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Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1501

Mrs. Watts nudged her husband, who had been awfully silent the whole time.

However, Mr. Watts only nodded in response.

“Don’t mind him, Larry. He’s a man of few words,” Mrs. Watts tried to diffuse the awkwardness caused by her husband’s actions.

“It’s okay, Mr. Watts, I understand.” Larry flashed a controlled smile.

Although Joan’s mom took to me immediately, I still have my work cut out for me. It won’t be easy to get her dad’s acceptance, it seems.

Larry leaned into the sofa, pondering his next move.

“Alright then, you guys have a nice chat while I prepare dinner.” With that, Mrs. Watts turned and started walking in the direction of the kitchen.

However, in the next moment, she said with a fond look, “Joan, why don’t you help me out, hmm?”

“Okay, Mom.” Joan stood up and left for the kitchen.

At this, Mr. Watts rose to his feet and instructed, “let’s head to the study.”

Larry nodded before following Mr. Watts into the study and shutting the door.

Worry nipped at Joan’s chest as she peeked in the direction of the study. She wasn’t sure what her father had in mind for Larry, but she could only pray for the best.

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Meanwhile, Mrs. Watts' eyes glimmered with excitement once her daughter entered the kitchen. She hurriedly asked, "Joan, tell me about Larry. He doesn't seem like some random guy."

"Well... Larry's the president of Norton Corporation," Joan admitted nervously.

"Norton Corporation? Isn't that the most dominant company in Marsingfill?"

Mrs. Watts had never cared about such things, but even she knew about the renowned Norton Corporation.

"Yeah, that's the one."

Mrs. Watts froze before gasping enthusiastically, "I knew it! I knew that he wasn't just some ordinary guy. I can't believe that he comes from such prestigious background!"

She wasn't normally materialistic but having such a reputable son-in-law was undeniably something that she could brag to her friends about.

The joy was short-lived however when she suddenly realized something. Her eyes snapped back to Joan as she protested, "Won't people nitpick at you and make your life difficult since your boyfriend's so wealthy and powerful? If that's the case... Then, absolutely not! I won't approve of your relationship if it's going to put you through hardship!"

No matter how prestigious he is, I won't allow my precious daughter to live a life of suffering!

Warmth spread across Joan's chest. She was moved by her mother's concern and hastily explained, "Don't worry, Mom. Larry treats me well, and I think his parents like me too."

"You've met his parents?"

A sigh of relief slipped out of Mrs. Watts' lips. "That's good to hear, then. I had a feeling that your boyfriend is a decent young man. I'm really pleased that you found someone like him."

Now that her daughter had found a lovely man whose family also accepted her, Mrs. Watts felt like a weight was finally off her shoulders.

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“Speaking of... Larry proposed to me two days ago in a press conference, and I accepted it.”

Joan met her mother’s eyes bashfully. “We actually came over to ask for your and Dad’s approval.”

“He proposed?” Mrs. Watts perked up at this. “Oh my God, that’s great news! There are no objections from me. I’m so pleased!”

Joan beamed at her mother’s approval, but still couldn’t help but raise her doubts. “But Mom... I don’t think Dad is fond of Larry. What do I do?”

Mrs. Watts sighed, “I understand. I know how stubborn and foul-tempered your dad can get when his mind is set on something. However, I think he’s just messing with Larry because he’s sad to see his little girl leave her nest. So, there’s really nothing to be worried about.”

Despite her mother’s comforting words, Joan couldn’t help but still feel worried, if not worse.

Nonetheless, Joan and Mrs. Watts worked swiftly on preparing dinner. It didn’t take long before they had plated their dishes and set the table.

“Darling! Larry! Dinner’s ready,” Mrs. Watts called out to the study as she placed the last dish on the table.

“Coming,” Mr. Watt’s voice sounded.

He then paced over to the dining room with a wide grin on his face as he chuckled heartily, “Come along, Larry, let’s have a drink.”

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“Sure, Mr. Watts. Whatever you say,” said Larry as he walked out of the study with a smile.

“Come, sit over here! Don’t stand on ceremony at home,” invited Mr. Watts as he beckoned him over.

“Please, take your seat first, Mr. Watts.”

Both men sat down together. The atmosphere was so harmonious that it barely seemed like they had just met. The hostility Mr. Watts showed earlier had also disappeared.

Looking at how amicable they were with each other, the mother and daughter pair was stunned.

What’s going on? They were acting so awkward with each other earlier... Why did they suddenly become friendly now? They glanced at each other, their eyes filled with confusion.

Both of them shook their head simultaneously, not knowing what had gotten into the men.

“Joan, bring two glasses over. I’d like to have a good drink with Larry.” Mr. Watts was in high spirits.

“Oh, okay.”

Although Joan did not know what had happened, she felt relieved that her father was treating Larry nicely. She turned around and headed to the kitchen to grab two glasses.

“Larry, I’ve kept this bottle of wine for five years, it’s my prized possession. Since I’m in such a great mood today, let’s drink up!” said Mr. Watts as he brought a bottle of wine out of the room.

