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## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2101 - 2102

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2101

“Oh, me? For the first half of the night, outside; for the second half, inside,” Caiden answered.

“Ah, so that’s how it is...” Cogs began turning in their heads when the adults heard his statement.

“Oh, they slept together.”

“Right? How odd. I thought he said he’s not the father? Then why have they spent the night together?”

“Who knows. And who knows what Joan’s thinking. How could she sleep with another man?”

The women began to gossip on the side. Joan had gotten wind of their rumors long ago. They did not bother her anymore. At the very least, she knew there was nothing going on between Caiden and herself.

“Caiden, did you sleep well last night? I have to tell you, I tend to kick around and hit stuff in my sleep...” Lucius elaborated on his question.

Yes, I know that much. A faint grin spread across Caiden’s face. Last night, the kid had indeed given him a pounding, albeit a light one.

“It’s no big deal. I’m fine,” Caiden assured him.

“Alright, everybody. Let’s wash up and get some breakfast. There’s more time for chit-chat later. Our time is running short and we must get home before the sun sets today,” the headmaster hollered to everyone on the grounds, interrupting the group of women who were talking about Joan and Caiden behind their backs.

Soon, everyone dispersed and got to work packing their belongings.

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“Mom, what are those women talking about just now? I think they mentioned your name.”  
Lucius took his mother’s arm.

“Oh, it’s nothing. Maybe they’re discussing the speech I gave last night. You know, Lucius, we don’t have to bother what other people think, as long as we’re true to ourselves. Got it?”  
Joan squatted down to talk to her son.

Caiden’s heart ached when he saw the two in conversation.

He had been listening to comments from those nosey women, but he had not intervened. He did not want to admit it but, honestly, he knew he could be quite cruel. In order to set off a scandal, he had to stand by and watch Joan bear the brunt of endless criticisms.

“Lucius, aren’t you tired? Do you want me to give you a piggyback ride?” Caiden gently patted the child’s back.

“It’s okay, Caiden. I can walk,” Lucius replied.

He could not possibly let Caiden carry him. He had caused the man much trouble already. Caiden should not have to spend his energy on him.

“Keep up, everyone. Our final activity for the day is rock climbing, family-style! It’s our last camping trip, so I hope everybody cherishes the time we have together, alright? Come on, let’s get ready now,” announced the headmaster.

There was a round of applause as the crowd cheered.

But Lucius did not feel good about it.

At the sight of the rock formation before him, he instantly got terrified for no reason.

“Lucius, come on, let’s get ready. It’s our turn soon,” Caiden said, facing the boy.

“Caiden, I... Um...” Lucius stammered.

He seemed uptight and agitated.

“What is it, Lucius? Are you feeling alright?” Joan quickly checked in on him.

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"Mom," Lucius called Joan, his voice quivering.

Joan freaked out.

"I'm scared, Mom. I don't want to climb up there. What if I fall? I don't want to die. I still want to see Dad and Grandma..." Lucius wailed.

Joan had known the boy was afraid of heights, but she was not aware that his fear had taken a turn for the worse.

"Lucius, this is our first and last camping trip. Once we finish this, the journey comes to an end. Hang in there, just a little more, okay?" Joan looked forward to her son's reply.

"No, Mom. I really can't. I don't want to do it..." Lucius whimpered as he wiped away his tears.

"What's going on here?" The homeroom teacher walked over to them.

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 2102

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"Teacher, I don't want to climb that. I'm scared!" Lucius cried, tugging at the teacher's arm.

The two women reassured him over and over, but nothing worked. He refused to listen to any of it.

Caiden approached Lucius and placed his hands firmly on the boy's shoulders.

"Lucius, calm down. Can you tell me what kind of person do you want to be when you grow up?"

Caiden's question caught Joan off guard. Even Lucius stopped crying.

"I want to be a real man! I want to protect Mom and Grandma just like Dad always does. I want to marry a woman who's just like Mom..."

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Everybody present at the scene burst into laughter.

They had to hand it to that kid. Not everyone could come up with such a hilarious response in a stressful situation.

“Okay, Lucius. Then tell me. If you’re afraid of rock climbing, how will you be able to protect your mother and grandmother? We have to toughen up before we can protect others, right?” Caiden gave the boy a stern look.

Lucius was stumped. He’s right.

“Mom, I’ll give it a try.” Holding on to the rope, Lucius changed his mind.

Joan’s eyes began to water.

Finally, he’s taken a step forward! Finally, he wants to confront his fear!

“That’s a good boy, Lucius. I know you’ll make me proud,” Joan commented, overcome by emotions.

Indeed, Lucius was willing to face his fears for the sake of Joan and Delilah.

“Mom, I will succeed!”

In the end, the trio worked together and eventually made it to the top of the rock formation. The boy could not be more thrilled.

“Mom, I did it!” Lucius announced excitedly as he embraced Joan in a tight hug.

Perhaps he got a bit too excited. After that, he went over and kissed Caiden on the cheek, a move that certainly surprised the man.

“Thank you, Caiden. If it weren’t for you, I won’t have the courage to get up there. You’re the best!” Lucius hugged him too.

The three of them came together in a group hug.

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The other teachers were so moved when they witnessed the happy trio that they quickly took out their cameras and began snapping pictures of the blissful moment, totally ignoring the fact that the three of them were not a family.

"I say, Mr. Caiden is incredible! He actually managed to persuade Lucius to climb the rocks. Why, just a minute ago, that boy wanted to run away!"

"You can say that again. They might as well be one happy family. They're a perfect fit!"

Onlookers engaged in a heated discussion yet again. Joan failed to notice what they were talking about, but it was easy for Caiden to take a guess when he saw the women's expressions.

"You did great, Lucius. After this, you're one step closer to becoming a better man." Caiden squatted down and smiled at him.

"Caiden, it's great to have you here, otherwise I really don't know what I'd do. You're right. If I want to protect Mom and Grandma, I must become stronger. Don't worry, Caiden. I'll keep improving," Lucius expressed his gratitude.

Perhaps Lucius had really been touched by Caiden's words of encouragement, for the boy had a better impression of him, possibly one that surpassed even Larry.

"Lucius, we're going down now. Are you okay with that?" Joan asked.

She thought that Lucius was motivated to try a hand at rock climbing because Caiden had encouraged him. For their descent, if he was also brave enough to do it, accompanied by two adults, it would prove that he had really overcome his worst fear.

"Yes, Mom. Let's go," Lucius instantly replied.

Stunned for a second, Joan quickly recovered and composed herself.

"Alright, let's get back down there. Safety first, so just shout if you need anything," Joan added and started prepping for their descent.

Within ten minutes, the three of them were back on the ground, cheered on by a round of applause.

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