

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1571

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Summer's heart twitched in pain as she rubbed Audrey's tears off her face. She let out a long sigh. "I know you're a good girl, Audrey. You always are. But sometimes, even a good girl will do wrong, understand?"

Audrey sniffed and stared at Summer with a confused look. Apparently, she did not comprehend what Summer meant.

Summer flashed a gentle smile and continued to explain patiently, "Let me ask you. Do you remember the time when you were in M Country? With so many people keeping you company at that time, do you still miss Daddy and Mommy?"

"Of course!" Audrey responded without hesitation. "There was not a single day that I didn't miss them! I even dreamt of them every night!"

"That's right. I know you did." Summer caressed Audrey's head gently. "I'm saying this because I want you to understand that parents are the most important people in everyone's life, and that includes Shaun. He has been alone for so many years. Do you think it is better for him to stay with us or to go back and live with his parents?"

A gloomy expression loomed over Audrey's face. "With his parents..."

A second later, she shouted emotionally, "But he's got no parents!"

Summer was still smiling. "That's not true. He was just like you. He got separated from his parents, and now he found them. In fact, you've met them. They're the uncle and aunty who picked him up this morning. They look like good people, and I'm sure they'll take good care of Shaun. Don't you think so?"

Audrey did not respond as she sank into deep thought.

It was not easy for a young girl like her to understand love and human nature. Even though I don't get it, I'm sure everyone won't lie to me.

Seeing how Audrey was starting to relent, Summer feigned a stern look. "If you insist on seeing Shaun, then we can only separate him from his parents again. Ask yourself, would you be happy if you were separated from Daddy and Mommy? Are you sure you want that?"

"No way!" Audrey burst out crying. "I don't want that! Never!"

Wiping the tears off her face, Audrey reached out to Summer, wanting to be carried by her sister. "Let's go to bed now. I don't want to part with Daddy and Mommy!"

"Okay."

Summer scooped Audrey into her arms as she cast a glance at me. With that, both of them went upstairs.

After their figures disappeared thoroughly from the stairs, I turned toward Ashton, intending to give him a good scolding.

"Mr. Ashton, are you the head of this family or not? Shouldn't you have some principles as a father? How could you give in so easily?"

Ashton shifted his gaze at me and smiled faintly. "It might be easy for you, but not for me. I'm finally able to get close to her after so long. I don't want to ruin it."

Pausing for a while, he leaned toward me and narrowed his eyes. "Besides, who said that I'm the head of the family?"

"You shameless bast*rd..."

I pushed him away and escaped to the room. If I continued the conversation, I reckoned he was going to take advantage of me again.

When Summer and Audrey were freshening up in the bathroom, I immediately found the remote on the bed and hid it in the closet before I tucked myself in the bed.

As expected, Ashton's hand started to wander after switching off the light. After a while, he began searching for the remote.

I was secretly elated. Letting out a long sigh, I ignored him and went off to sleep.

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I thought Audrey would get over Shaun after that day. However, her smile seemed to disappear ever since, and she did not have much of an appetite. She did not even talk much with Summer and Gregory.

Feeling helpless, I had no choice but to seek advice from Emery. After all, she had many experiences with kids.

Around half an hour after hanging up the phone, the Moore family's car appeared at the villa's gate.

Without even greeting us, Emery walked right toward Audrey, who was drawing on the grass. She squatted down and started chatting with the latter.

I somehow felt relieved when I saw her confident expression. Someone that can lift Audrey's spirit up has finally come.

Yet, in less than two minutes, Emery walked toward me, shrugging her shoulders. At that instant, I knew even she could not do anything.

"And here I thought the problem's solved." I let out a long sigh. "You've raised Xavier all by yourself. How could you not know how to deal with Audrey? What did you say to her?"

“What else could I say? I’ve tried my best to talk some sense into her and to comfort her.” Emery looked at me with a helpless expression.

I rolled my eyes upon hearing that. What she did is no different than what we’ve done. I wouldn’t have asked for her help if I knew this was all that she’s capable of.

My heart fell with a thud as I stared at Audrey’s despondent figure.

