

# In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1486

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Yet, Ashton said nothing and merely shot him a glare before striding back into the kitchen. It was a warming sight.

The moment he walked away, Gregory and Audrey immediately resumed their chatter. They took the tray and returned to their toys.

The villa used to be deathly quiet, but it was lively because of the children chattering and clinking noises from the kitchen.

I chuckled. All my life, I wanted to lead a peaceful life just like this.

If nothing had happened six years ago, the twins wouldn't be separated for such a long time. As parents, we had let them down.

I suddenly recalled something. "Where is Summer? Is she alright now?" I asked.

If I wasn't mistaken, the time I gave Jared was up. Summer must've grown up to be a cheerful teen by now.

"Don't worry. I need to tell you something, Letty." John crossed his legs and leaned back into the sofa, his expression stern.

I couldn't get used to how rigid he was. "We're siblings, so just say it. There's no need to hesitate."

John inclined his head. He stared at the ground before meeting my gaze. "Emma and I have a three-year-old child."

I didn't know it was about his child. It took me a while to process the news before I flashed a warm smile. "That's great. Is it a boy or girl?"

"A boy," replied John shyly. "His name is Drew."

"Drew." I repeated the name happily. "It's a great name. I hope he will be wise as his name."

John flashed a sorrowful smile. "I thought you'd blame me."

He paused at that. Taking a deep breath, he went ahead and said, "You were missing, but I got married and even had a son. I don't deserve to be your brother."

It seemed like he was mocking the past six years of his life, but I knew that wasn't it.

John was no longer the frivolous and vicious young man he used to be. He had matured and was able to support his family and run a business empire.

The past six years had been wasted, but it wasn't anyone's fault. He shouldn't blame himself for it.

Besides, he took great care of Audrey.

I stood up and went to him before sitting down. Patting his shoulder, I told him, "John, you'll always be my brother. You have an additional responsibility now, but that doesn't mean anything has changed between us. Thank you for what you've done for the past six years."

John had suffered a lot when I was lying in coma, doing nothing.

In a foreign country, he had to search for my whereabouts while taking care of his parents. He also had to run a business. His responsibilities must've taken too much of his life, so he could only sleep for a few hours every night.

Hearing my words, tears welled up in John's eyes. His gaze softened. Though he had a dominating presence, the sight of him forcing back tears was a little melodramatic.

I didn't want to continue being sentimental and hurriedly changed the topic. "Tell me. How did you successfully court Emma?"

Before I left the country, I remembered Emma was focused on her career. She no longer wanted to be with John. Once a woman focused on her career, she wouldn't want to get involved with a man anymore.

Thora was a great example.

John scratched his head as though he was still the handsome and innocent young man. “Err, I didn’t really court her. After you went missing, I traveled around the world to find you. I exhausted all means available and refused to stop. In the end, I collapsed from exhaustion and remained unconscious for three whole days. Back then, Emma took over the whole Stovall family. Sometimes, she doesn’t really act like a woman.”

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1487

[Leave a Comment](#) / [In Love, Never Say Never](#)

His last sentence was clearly mocking Emma, but the blissful smile on his lips was unmistakable.

“After a while, I searched all the islands in Cranur before realizing it was basically impossible to find you. I returned home in a daze to see Emma playing with Audrey in the living room. The scene blew my mind. Immediately, I wanted to marry her and live a normal life with her. We shall form a family together.”

As John explained everything, the grin on his face widened. Clearly, he had a blissful life.

My lips curved up upon imagining that sight. “So you confessed your feelings to her right then?” I teased.

Confessing one’s feelings, acceptance, and falling in love with each other might be a cheesy route, but as long as the ending was good, one should still look forward to it.

Hearing my question, John flashed an evil smirk and said nothing.

Huh. How strange.

“Did you bully Emma?” I pressed on.

“Bully her? Of course not. I won’t do that.” John dismissed my question with a wave, the smile on his lips unwavering. “Well, I used an unusual solution. Uncle Louis taught us that special circumstances require special measures, right?”

Speaking of Louis, he seemed energetic when we talked through a video call back in the hotel. "I thought Uncle Louis is going to battle against Ezra and the rest? Why did he go to M Country, too?"

The Stovall family treated me as their own, but Louis was a righteous man. He knew Ezra and his gang were behaving tyrannically, so he wouldn't retire and spend the rest of his life overseas.

"Ezra Grant is history."

John leaned back into the couch and tapped on the handle nonchalantly.

"A successful person is likely to be targeted. To get to a higher position, Ezra resorted to dirty tricks. He tried to increase his influence and attack his rival. Yes, he did succeed, but he also attracted the attention of internal affairs. A new broom sweeps clean, so there is bound to be someone new who dares to challenge the authority. After being summoned for an investigation, Ezra never came back." He was a person of authority, yet he disappeared without a trace. It proved that the situation was too widespread. The only solution was to erase every trace.

Ezra's disappearance signified the end of an era.

That was a satisfying ending.

John wasn't interested in irrelevant people. He glanced at the kitchen and narrowed his voice. "How long are you going to stay in K City? My men are ready to kidnap him anytime."