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Larry quickly stood up and poured a glass of wine for both of them. Then, he picked the glass up, sniffed it, and praised, "This is an amazing wine. Your taste is definitely much more superior than mine, Mr. Watts."

After receiving that compliment, Mr. Watts was delighted. He exclaimed happily, "You're not so bad yourself either, having made a name for yourself at such a young age. I'm glad that Joan is together with you."

"Darling, are you feeling uncomfortable?"

Mr. Watts' abnormal behavior caused Mrs. Watts to feel slightly worried. It's fine that he has a bad temper, but what's with his weird attitude now? Could it be his brain fried itself or something?

"What are you talking about? I'm fine! In fact, I'm in an extremely good mood today!"

"But I thought you were reluctant to let your daughter get married? You were still angry earlier!" asked Mrs. Watts, unable to hold herself back any longer.

"Initially, I was a bit upset and afraid that my daughter would not have a good life with Larry. However, I changed my mind. After having a few rounds of chess with Larry in the study, I realized what kind of a man he is."

"What?"

Both Joan and Mrs. Watts were even more confused after listening to his explanation. They thought that something had happened, but it turned out that Mr. Watts merely had a few rounds of chess with Larry.

"What can a game of chess tell?"

Mrs. Watts was a bit unconvinced. "He managed to change your mind with just a few rounds of chess? I thought that you'd be a stubborn man to convince?"

"Hmph! What do you know?"

Mrs. Watts' mocking tone stirred Mr. Watts up. "You can judge a person's character and temper by how he plays chess! Larry's moves are very strategic, yet open. He doesn't play

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any underhanded tricks at all. It's obvious that he's a righteous and kind man. Naturally, I won't be worried to entrust Joan to someone like him."

Joan and Mrs. Watts could not grasp what he was trying to say. However, both of them knew that Mr. Watts had finally approved of Larry.

Not only did he approve of Larry, but he was also very pleased.

Hence, the mother and daughter duo felt relieved. Now that Mr. Watts had no objections, Larry and Joan's marriage could finally be settled.

Joan asked, "Dad, there's something that I need to tell you. Mom has already agreed to it, but I'd still like to ask for your opinion."

"Are you talking about your engagement with Larry?" asked Mr. Watts with a chuckle.

"Larry already told me about it when we were playing chess. Since I said that I trust Larry, I'll let him settle the time and details of the engagement."

Joan was still stunned by her father's drastic change in attitude. However, now that everything could be settled nicely, everyone was pleased.

The family started to eat harmoniously, chatting along the way. It was truly a heart-warming scene.

After eating, Larry and Joan lingered around for a long time.

Although Mr. Watts said that Larry should handle everything, there were still some important aspects that would need to be discussed.

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After everything was settled, Larry and Joan stood up and bade her parents farewell.

“Mr. and Mrs. Watts, I still have some work to attend to at my office, so I won’t stay any longer. I’ll send the details of the engagement to the two of you for your perusal soon,” said Larry respectfully.

“Okay. We’re not worried if you’re the one handling things. We won’t force you to stay anymore. Remember to visit more often,” said Mr. Watts kindly, his attitude drastically different from when he first saw Larry.

“Larry, you must take good care of Joan and not let her get hurt,” reminded Mrs. Watts.

She continued, “Also, remember to visit whenever you’re free. Although we don’t have much to host you with, we can still have a nice chat together.”

“Rest assured that I’ll remember everything that you said, Mr. and Mrs. Watts. Joan and I will definitely visit you often,” guaranteed Larry seriously. “We’ll take our leave, then.”

“Dad, Mom, go back first. We’ll take our leave now.”

Joan waved her parents farewell.

“Drive slowly!”

Mrs. Watts waved back longingly.

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After both of them left, Mrs. Watts cast a glance at Mr. Watts, who was still chuckling with a silly grin on his face. She remarked unhappily, "Look at how happy you are now. You weren't like this when Larry first came. You're so easily influenced!"

"I'm giving the youngster a chance! Besides, Larry's a really impressive man. You're so delighted that you can't stop smiling too."

Truth be told, Mr. Watts felt a little embarrassed that he got convinced just by a few rounds of chess. It was not a glorious thing to tell everyone.

Ignoring him, Mrs. Watts rolled her eyes and walked toward the house.

Scratching his nose awkwardly, Mr. Watts followed his wife in.

While they were driving back, Joan looked at Larry and remarked light-heartedly, "I didn't expect you to pass my parents' trials so easily. It's gonna be smooth sailing from here on out."

Larry smiled. "Mrs. Watts didn't pose a challenge at all. She's dying to entrust her daughter to me. As for Mr. Watts..."

He deliberately paused there.

"What about my father? I keep thinking that it's very unlikely that you managed to win his favor just by playing chess. Is there another reason for it?" Joan could not help but probe him further.

"Chess played a part. However, there was another reason. Not only did he fail to defeat me each time, but I also helped him solve a problem that stumped him."

