Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1056

Chapter 1056

Chapter 1056

Meredith asked instead, "If not, what do you think I should do? Throw myself into his arms because I'm so grateful for him and just get along with him?"

"Yeah, like friends do. Can you not do that?"

Meredith laughed bitterly, "For two people who loved each other and yet at the same time hurt each other to be friends? I can't do that."

"Miss Meredith, I don't think it's because of this reason that you can't do that, it's because you still have Mister Charlie in your heart, right?"

"Perhaps so. In any case, this is how it's going to be between Josiah and I for the rest of our life."

She put on her clothes, picked up her bag from the sofa and said, "Let's go."

Walking past the counter for Sweet Reminiscence, the group had dispersed and the employees were cleaning up the scene.

Because a handful of perfume bottles were broken, the entire place was filled with the smell of Sweet Reminiscence.

There was even a small pool of blood on the floor. Meredith

guessed that it was from Josiah.

At the thought that Josiah hurt his forehead, Meredith finally felt a bit guilty. Because she did not even ask about his injury.

It was not because she was cold-blooded, it was simply because she did not think that the time was right.

Josiah had claimed that he loved her and wanted to be with her, so Meredith planned on showing her cold and ruthless side to him, so that he would give up.

But Josiah did not really care about this.

Mister Wesley, however, felt aggrieved for Josiah. While treating Josiah's wound, he grumbled, "Sir, you really shouldn't do all this anymore. This will only lower your worth and Miss Meredith will only be less interested in you."

Josiah glanced at him. "How am I lowering my worth? Why don't I think that way?"

"Sir, we can't just shower women with love and put up with everything they do. We should use the carrot and stick approach."

Wesley cleared his throat and said, "Just like how you treated her back then. And that was why she stuck to you like glue, isn't it?"

"It was because she needed a favor from me."

To save Nia.

"It's not like that, Sir. Do you know what 'play hard to get' is?"

"Not sure."

Mister Wesley wanted to explain when Mister Yoseph gave a light push on his arm. "Leave it, do you really think that Sir doesn't know about this? It's simply because Sir doesn't want to do it."

"But it's obvious that his approach is wrong," Mister Wesley said to Mister Yoseph, "you've been in more than ten relationships, haven't you? Don't you agree with what I say?"

Mister Yoseph's face changed. "Are you trying to pick a fight, Wesley? Since when have I been in that many relationships?"

"Fine. There was a loud truck of women who liked you and went after you, but you liked neither of them. Instead, you were attracted to a woman who didn't care much about you."

Wesley went on, "And do you know why?"

"Because she's gorgeous and she's good at her work, duh."

Yoseph shrugged his shoulders.

"And don't you think Sir too is good–looking and he's good at his job?"

"Also, the sales director of Johnson's Group is pretty and she's good at her work too, so why don't you want her? Because she had been sticking to you like a gum, showing up everyday and just won't give you space, and in the end, you were annoyed by her."

Mister Wesley suddenly felt Josiah's cold gaze on him.

He felt chills run down his spine and immediately explained himself, "Sir, please don't be mistaken, I'm not saying that you're like a gum, I…"

He then slapped his lips and went on, "I'm sorry. All I wanted to say is that when we go after someone, we shouldn't keep clinging onto them. It will only backfire."

Josiah then shifted his gaze onto Yoseph. "So why didn't you like the sales director of the Johnsons Group? Simply because she was too clingy?"

Previous Chapter

Next Chapter

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1057

Chapter 1057

Chapter 1057

"Um..." Mister Yoseph suddenly did not know what to say.

If he said yes, Yoseph wondered if Josiah would give him a cold glare.

Mister Wesley secretly gave her a soft nudge on his arms and reminded him, "For the sake of Sir's love life, you should be honest."

Mister Yoseph suddenly agreed with Mister Wesley.

As Josiah's secretary, they have a responsibility to make sure Josiah's love life was on the right track.