I couldn't believe he took my words seriously.

Immediately, I burst out laughing, causing John to crinkle his nose up in disgust. We both glanced at the kitchen at the same time and saw Ashton shooting us surreptitious glances.

I calmed down and patted John's shoulder. "Tell them to be on standby."

Standing up, I headed to the stairs. "I'll go take a shower. Holler me when dinner's ready."

When I went for a follow-up checkup, the doctor said I've recovered. However, I was sweating profusely after spending two hours outdoors. It was terribly uncomfortable.

Thinking it was the medicine's side effects, I ignored it and filled the tub with hot water. When it was full, I entered it and closed my eyes.

I finally found myself after regaining consciousness. It was a difficult but needed journey.

Back then, when I opened my eyes, I saw Marcus who had gone missing for a long time. Everyone else thought we were a couple engaged to be married.

I knew how obsessed Marcus was with me. He wouldn't hurt me, but he could harm a newborn baby just to separate me and Ashton. Hence, I couldn't reveal everything to him honestly.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1488

[Leave a Comment](#) / [In Love, Never Say Never](#)

I could only pretend to suffer from amnesia.

We spent some time together peacefully before fate brought me to Ashton again. It was a familiar but cruel moment, for Ashton didn't seem to recognize me. Pain ripped through my heart when his indifferent gaze landed on me.

I could only watch, breathless with anger, as my son became a part of the Hall family.

After reuniting with Emery and Alexander, I thought things would get better, but they were also hiding something from me.

John was the only one who hadn't changed. His jaw was unshaved, but he was still my brother who'd go against Ashton anytime to protect me.

That moment, I knew I could be Scarlett Stovall again.

However, I wasn't sure if Ashton had been hypnotized.

If he had been hypnotized, why did he bring Gregory to provoke me and Marcus several times?

If he hadn't been hypnotized, why did he ask me to pretend to be Scarlett Stovall?

Also, Ashton's eyesight and the toxin in my body seemed to have faded away with time.

I was deep in thought when the sounds of footsteps jolted me out of my reverie. Turning slightly, I saw Ashton standing there. I didn't even know he was here.

He was still wearing his apron as he stood expressionlessly beside the sink, his gaze fixated on me.

We had seen each other naked before, but I still instinctively slid in so the bubbles could cover my whole body.

After making sure I wasn't exposed, I turned over and put on a calm front. "Don't you know I'm taking a bath in private?"

"Mm," came Ashton's calm reply. "We have two kids. There's no need to be shy."

"Hey!" I can't believe he's using my words against me!

I nearly suffocated from fury.

Meanwhile, Ashton remained unfazed and righteous as though he was Superman in disguise.

The more I thought, the angrier I got. Immediately, I smirked as an idea came to me.

After confirming Ashton was still there, I schooled my expression into a seductive look. Rising from the tub, I pressed my body on the edge and winked at him invitingly.

"It's no fun to take a bath alone. Won't you come and join me? After all, you're my most intimate partner in the world."

I raised my hand and placed it at the edge of the tub, allowing water to drip down my hand before winking at him flirtatiously.

"Won't you join me?"

I was certain he couldn't resist my advances.

Hence, I flashed a smile and waited for him to react.

Ashton stood rooted to the spot. His gaze was burning with desire like it had caught fire.

He moved swiftly and took the bathrobe from the rack before throwing it to me without warning.

Before I could react, the bathrobe had covered my entire body. The romantic atmosphere was ruined, and I no longer looked sexy.

His voice rang out. "If you continue, the dishes will get cold. Don't let Audrey wait too long."

With that, he turned to leave. I removed the robe from my head to see his figure walking out of the bathroom. Furious, I flung the robe at his back.

What is this? Is he ignoring his wife because he has a daughter now?

That's no fun!

When I arrived downstairs, dinner was ready. John and Ashton were waiting for me at the table with the kids.

Everyone only began eating after I took my seat.

Ashton was deadpanned as though he was working in his office. He could've easily intimidated the other party to give in.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1489

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However, Audrey didn't seem to be afraid of him.

"Daddy, I want chicken wings!"

"Daddy, I want that thing in front of you."

"More, Daddy!"

She was the only one giving orders throughout dinner.

Compared to her chattiness, Gregory was much quieter. He sat in his chair and munched on his food slowly. He seemed like a mini version of Ashton.

They were affected by the family environment they grew up in.

Audrey was brought up by the Stovall family who adored her, so she was cheeky and lively.

Gregory was raised by Ashton. As a result of his strict upbringing, he treated dinner as part of his everyday routine.

He was just a little kid, but he was exactly like Ashton and treated outsiders coldly. If he were to treat his family this coolly, he might end up leading a lonely life.

At that thought, I tried to teach him how to help others.

"Gregory, I like that dish in front of you. Can you help me get it?"

"Gregory, your sister can't reach that. Take care of her."

Soon, Gregory knew how to express his feelings by helping others. Audrey learned from her brother and stopped chattering. Instead, she helped Gregory to get the food he couldn't reach.

Dinner soon became a very heartwarming event.

Yet, John was complaining for he was considered an "outsider."