If only she got her parents to accompany her since she was small, maybe she would have been able to socialize. However, John had been putting all his time searching for me and building his career. Thus, Audrey stayed at home most of the time and had no chance to mix with people. That’s why she can’t get over Shaun as he’s the only one she’s got. In short, this is all our fault.

“Don’t worry too much. We’ll find a way eventually. As the saying goes, it’s up to the doer to undo the knot.”

“Do you mean that we should get Shaun back here?”

I did think of that option, but I would not want to take it if we still had other choices.

“Well, not necessarily.” Emery shifted her gaze at Audrey.” Since she wants to see him, why don’t we take her to him? Let her witness how well Shaun is doing in his new family. Maybe then, she would be able to let go of him.”

Upon saying that, Emery mumbled to herself, “Seems to me raising a boy is much easier...”

Displeased by her mutterings, I thought to myself, She’s always so competitive. I understand if she wants to compete in other aspects, but she shouldn’t act so when it comes to a child’s growth. I objected, “Even though a son might be more independent, the happiness when having a daughter is irreplaceable. Both have their benefits and shortcomings. Since we’re destined to be their parents, it’s our responsibility to protect them.”

Emery shrugged. "Maybe I'm used to growing up alone. I could never understand the happiness of sticking together all the time. But, you're most probably right. So, please ignore what I've said just now."

I responded with a smile. I don't blame you.

I had known Emery for a long time, and I was aware of the person that she was. Even though she was not close with her siblings, she was a passionate person when it came to love. Back when she was in love with Hunter, she could not even bear to leave him for a second. Her current aloofness was merely a form of self-protection due to extreme disappointment.

One wouldn't get hurt if one doesn't love.

After clearing my thoughts, I approached Audrey, intending to take her to see Shaun.

It had been more than a week since Yuna took Shaun away. I figured now was a reasonable time to pay them a visit.

Audrey's lips curled into a smile when she heard me mentioning Shaun. Without a second thought, she skipped back to her room and got changed.

Staring at Audrey's overjoyed behavior, Emery crossed her arms in front of me. "Why don't you send someone to check on Shaun's situation first? It would be bad if you guys run into any inappropriate scenes. Should that happen, it would be harder for Audrey to let go of him then."

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"I don't think that's necessary."

When Shaun left, Joseph gave him a phone and reminded him to call the emergency number if he ever got into trouble. Since he had not made a call so far, it proved that he had a good life with Yuna.

All aspects of the social conditions of the adopting family were strictly screened, including their character. Emery was overthinking as she did not know much about this.

Before long, Audrey got changed into a new dress. She came down the stairs joyously, with Gregory following behind her.

He should be attending online classes at this time. Why is he here?

“Gregory, did something happen?” I asked.

“No.” Gregory lifted his head and stared at me, determination shining in his eyes. “Mommy, I would like to tag along with you guys.”

Before I could react, he walked past me and walked toward Joseph. “Mr. Campbell, please arrange the car and a few subordinates. You’ll be going with us too.”

“Yes, Mr. Gregory.”

Upon saying that, Joseph left the living room.

Only then did I notice Gregory had changed his clothes too. So, he has made up his mind. He wasn’t asking for my permission; he was merely informing me.

With that, I let out a helpless sigh. He’s just like Ashton.

In the end, Emery, Audrey, and I got into one car while Joseph and Gregory were in another car, followed by a van with bodyguards.

It took around two hours to get from the western district to Coldbridge.

Yuna’s family was a moderate-income family. However, as their ancestors were from K City, they inherited quite an outstanding residence. It seemed that most of the residents around there possessed a car as we rarely saw someone on foot. Not to mention, there were a lot of plantations in this area. In this K City, where

lands were overpriced, this area could be considered a piece of heaven.

After parking the car in front of the building, we went inside.

Getting out of the elevator, Joseph went out and pressed the doorbell. Ding Dong...

“Shaun!” Audrey could not suppress her excitement any longer.

The temperature in the building was quite high.

Even though there were only two units per floor, and we were on the eleventh floor, the heat was still noticeable. Besides, since it was summer, the ventilation was not that good. The heat was more obvious especially since we had just got out of an air-conditioned car.

