr. Watts recognized that his name was familiar and didn't think much about it.

"Young lad, didn't Joan tell you that she was going to A Nation today?" Mr. Watts asked in a friendly tone.

"A Nation? Why is she going there?"

Larry felt as if he was hit by a bolt of lightning. If Joan went to A Nation, would I still have any chance of finding her?

"It's not in my place to tell you why. But I can tell you that her flight is scheduled for three in the afternoon. I don't think you can make it in time to see her."

Lifting his wrist to glance at his watch, Larry's stomach dropped when he noticed that it was almost half-past two.

"Mr. Watts, can you please give me Joan's number?"

He was frantic. He couldn't let Joan leave. I'm not letting her go! I need to be with her for the rest of my life!

After getting her current phone number, Larry hastily bade goodbye to Mr. Watts and started rushing over to Zapington airport.

Joan, please wait for me!

Larry threw the speed limit to the wind. Luckily, the airport was located in the suburbs of Zapington, so there wasn't much traffic. Still, a lot of car owners had to stomp on their emergency brakes to avoid him. This earned him lots of profane cursing and swearing.

"You crazy a\*shole! Are you trying to kill yourself driving like that?"

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"What a lunatic!"

He wasn't the least bothered by the insults. His sole focus now was to get to Joan as fast as possible.

With his left hand gripping the steering wheel, his right hand reached for his phone to dial Joan's number.

In the meantime, Joan and Dustin were waiting to board the plane.

When she saw the unfamiliar number on her phone, she was puzzled. Only a few people know about my new number, so who could this be?

"Hello?"

She decided to take the call.

"Joan, it's Larry! Where are you now?"

He was ecstatic to finally hear Joan's voice.

Larry? Joan was stunned. How did he get my number?

"Larry, I'm leaving. I am going to a place where you won't be around. I hope you will be happy. No, you must live a happy life."

She tried her best not to cry. She even willed herself to hate him with all her might. But when she heard his voice, she realized that she was about to leave him forever. Her heart ached as if a knife was plunged through it.

"No, Joan! Only you can give me happiness. Please wait for me at the airport. I beg you, please don't go!" Larry pleaded desperately.

Joan could no longer hold back her tears.

This scene right now was a reenactment of what happened a few years ago. She remembered how he pleaded and begged her not to leave.

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She still loved him deeply, but once again, she had to steel herself to leave him.

“Larry, this is our fate. We can’t go against what is destined for us!”

With that, Joan burst into tears. She felt it. The familiar feeling of her heart being ripped to pieces. The pain was so overwhelming that even breathing was a luxury.

“Joan, I’m almost there. Please, wait for me...”

A loud screech cut through, followed by the sound of a huge crash. Then, it was complete silence.

“Larry? Larry!”

Joan was panic-stricken. “Larry, answer me! What happened to you? Say something!”

Larry did not respond. Joan was petrified and completely blanked out. Her phone slipped from her rigid hand and made contact with the cool surface of the airport floor.

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1479

“Joan? Joan, are you alright?”

When he saw how Joan had stiffened up, Dustin’s heart was filled with bitterness.

“Joan, the plane is about to leave. It’s time for us to board,” Dustin reminded her.

Joan regained her senses. “No... no! Dustin, Larry is in trouble. I have to see him! I have to!”

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“What about me then? Don’t you want to go to A Nation with me?” Dustin pleaded desperately.

“I’m sorry, Dustin. But I can’t leave with you. I can’t let him go. He is everything to me!”

Joan finally faced the truth, admitting it to both Dustin and herself.

“I know you like me. But, there’s no space in my heart for anyone else. I’m sorry, I can’t go to A Nation. Even if I can’t treat my sickness, I still have to know what happened to him.”

Dustin sighed. No matter what he did, Joan’s heart was always shut to him.

Even if she leaves with me, her heart still belongs to him.

Dustin felt overwhelmingly dejected.

Nonetheless, he wasn’t a stubborn man. As such, he smiled at Joan, and without any hesitation, he said, “It’s alright Joan. I have known for a few years now that there’s someone in your heart. It’s just that I thought I could replace him. But now, it seems the gulf is too wide to be bridged. I wish both of you all the best.”

When he finished, he gave Joan a smile of relief. “Joan, forgive me for lying to you. In truth, your sickness no longer needs any further treatment. I hope we can still stay friends and see each other in the future. I will be going now.”

After looking at Joan longingly, Dustin steeled his heart and headed toward the boarding gate.

After sending Dustin off, Joan hurried out of the airport, screaming hysterically in her heart. Larry, please be alright!

Immediately after Larry’s car accident, some good Samaritans called the City Hospital in Zapington. Soon, an ambulance arrived before sending Larry, who was unconscious, and the truck driver together to the hospital.