"You're making me feel lonely." John threw his fork away. "Huh, I've lost my appetite."

I arched a brow at his reaction. "Are you alright?"

Before he could reply, Audrey jumped out of her chair and scurried around the table before coming to a stop beside John. She stood on tiptoe and tugged on the corner of his jacket. "Uncle John, I'll give you all my delicious food. Don't be sad."

John picked her up so she could sit in his lap. He was grinning from ear to ear. "Okay. Let's eat together. You are my all-time favorite, Audrey!"

He didn't forget to give Ashton a smug glare.

Ashton's face clouded over and he looked terrifyingly cold.

The dining table was split into two different atmospheres with me in the middle.

On the left, John was acting lovey-dovey with Audrey. On my right, Ashton and Gregory were eating without a word as though the dishes tasted bland.

It was so amusing that my lips curved up in a grin. I didn't manage to defeat Ashton back in the bedroom with my trick, but Audrey did it on my behalf.

As a result, I gobbled down my dinner happily.

When I was wiping my mouth, I spotted Ashton's plate was still full. I looked up and saw him still scowling at John and Audrey. The little girl was sitting in John's lap and eating dinner, which was prepared by Ashton. It was as if John and Audrey were father and daughter.

Immediately, I cleared my throat and proceeded to increase Ashton's torture. "You did the right thing by adopting Audrey. Look, she adores you. I have a suggestion. She can call you 'Daddy.' What do you think, John?"

John snickered under his breath before replying resolutely, "That sounds like a great idea."

He promptly turned Audrey around and joked, "Audrey, call me 'Daddy!'"

Engrossed in her food, Audrey uttered without hesitation, "Dad—"

Thud! The sound of a fork being slammed onto the table reverberated in the dining room.

It was Ashton. He rose to his feet in a huff and strode away. He had only taken two steps when he stopped abruptly and turned at his shoulder. "Gregory Hall, you did a good job today. I shall reward you with an extra half an hour of screen time. Follow me to my study."

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1490

[Leave a Comment](#) / [In Love, Never Say Never](#)

Gregory's favorite was his laptop. Ashton didn't want him to wear glasses, so he was only allowed to play for an hour every day. Upon hearing he had an extra half an hour of screen time today, Gregory's eyes lit up. He jumped down from his seat without even bothering to swallow his food and dashed to his father.

Seeing Gregory leaving, Audrey could no longer sit still. She struggled to leave John's lap and wailed, "Greg! I wanna go to him!"

Afraid she would trip, Gregory slowed down and waited for her. They held hands and went upstairs together.

Ashton was ahead of them, stomping up the stairs arrogantly as though he was trying to taunt John.

Once they had left, the living room fell silent.

"Ha!" John spread his hands jealously. "Ashton's still a sly fox though he had lost his memory. He knows to get the leader's attention first."

I burst out laughing. "You know how he climbed his way up to what he is today. You're no match for him."

"You're right." John nodded and lamented, "Perhaps he's having the best time of his life after forgetting everything."

Indeed, living a muddled life might be a good thing.

Still, we couldn't pretend that nothing had ever happened.

I changed the topic. "I remember Nicolas injected a toxin into my body six years ago. Why did nothing happen even after six years?"

That was also one of the reason I kept pretending to suffer from amnesia.

I wasn't sure how long I would survive, so I dared not return to the Stovall family and reunite with my children. Reuniting with my family would be a joyous occasion, but it would be hard to lose everything again.

Compared to the short period of happiness after reuniting with my family, I was afraid of bringing irreversible regret to them. Hence, I decided to be alone and update myself about the events of the past six years.

Immediately, John straightened as his expression turned serious. "I've been investigating this for the past six years. Initially, I found nothing, but now that you're alive and well, it all makes sense. We couldn't figure out why Nicolas didn't inject you with a fatal poison. Instead, he chose a toxin that everyone was researching. I suspect he didn't want you to disappear and..."

"Try to control me, right?" I suspected the same.

After seeing how capable Ashton was, Nicolas tried to control me to threaten Ashton into submission.

However, Nicolas had successfully hypnotized Ashton and made the latter his puppet. He could've eliminated me for I was an unstable variable. Why didn't he kill me?

“Mm,” John replied and inclined his head. “When Emery told me you were with Marcus, I was curious and investigated his whereabouts six years ago. He wasn’t the one who rescued you from the sea. There was another person who saved you, but proceeded to inform Marcus. To avoid being found by the Stovalls, Moores, and Halls, Marcus brought you back the very night we arrived in M Country. It seemed like a well-planned scheme.”

Indeed, Marcus wasn’t capable enough of finding me ahead of the Halls unless he had struck a deal with one of them.

Who was the person who went against Nicolas and spared my life?

Could it be Tiffany Hall? No, she wanted Scarlett Stovall to disappear from this world so no one would take Ashton away from her.

Could it be Simone? After abandoning her son for over twenty years, she suddenly developed a conscience and went against Nicolas’ wishes for her son’s happiness? That didn’t seem right. If she did have a conscience, she would’ve stopped the Hall family from taking Gregory away. Yet, she didn’t do so.