There was no response from inside the door for a long while. Noticing that, Joseph knocked on the door a few more times.

Still, no one came to open the door.

My heart skipped a beat as I realized it was the weekend. There was a high chance they had taken Shaun out to play.

I should have listened to Emery’s advice and contacted them beforehand. It would have prevented us from wasting time.

“Mommy.” Audrey started to run out of patience as she sweated profusely. “Why isn’t Shaun opening the door? Is he blaming me for not waiting for him?”

“No, it’s not like that. Shaun must have gone out with his parents. We’ll see him in a short while.”

Feeling guilty, I asked Joseph to call Yuna and ask about their location. I figured we could go meet them to save time.

Yuna picked up the phone right after the call went through. “Hello, Mr. Campbell. What is it?”

"It's me, Scarlett. May I ask where you are now? Are you free to talk?" I uttered.

"Sure. I'm resting at home. What is it?" Yuna smiled.

"You're at home?" I shifted my gaze toward the door with a confused look. "Well, that's great. We are stopping by to check on Shaun. We're at your door now. Could you open the door for us?"

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"What? You're at my door? How could you show up uninvited? Do the Fullers not know about basic manners at all?"

The shrill voice from the other end made me take my ear away from the phone. I furrowed my brows, feeling utterly displeased.

She sounded like a different person from my first impression of Yuna. Is she truly the university professor that we've met?

"What's going on?" Emery asked with concern upon noticing my scrunched-up face.

"Nothing..." I took a deep breath, trying to recollect myself.

I guess it is my fault for not informing them before I come. Perhaps she doesn't want to let others see her house in an unprepared state. That's why she lost her temper.

A few seconds later, I put the phone back to my ear.

It seemed that Yuna had realized her misbehavior, as she had passed the phone to her husband, James. "Mrs. Fuller, I'm so sorry. My wife's having a difficult time at work recently, so she's in a bad mood. Please forgive her. You're welcome to visit us anytime. But, what Yuna failed to mention was that we're currently at our house in Jazona, as our parents wanted to see Shaun. We'll be here for quite a time. I'm sorry for having you come so far for nothing..."

With that, I was left with no choice but to appoint for the next visit and end the call.

Fortunately, Audrey did not make a fuss out of it. She figured it was just a matter of time for her to meet Shaun. At that moment, all she wanted was to get back to the air-conditioned car.

Just when we were about to leave, a loud thud came from inside the door.

What's going on? I thought there isn't anyone at home? Thinking that I had misheard, I turned to Emery and Gregory only to see them showing the same befuddled look like mine.

At that instant, I could not help but suspect what James had told me.

Are they really away from home? Or could it be that they're afraid to let us in the house since we've made a surprise visit?

As we exchanged looks and wondered what the hell was going on, we heard some noises coming from the other side of the door again.

Click... Click... Click...

It was a slow and rhythmic tapping sound. It was as if something was hitting the ground.

Joseph leaned his ear against the door cautiously. After a while, he turned to us with a stern look. "There's someone inside!"

Something's wrong. Even though Shaun is quite a mysterious person, he's still Audrey's saver. With that in mind, I immediately instructed Joseph, "Kick the door down!"

I pulled Audrey aside while Emery pulled Gregory to the other corner. After that, Joseph threw a heavy kick on the door.

Bang!

The door did not budge at all.

Feeling insulted by it, Joseph took a few steps back and got ready to charge again.

Bang!

The door was knocked out of its frame, causing both Joseph and the door to slam onto the smooth tiles inside the house.

He was indeed Ashton's most excellent assistant. Despite suffering such a huge impact, he did not even make a peep. Instead, he stood up after a few seconds as though nothing had happened. He picked up the door and placed it aside effortlessly before making way for us to enter.

The moment we stepped into the house, the clicking sounds rang out again from the kitchen at the left.

Joseph immediately followed the sound and went behind the cooking table.

The next second, he bent down. When he got up again, he was carrying Shaun in his arms. The latter was barely breathing.