Right before the accident, Larry was speeding and speaking anxiously over the phone. Hence, he didn’t notice a truck traveling at high speed around a bend, causing both their vehicles to crash into each other.

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Luckily, Larry reacted in time by jamming the brakes. Given the top-notch performance of his Lamborghini and the fact that the airbag deployed in time, Larry escaped largely unscathed.

The moment Joan left the airport, she hailed a cab right away.

"Mister, have you heard anything about an accident just now?" With a helpless expression, Joan asked the taxi driver as she couldn't get through Larry's phone.

"Yes, I did. It happened just a few streets away from here."

"In that case, please take me there."

Joan was relieved that she no longer needed to search blindly.

"Miss, the victims have already been taken to the hospital," the driver replied.

"Which one?"

"City Hospital, I'll take you there instead."

"Thank you."

Joan was silent throughout the journey until they arrived.

Rushing over to the front desk, Joan asked anxiously, "May I know where the victim from the recent car accident is?"

"Both of them are in the ICU on the fourth floor."

"Thank you."

Once she had the information she needed, she ran toward the fourth floor.

After searching ward by ward, she finally saw Larry's figure lying on a bed and entered accordingly.

"Miss, do you know this man?" A doctor emerged from the side.

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"I do! Doctor, how is he?"

Grabbing the doctor's arm, Joan asked anxiously.

"May I know if you are a family member?"

"I... I'm his friend."

Joan repeated her question, "What is his condition?"

The doctor sighed gently. Seeing that, Joan felt as if her world had collapsed. Could it be that he...

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1480

Fearful to continue her thoughts, Joan felt her head beginning to spin.

"He's fine. All he has is some minor injuries and a slight concussion." The doctor slowly finished his sentence.

What?

Joan was dumbfounded. He's fine? Then what's with the sighing?

Joan was so infuriated that she almost cursed. Seething, she snapped, "Why did you sigh then?"

"He's fine, but the other person isn't so lucky," the doctor replied.

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“Miss, since you’re his friend. Please help him complete the admission procedures and inform his family.”

“Sure, I’ll get right on it.”

When she realized Larry’s life was not in danger, Joan breathed a sigh of relief. In a much better mood, she headed downstairs to complete Larry’s hospital registration.

Once it was done, she returned to Larry’s ward.

After checking his body and verifying that his injuries weren’t serious, Joan’s mind was put at ease as she sat by Larry’s bed.

However, he was still unconscious. When she saw Larry’s pale face, she couldn’t help but feel her heart ache.

If it wasn’t for me, he wouldn’t be in this condition. Joan blamed herself.

Looking at him longingly, she realized this was the first time over the last few years she had seen him in such close proximity.

At that moment, he looked like a sleeping prince with his chiseled face and exquisite features. With his eyes closed, his lips emanated a sensuous allure while his eyelashes could be clearly differentiated.

The elderly had a saying that people with long eyelashes were exceptionally smart. That description fitted Larry perfectly.

Holding that thought, Joan couldn’t help but smile.

She desperately hoped for time to freeze at that particular moment. That way, she could stay by Larry’s side without having to worry about anything else.

Joan leaned closer to Larry before resting her cheek on his chest, listening closely to his heart.

Pounding strongly, his heartbeat brought her a sense of security and strength.

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Suddenly, she felt Larry move. Startled, she quickly sat back up, worried that he would notice what she was doing.

When she glanced at him, she saw him beaming at her, causing her to spring to her feet.

“Y-y-you’re awake!”

Joan quickly lowered her head as she blushed all over.

“When did you wake up?”

“When you just arrived.”

Larry’s voice was gentle while the look he gave Joan was filled with affection.

Having heard him speak, Joan couldn’t help but hope the ground would open up and swallow her.

Why didn’t he move when he woke up?

“How do you feel? I’ll get the doctor to see you.”

Joan’s eyes glistened as she gave an excuse to escape.

Just when she was about to leave, Larry grabbed onto her hand.

“Don’t worry, I feel fine. Just stay with me for a while,” Larry remarked with a smile.

The warmth from his hand caused her heart to race. She suddenly didn’t know how to react.

“Even if you have nothing to tell the doctor, you should let him run some checks.”

Joan reminded herself not to stay and become a lame duck. If one excuse didn’t work, she needed to come up with another one.

“Stop being silly. There’s a button here that I can press and call for the doctor.”

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Larry obviously understood what she was trying to do. But, he wasn't going to pass up such a wonderful opportunity.

"Joan, come here and sit down."

Larry slowly pulled her back to her seat. "I have something to tell you."

When Joan realized there was no escape, she sighed in resignation and sat down beside Larry.

"I know everything now. Joan, I was wrong about you."

Larry tightened his grip on her hand as if she would disappear the moment he let go.

Despite her shock, Joan kept herself together. "What do you know?"

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