"I did think that she was quite annoying, but that's not the only reason. Perhaps I was simply not attracted to him too," Mister Yoseph replied carefully, choosing her words.

While Mister Wesley exposed him right away, "I remember that when Yoseph first met her, he didn't say it like that. Yoseph said that the lady had the type of looks that he liked, and he even said that he liked that she had a good sense of humor."

So it did not matter even if he was first attracted?

Josiah suddenly felt anxious.

He had always thought that Meredith loved him a lot and no matter what happened, she would not forget about him.

"So why didn't you like her after that?" This was the first time Josiah was interested in someone else's personal life.

On normal days, he would not even be bothered to ask about Liam's girlfriend.

Mister Wesley replied bluntly, "Because she was too clingy and annoying, duh!"

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Yoseph stomped hard on Wesley's foot.

Wesley cried in pain and fumed, "Why did you step on me!"

Yoseph pointed at Josiah who was in a daze. It was then Wesley realized that he had once again said something wrong.

Since he had already made a mistake, Wesley thought that he should just bite the bullet and push it through.

"Sir, I know you might not want to hear this, but for the sake of your happiness, it's better for you to play hard to get rather than be clingy. It's the truth!"

He then gave an eye to Yoseph, signaling for him to add

something too.

Yoseph got his hint and nodded. "He's right, Sir. Since nothing worked when you clung onto her, why not give Wesley's suggestion a try."

Wesley immediately nodded his head.

Josiah hesitated for a moment before saying, "Wesley, since you're that experienced, please come up with a detailed plan for me."

"Huh? What detailed plan?"

"A detailed plan on playing hard to get."

Mister Wesley was dumbfounded. "This...do we really need a plan for this?"

"Just do it if Sir asks you to. What's with the nonsense?" Yoseph rolled his eyes at him.

Mister Wesley saw how Josiah was being serious and hence he could only nod softly. "Well okay, I'll try to come up with one."

After getting his wound treated, Josiah got up onto his feet." Okay, let's get back to work now."

Wesley and Yoseph exchanged a look with each other and walked out of his room.

Josiah traced his fingers along the wound on his forehead as he walked toward the windows.

He had never really used the play hard-to-get approach.

After all, he had always been surrounded by women and this was the first time he had to chase after a woman. And he was rather inexperienced.

Previous Chapter

Next Chapter

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1058

Chapter 1058

Chapter 1058

As soon as she returned to the office, Meredith asked Goldie if everything had returned to normal at the counter.

Goldie nodded, "Yeah, everything is back to normal. The mall even has a security team to guard our counter."

"That's too much."

"I think so too," Goldie went on, "after what Mister Josiah had done to those troublemakers, I think no one would be foolish enough to barge into the mall to cause a scene."

"Mm. It's good that everything's back to normal." Meredith then handed Goldie some paperwork. "Make a few copies of this document. I need them for the client meeting later."

"Okay." Goldie took the document and then said to her, "Miss Meredith, there's something that I don't know if I should tell

you."

"Forget it then." Meredith turned on her laptop and started working

Goldie did not expect such a response from Meredith. Biting down on her lips, she added, "But I feel bad for Mister Josiah if I don't say it."

"If it's about Mister Josiah, then please, forget it."

Meredith then said to her, "Get back to work."

"But the wound of Mister Josiah's forehead was because of you.

Meredith who was typing away on her keyboard froze. Finally, she asked, "How is his injury?"

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He was hit by a bottle of perfume on his forehead and he did bleed a lot but Meredith did not think that it was anything

serious.

"When I went to the mall earlier today, I heard that Mister Josiah's wound got infected and he caught a high fever. And he was sent to the hospital this morning."

"It's nothing serious, isn't it? Wound infection."

"Miss Meredith, you have a medical background, don't you? I should be the one asking you this question."

Meredith cleared her throat awkwardly and said, "You're right. I don't think it'd be anything serious."

She then lowered her head and got back to work.