"I see..."

Joan understood it slightly now. Her father placed a lot of importance on chance. There were barely any who could defeat him in chess, while Larry was the only one who could triumph over him in every single round.

Joan pouted. "I can't help but feel like I just got given away by my dad..."

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Thinking that her father agreed to the marriage just because he lost at chess, Joan could not help but wonder if she was his actual child.

Although she felt gloomy, Larry was in a great mood. Now that both of their parents agreed to their relationship, it was easier to proceed with everything else.

For the following days, Larry immediately returned home to discuss with his parents about the engagement after settling his work. It was obvious how much importance he placed on this engagement.

Finally, they decided to hold it on the 25th that month.

They did not want to make it a grand event, so they merely planned to invite a few relatives and friends that were close to the Norton and Watts families.

However, news that the president of Norton Corporation was getting engaged soon spread like wildfire.

On the morning of the 25th, a large crowd of journalists waited outside the Norton family, desiring to get more information.

Unfortunately, they were barred from entering the house. After the engagement ceremony ended and the guests left, they headed back dejectedly.

During the engagement ceremony, Larry and Joan's parents met each other for the first time. They got close rather quickly. As Mr. Watts and Finnick liked playing chess, they became good friends while Mrs. Watts and Vivian took a liking to each other too.

In front of their parents, friends, and relatives, Larry and Joan exchanged their engagement rings.

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Without any overly complex procedures, the engagement ceremony ended successfully with everyone's well-wishes.

For the party afterward, Larry and Joan toasted their friends arm-in-arm. Enveloped in a heartwarming and lively atmosphere, they started to enjoy the sumptuous meal.

Throughout the party, a sweet smile was constantly hung on Joan's lips. From then on, she was no longer Larry's girlfriend, but his fiancée.

She gazed at Larry lovingly, thinking that she could look at him like that for the rest of eternity.

Larry, as long as I can be with you, all suffering and hardships are worth it.

Joan smiled brightly as she thought about it.

The engagement party ended very quickly. After sending their guests away, tranquility returned to the Norton Residence.

As Finnick and Vivian kept insisting that they stay over, Joan's parents did not return to Zaprington and stayed at the Norton Residence instead.

Mr. Watts and Finnick, who had become quick friends, went to play chess in the study while Mrs. Watts and Vivian went shopping at the mall.

Only Larry and Joan were left in the spacious living room.

"Are you happy?"

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Larry hugged Joan gently, his voice filled with affection.

“Yeah.”

Joan leaned against Larry’s chest. “Today’s the happiest day in my life.”

“Since it’s such a memorable day, shouldn’t we do something meaningful?” asked Larry with a mischievous tone.

When Joan saw his naughty smirk, she understood what he was hinting at and snapped, “Why is your mind always filled with these nasty thoughts?”

“What are you thinking about? I just want to bring you out to have fun.” Larry burst out laughing.

“You...”

Joan blushed. You’re bullying me again!

“Alright, jokes aside, let’s go Dear.”

Larry held Joan’s hand and walked out.

He initially planned to drive Joan around, but she said that she wanted to take a stroll.

When he heard that, he kept his car keys, and both of them walked on the bustling streets hand-in-hand.

The Norton family lived in a prime location at the city center. The streets were congested with cars and crowds.

Hence, Larry brought Joan to the Times Plaza, which he thought was quieter.

However, he forgot that the plaza had already been filled by other middle-aged women.

Looking at the women dancing on the plaza, Larry was stunned.

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On the other hand, Joan was not bothered at all. She thought that watching them dance was an enjoyment.

As she watched the women's dance moves, Joan felt eager to join in as well. Tempted, she suggested to Larry, "Larry, let's dance too."

No way!

Larry was so shocked that he felt his legs turn weak. Why do I have to dance with a bunch of middle-aged ladies? Isn't it embarrassing for a guy like me to do it?

"No, I don't want to!" Larry shook his head vigorously.

"A big, hunky man like me dancing there? No way in hell!"

Not to mention I'm such a rich, powerful and talented man! So how can I just start dancing in public? Larry lamented in his heart silently.

"It doesn't matter if you're a guy or not. Look, there are so many youngsters there," Joan continued persuading him.

He turned around and scrutinized the crowd. It was true that there were a few young people inside, with some guys engrossed in the dance.

"Doesn't matter, I still won't go." Larry refused again.

"Joan, if you want to dance, I'll accompany you to the dance machine at the arcade, okay?" he suggested quickly upon thinking of this better idea.

"Fine, since you don't like this, let's not go."

Joan's initial grin disappeared as a dejected look crossed her face.

Looking at Joan, Larry felt his heart ache. He planned to bring her out to have fun, but he ended up disappointing her instead.

After a slight hesitation, he said through gritted teeth, "Joan, since you're so interested to try, I'll dance with you."

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Thinking that it was so dark, Larry reckoned that no one would be able to recognize them. Even if someone did, no one would believe that the president of Norton Corporation would dance at a place like this.

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