Shaun was not wearing any shirt, and his bone structure could be seen clearly due to his skinny body. However, the most mind-blowing part was the fact that his body was covered in countless wounds. In just a week, he had turned into a different person, looking like someone on the brink of death.

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Despite the fact that he was already looking so frail, someone had still tied his small, thin hands together with a white nylon rope. The red marks and blood-stained rope were a gruesome sight to behold.

Shaun's legs had also been tied, but he had somehow managed to break free from them. We could see where the rope had dug deep into his flesh.

Still dazed and confused, he croaked weakly, "Water..."

Joseph quickly placed him on the couch and untied the ropes around his wrist. To appease my feelings of guilt, I seized the opportunity to pour him a glass of water.

Recognizing Shaun, Audrey walked over to the couch in horror and started sobbing. Soon, her face was damp with tears. "Shaun... Shaun... Don't die..."

"It's okay. Shaun is going to be fine. Be a good girl now. Don't cry..." Joseph said soothingly. After placing Shaun on the couch, he hurried off to call the paramedics. I pulled Shaun gently into my arms and held the glass of water to his lips. There was no time for me to comfort Audrey.

Unable to stand Audrey's crying any longer, Emery gave a resigned sigh. She placed her hands on Audrey's shoulders and spun her around, forcing the girl to meet her gaze. Wagging a finger at Audrey, Emery said, "Audrey, I'm only going to say this once, so listen carefully. The louder you cry, the more painful it is for Shaun. Do you want to see him die from the pain? If you do, then keep on crying. The louder you cry, the faster he dies. Go on then, keep crying!"

The mention of death frightened Audrey so much that she quickly clasped a hand over her mouth, not daring to make another noise.

Emery's method of dealing with the matter is questionable but effective. If it had been me, I wouldn't have had the heart to scare a child just to shut them up. I suppose it does take a person of action to get things done quickly.

Emery seemed to read my mind. She straightened up and shrugged. "See that? Certain teaching methods work on both genders."

I shook my head. Poor Xavier. How many of Emery's threats and scares has he had to endure these past six years? It's a good thing boys are tough. If it had been a girl, she would've had a rough time.

Nonetheless, it was not the right time to be making jokes, so I did not answer Emery.

After about ten minutes, Shaun finally slowly opened his eyes and looked around weakly.

It was different from the first time I met him. Now, I could see the desire to live blazing in his eyes.

The moment he regained consciousness, he stubbornly struggled to sit up, avoiding my embrace and leaning against the back of the couch.

As his body twisted, it tugged at the injuries on his body. He hissed in pain and clenched his jaw.

I held his arm at once to help him sit up. "Don't push yourself."

Shaun did not respond. He did not even dare to meet my gaze. Instead, he stared fixedly at the floor.

His behavior clearly indicated that the Fullers' rules were still fresh in his mind. He had to respect me and was not allowed to get too close to me.

I reached out a hand to comfort him, but he shrank away immediately. I could only give up on the thought and withdraw my hand. Then, I moved to another couch so that he could sit more comfortably without trying to keep his distance from me.

Shaun was quick to notice my kind intentions. As soon as I moved away, he shifted into a more comfortable position, and the pained look on his face faded slightly.

Nonetheless, his eyes darted around uneasily as if he was still on his guard.

He looked like a little frightened mouse that would be startled by even the slightest movement and sound.

Although the children in the orphanage had no one to rely on, they were calm and steady toward strangers. Whatever it is, we're partially responsible for the state he's in now.

As the thought crossed my mind, I began to worry about alarming him once again. Hence, I lowered my voice and said softly, "Shaun, can you tell me how you got those injuries?"

Shaun stared at the floor and was silent for a long time.

I heaved a heavy sigh. Subconsciously, I treated him as an adult. It's my fault for not carefully thinking things through. In truth, he's still a child who's just a little taller than Audrey. We should count our lucky stars that he hasn't broken down after going through so much. It'd be a torment to ask him to relive the painful ordeal of how he got injured. If an impatient person like Emery can restrain herself from pressing a child for answers, I shouldn't question him either. We should wait for the paramedics to arrive and get him treated at the hospital first.