Goldie then said, "I heard that it can get serious even if it's

just a wound like that. It would be dangerous if he gets tetanus, right?"

"Yes, but Mister Josiah is known to have nine lives and he will not die that easily."

Meredith seemed to be saying this to herself to comfort herself instead of to comfort Goldie.

After all, when Josiah fell down from the third floor and hurt his head, he was still fine, when she stabbed him in the heart and poisoned him, he did not even die.

Goldie nodded her head. "Ah, if that's the case, then it should be fine."

After Goldie left, Meredith lifted her head up slowly from the laptop.

Meredith wondered if Josiah was fine.

Because she knew that if his wound got infected, it would be rather dangerous.

And based on Josiah's personality, he would not want to be hospitalized or receive an injection because of such a small wound.

After a moment of hesitation, she reached for her phone and called the number of a nurse.

She had stayed at the hospital so many times that she was friends with a few doctors and nurses in Crest Care Hospital. Hence, it was easy for her to want to get news on Josiah.

At the news that she was asking about Josiah's condition, the nurse sighed, "Miss Meredith, the director was about to call

vou."

"He wanted to call me?"

"Yes, because Sir's wound got infected and he's running on a high fever now. No matter how the director asked him to be hospitalized, Sir decided to leave in the end.

The nurse replied, "The director said that Sir listens to you well and so he wanted to call you but Sir had stopped him. Sir said that he didn't want to involve you in his matters and even gave orders for us not to interfere with his business.

"Sigh, Sir is just putting us in a rough spot, how could he possibly expect us to just leave him alone?" The nurse then added, "Miss Meredith, if it's not too much for you, could you please make a call to Sir and convince Sir to come back and get treated?"

Meredith was a little conflicted. "But...I can't promise that he would listen to me."

"If even you won't be able to convince Sir, no one else would be able to convince him, sigh..."

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1059

Chapter 1059

Chapter 1059

She was hesitating if she should make a call to Josiah.

He had already told the medical team that they should not involve Meredith in his matters and if she insisted on interfering, Meredith was worried that she would come off too overbearing

But at the thought that he got injured because of her, Meredith finally decided to call Josiah.

Back then, Josiah would pick up his phone immediately and he would sound as if he was trying to hide his excitement. 'Edith, is there anything that I can help you with?'

But this time around, no one was picking up.

Meredith wondered if she called the wrong number, so she removed her phone from her ear and checked her phone.

She hesitated for a while and redialled his number.

This time around, no one picked up as well.

Meredith wondered if something had happened to him.

She wondered if Josiah was at his company or at home.

Meredith hesitated for a while more before calling Lily and as stre expected, Josiah was not resting at home. So she made a call to Mister Yoseph.

Mister Yoseph picked up her call and asked politely, "Are you looking for Sir, Miss Meredith?"

"Mister Yoseph, I heard that Mister Josiah has a wound infection and he's even running a high fever. Why is he not in the hospital or not resting at home?"

Mister Yoseph answered, "Miss Meredith, you should know better than Sir had never liked staying at the hospital."

"Well, then he should be staying at home to rest."

"Sir needs to chair an important meeting today so he can't rest at home."

"Is work more important than his heatlh?" In disbelief, Meredith went on, "Mister Yoseph, didn't you ask him to postpone the meeting and go back to rest first?"

Mister Yoseph had always cared about Josiah but why did he not stop Josiah from working this time?

Meredith found this a little strange.

"Miss Meredith, I'm sure you know how Sir can be, yes? How

could he possibly listen to me."

Mister Yoseph asked, curious, "But it is a surprise that you'd call Sir first. I thought Miss Meredith, you…don't care about Mister Josiah anymore?"

Meredith was rendered speechless.

She was worried that someone would ask her such a question.

But she tried to regain her composure and replied as a matter of fact, "Mister Josiah got injured because of me, and I am partly responsible if anything happens to him."

