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Gosh, this silly woman definitely doesn't know that he has a crush on her! After all, a man's feelings for a woman are evident at a single glance. That junior of hers certainly has an ulterior motive of some sort.

"You've got to be careful in the future. I'm afraid that that junior of yours will pester you," Larry reminded as he dropped a gentle kiss on her hair.

That's impossible! We've never interacted much in the past, and we won't be contacting each other all that often in the future either!

"Look, you're reading too much into things again. He doesn't have any interest in me when he's a top student. Furthermore, he knows that I'm already married," Joan muttered.

Those are two different things. Regardless of whether she's married, it's not a deterrent to a person's true desires. Moreover, I can tell that Caiden Owens is a very tenacious person.

"Anyway, just..."

"Alright, that's enough talking. Dinner is ready, so let's eat!" Delilah interrupted Larry even as she rolled her eyes at him.

Meanwhile, Joan didn't take Larry's words to heart either. She then went into Lucius' room.

"It's dinnertime, Lucius!"

"Hey, when are you going home, Caiden? Your mother phoned me," Jaden offhandedly remarked in the living room.

Ever since they came back, Caiden never once went back home. He was either busy with his coding or racking his brains to set up a chance encounter with Joan every day.

"I'm rather busy these days, so I've got no time to go back home," Caiden replied tersely beside him.

Busy? What's he so busy about every day? He's got a large-scale business in his family, yet he isn't interested in taking over. Instead, he insists on doing some lame coding! I really can't figure out what he's thinking! Jaden heaved a sigh.

"I don't care. Just make time to go back home for a visit these few days! Otherwise, I'll tell your mother about Joan Watts."

"Don't you dare!" Caiden threatened, his head snapping up at once.

Oh wow, he's really angry! It looks like Joan Watts is indeed an effective threat!

"Then, go home for a visit. I'm sure Mr. and Mrs. Owens miss you greatly after not having seen you for so many years," Jaden continued.

In truth, Caiden's relationship with his parents was strained. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gone against his father's wishes back when he studied abroad and majored in his preferred course of computer programming instead of business administration as his father demanded.

He had lived with his grandparents ever since young, so his parents were never present during his childhood. It was only when his grandparents passed away did he went back home. By then, he was already in college, so he was merely staying in the dormitory every day despite having "moved back home".

"Say, it's been so many years, so why don't you let the past go? They're your parents, after all," Jaden mumbled cautiously.

They were good friends who grew up together, so he understood Caiden's circumstances. Hence, he always put up with his occasional outbursts, no matter how bad they were.

He knew that Caiden wasn't malicious at heart but simply rather obstinate at times. And that was also why he had always been worried that he would be hung up on Joan.

"That's my business. It has nothing to do with you," Caiden countered in a mild voice.

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Good God, he has truly lost his mind! It's none of my business? What has he been taking me for throughout the years?

"Well, if you continue saying such things, I'm not going to be bothered with you anymore." As Jaden said that, he got up and headed to his own bedroom.

Sometimes, he really wished he could just lay into Caiden. Not only did he always go off tangent, but he also had a bad temper.

Slam! The bang of a door slamming shut had Caiden jolting.

The cell phone beside him was ringing incessantly, but he showed no signs of answering it. He remained buried in his work as though everything else in this world, save coding, had nothing to do with him.

"Good God, can you please pick up the call, Caiden Owens? It's really driving me out of my mind! Your mother keeps calling me, asking whether you'd gone missing or fallen sick! In fact, she's calling even more frequently than my mother..." Jaden groused in a near shout.

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Upon hearing Jaden's complaint, Caiden snagged his cell phone and hit redial.

"Hello. Don't call Jaden anymore, for he's very busy." That action of his stunned Jaden, who was a near distance away.

"When are you coming home, Caiden? I haven't seen you in a long time. Why don't you come home, and we'll have dinner together?" The woman's voice quivered slightly.

In the many years he had gone abroad, he had never once come back home. Even when he was in college, he rarely did so. If one were to consider carefully, he had spent less than a month at home ever since he was born. She had never realized that in the past, but when she later regretted it, everything was already too late.

In Caiden's memories, his grandparents were the entirety of his world, not his parents.

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"I'm quite busy these days, so maybe later. Also, don't call Jaden anymore." After saying that, Caiden promptly hung up.

True enough, he was a person who suffered from a severe lack of love besides being prone to shutting out others around him. Back then, it took Jaden almost two years before he finally won him over.

"Um... I went a bit overboard earlier, so don't take it to heart, okay?" Jaden mumbled embarrassingly as he dragged his feet over.

"Okay. I'm hungry, so make me some noodles." Caiden didn't even raise his head while speaking.

That was exactly the kind of person he was. He never got angry, and he seldom had any outbursts. But if he really grew enraged one day, it would truly be a nightmare to rein in.

"Alright, I'll get to it right away."

Conversely, Jaden's experience was far happier than Caiden's. He was born in a happy though ordinary family. Despite not having much money, life was peaceful and sweet.

His family had been neighbors with Caiden's grandparents, so they often played together when they were young. Later, his parents even regarded Caiden as their own son. He had a sister, and she was a little fangirl of Caiden's. She had always followed them around until the two of them went abroad.

"Oh yes, my sister called and said that she wants to treat us to a meal!" Jaden declared loudly from the kitchen.

"No thanks," Caiden instantly declined.

He knew all too well that the girl never stopped chattering, so he had no interest in meeting her.

"Ah well, we've just gotten back, so why don't we have a gathering? We're a family, after all," Jaden muttered.

That was true in a sense. After all, Caiden always went over to his house to eat, while Jaden and his sister often came over for snacks. Thus, the two families truly appeared more like a family.

"You go ahead. I'm very busy," Caiden answered.

Hah! He merely doesn't want to see Noelle!

"What a crappy excuse! Busy? In that case, I'll just tell my sister that you're deliberately avoiding her," the man in the kitchen deliberately threatened.

Knock, knock, wock... Out of the blue, the sound of someone knocking on the door rang out.

"How dare you tell someone else about my whereabouts, Jaden Ford!" Caiden glowered at him sternly.

He hated being disrupted, so he didn't tell anyone his address.

"No, I didn't!" Jaden denied it at once, but who else could it be other than him?

"I don't care. You've got to handle it yourself. Also, forget about the noodles." As Caiden said that, he went upstairs with his laptop.

When the person outside heard movement inside, the knocking became all the more urgent. "Who's there?" Jaden bellowed in displeasure.

"It's me, Jaden!" A woman's voice drifted into the two men's ears.

All at once, Caiden sprinted into his room and locked the door.

"Why are you here?" Jaden, on the other hand, quickly opened the door.

"What were the two of you doing that it took you so long to open the door? Wow, it smells good in here! You're the best brother to cook for me upon knowing that I'm coming!" Noelle exclaimed as she sashayed in despite having been griping the previous moment.

I didn't cook for her! That's for the high and mighty Caiden Owens, okay?

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"Hey, stop eating! You're a girl, so you've got to watch your weight..." "Why should I do so? I'm not doing that! Oh yes, where's Caiden? Why don't I see him?" Noelle promptly asked.