"Ah," Mister Yoseph sounded a little disappointed, "I thought that you were worried about Mister Joseph. If that's the case, I will try to convince Mister Josiah again. Miss Meredith, you don't have to be worried about taking responsibility."

"Thank you, Mister Yoseph. Talk soon."

"Talk soon, Miss Meredith."

Before Meredith ended the call, she added, "Oh, and Mister Yoseph, why isn't Mister Josiah answering his phone? Is he busy?"

Mister Yoseph replied, "Shouldn't be. The meeting hasn't

started and Sir should still be in his office."

Meredith was even confused as to why Josiah did not pick up her call when he was in the office.

After hanging up the call, Meredith stared blankly out of the window before returning to her office desk.

She wanted to gather her thoughts and get back to her work. But one question kept popping up in her mind.

When was Josiah not picking up his phone?

Why?

The more she thought about it, the more she got curious and anxious. After getting off work, she went to pick up Nia right away.

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1060

Chapter 1060

Chapter 1060

She had been picking up Nia several times and Nia was still excited to see Meredith every time.

"Mommy, why do you have the free time to come pick me up today?" With her hand in Meredith's, Nia asked.

"Because Mommy is free today." Meredith scanned the surroundings to see no sign of Josiah's car. Hence she asked," Nia darling, is Daddy not coming to pick you up today?"

"Daddy promised that he would come to pick me up today, but why isn't he here?" Nia stood on his toes and tried to take a glance at the surroundings.

She did not see her father but she saw Lily.

Realizing that Nia was looking for her father, Lily explained," Nia, your father is not feeling well today so he sent me here to pick you up instead."

She then said to Meredith, "Miss Meredith, it's a surprise to see you here."

"I'm not busy with work today," Meredith then asked, "has Josiah returned home?"

"Not yet."

"Oh. Then will he be home for dinner?"

"I guess so. Sir will always be home to have dinner with Nia."

"Grandma Lily, what is wrong with Daddy? Is he not feeling well?" Nia asked, concerned.

Lily was not sure what happened to Josiah and only knew that he was running a high fever. Hence, she replied, "Your Daddy might have caught a cold and a little fever. He should be fine though."

"Why did he get a cold?"

"Hmm, I am not too sure about this. Could it be because of the weather?"

"Nia darling, let's go home, shall we?" Lily took Nia's hand from Meredith's hand.

Looking at how Nia was taken away by Lily, she cleared her throat and said, "Since Josiah is unwell, let me have dinner with Nia today."

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She wanted to check on Josiah, to see if he was really unwell.

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Lily, of course, was glad.

Nia too was jumping up and down happily. "Yay! Mommy is

going to eat dinner with me."

"Let's go home then, shall we?" Meredith took Nia back into her hand and said to Nia, "I'll take Nia with me."

"Okay," Lily replied.

By the time Meredith arrived at Josiah's house, Josiah was still not home yet.

Standing in the house that she was familiar with, Meredith felt rather uncomfortable.

She could even imagine how Josiah would react when he saw her at his place. Meredith guessed that Josiah would tease her

even.

The more she thought about it, the more that Meredith thought that she should not have come over.

Nia put down her bag, and pulled Meredith with her to the garden, saying that she wanted to show Meredith the rose bushes.

The rose bushes grew well and a lot of flowers had bloomed. It was a pretty sight.

Josiah had taken good care of the rose bushes while she had been gone for the last two years.

Seeing how well it was growing, Meredith thought that the garden would soon be filled with rose bushes.

"Mommy, isn't it pretty?" Nia chuckled and asked.

"It is." Meredith stroked the back of Nia's head and went on," I too hope that Nia would grow up beautiful and strong like these rose bushes."

"Don't worry, Mommy. I will." Nia held her face in her hands and flashed a bright smile at Meredith.

Meredith smiled with a sense of relief.

She was glad that the rose bushes were not half-dead and lifeless like they used to be. And Nia too had grown up well and healthy.