

The More the Merrier Chapter 686

Chapter 686 No Need To Sneak Around

When Ethen walked in and heard those words, he was unsure if he was supposed to leave or stay. What secret did I just hear? Will Mr. Graham kill me because I heard it?

A glint flashed across Benjamin's eyes, and he shot him a side-eye. "Hand me the medicine!" he ordered coldly. "Yes!" Ethen quickly went over to him and uttered fearfully, "Here you go, Mr. Graham."

Benjamin took the items from him. "Get out!"

"Yes!" Ethen got out of there as fast as he could.

As he was walking out, he glanced at Arissa from the corners of his eyes and saw her swollen lips. Excitement welled up in his heart.

So the wound on Ms. York was actually caused by Mr. Graham's bite? What a shocker!

Meanwhile, Arissa did not know whether to feel grateful to Benjamin when she saw that he intended to apply the ointment to her wound for her.

After all, he was the one who caused it.

Benjamin took a cotton swab and dipped it inside a bottle of antiseptic solution before lifting her chin. "Don't move!"

Arissa cast him a glance and let him dress her wound.

When the antiseptic came into contact with her wound, she could not help but inhale sharply because it was quite painful.

Benjamin's eyes flickered in response. "Bear with it!"

He tightened his grip on her chin so that she could not move. The pain lasted for quite a while, causing her face to scrunch up.

When he saw her reaction, his eyes glinted with amusement.

"It'll be all right after this."

His remark infuriated her. "It was already getting better, but you just had to bite it again!"

Benjamin chuckled and appeased her in a gentle voice. "I'll be more careful next time."

Arissa felt embarrassed when she met his eyes, which crinkled with joy.

“You’re crazy!” she murmured.

Upon receiving a warning look from him, she pursed her lips.

Benjamin proceeded to apply the ointment to her wound.

“All done!” he announced a few seconds later.

Arissa tilted her head and stood up. “I’m leaving now.”

That time around, he did not say anything.

Instead, he took her straw hat and put it on for her. After that, he put on her sunglasses for her and pulled her hat lower.

“You don’t have to sneak around when you come to see me,” he said.

With her sunglasses on, Arissa glared at him and retorted, “Well, it doesn’t matter to you, does it? If the others see me here, they’ll get curious for sure.”

“I’m giving you another day off,” Benjamin declared, putting his hands in his pockets while fixing her with an intent gaze.

At that, the corners of Arissa’s mouth twitched.

One day? I’ll take that. I’ll make the arrangements for Grand aunt at the hospital today, and the kids are going to school tomorrow.

With that thought in mind, she turned to face him and said, “Do we have to deal with Tim’s enrollment in the afternoon?”

“There’s no need for that. Just send him to school tomorrow morning!” Benjamin replied.

He was going to have Ethen take care of that in the afternoon.

Arissa nodded. “Bye!”

With that, she left without looking back.

Benjamin’s gaze remained locked on her until she was out of his line of sight. Only then did he head back to his seat and continue working.

Arissa got into his private elevator, so she did not have to worry about seeing anyone on the way down.

However, she bumped into a few of her colleagues from her department when she got out of the elevator. Coincidentally, they were coming in from outside.

She felt somewhat guilty but reckoned no one would recognize her with the hat on, so she walked out confidently.

Right then, one of the colleagues thought she looked familiar. "Could that be Ms. York?"

"How could that be? Ms. York is on leave, no? Wouldn't we know if she had returned? Besides, she would've greeted us!"

"Well, her looks are comparable to Ms. York's, though I wonder what she's doing here!"

While chatting with each other, they walked toward the elevator.

Arissa overheard parts of their conversation and felt bad. Although I won't be working today, I'll definitely return and work hard with them tomorrow.

After getting out of the building, the bodyguard saw her and opened the car door for her.

A few employees, who were passing by, could not help but glance at her a few times.

"Is she a celebrity? Was she here to see Mr. Graham?"

"She's even using Mr. Graham's car! It seems like there's something going on between them!"

The edge of Arissa's mouth twitched, and she did not even dare to take off her sunglasses after the car door was shut.

There's something going on, all right. I have six children with him!

"Mrs. Graham, why are your lips swollen?" Edwin asked suddenly.

His voice had her return to her senses, and she flashed him a sheepish smile.

"Maybe I bit on them just now. Are they very swollen?"

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Chapter 687 Their Relationship Is Getting Better

"Yeah! I think they're inflamed. When we get to the hospital later, we ought to have Mr. Bailey take a look at it. Let him treat it!" Edwin looked concerned.

“When I was upstairs just now, Benjamin had already applied some medication for me. It’s just a minor wound. Don’t worry about it!” Arissa reassured.

His eyes lit up. “Mrs. Graham, did you accompany Mr. Graham to have breakfast before you came down?”

For a moment there, Arissa was stunned by his question. That was because she was not paying attention earlier on.

Benjamin was already eating breakfast before that, so he should’ve finished it.

“Yes!” she answered.

Sensing her discomfiture, Edwin did not press on that matter.

However, he was elated. Mr. Graham asked Mrs. Graham to send him food. It seems like their relationship is getting better.

Due to Edwin’s question, Arissa was too embarrassed to take off her sunglasses and only did so when they arrived at the hospital.

She also left her straw hat in the car.

“Wait up, Mrs. Graham!”

Edwin got out of the car first and helped her open the door. At that moment, he was holding something in his hands.

Arissa did not notice it prior to that, so she asked, “Edwin, what did you bring?”

“Oh! This is the soup Mr. Graham got me to make for Mdm. Mary. She should drink this before her meal!” he explained.

Arissa was touched. Benjamin is thoughtful, isn’t he?

“Let me bring it upstairs for you!”

“That’s all right. I can manage!” Edwin shied away and walked into the building with her.

“Edwin, do you know which floor Grand aunt is staying on?”

Only then did it strike her that she had forgotten to ask Benjamin about it when she saw him at the office.

“I do! Mr. Graham had already informed me earlier. I’ll bring you there!” Edwin answered with a smile.

When the two of them got into the elevator, he pressed the button for the correct floor.

Upon arriving at the ward, they saw the six children sitting outside and teaching Tim how to use a phone.

Arissa tiptoed her way over to the kids.

Right before she could scare them, Zachary raised his head and saw her.

“Mommy!” The boy was thrilled to see her.

Gavin, Oliver, Jasper, Tim, and Jesse raised their heads as well.

Their eyes lit up when they saw her, and they cheered.

“Mommy!”

“Mommy!”

“Ms. York!”

“Mommy!”

“Mommy!”

Elated, Arissa hugged the six of them.

“Did you guys miss me?”

The six children nodded in unison, each wearing a bright grin on their face. Even Tim crinkled his eyes in a smile.

“I’ve missed you guys too!” Arissa leaned over and kissed them. “Why didn’t you guys wake me up in the morning?”

“Mommy, we wanted to let you sleep in!” Gavin answered. “Daddy told us not to disturb you, so we followed him and brought Great-grandaunt here.”

“Yes! We wanted you to sleep in.” Zachary nodded in agreement.

Arissa smiled. “How is Great-grandaunt doing?”

Oliver adjusted his glasses and informed, “Mommy, Great-grandaunt is asleep, so we came out to play!”

His mother inclined her head in acknowledgment.

“Great-grandaunt’s test results came back with usual readings this morning, Mommy. Don’t worry!” Jasper uttered.

Tim’s eyes were sparkling when he chimed in, “Ms. York, don’t worry. Great-grandaunt looks energetic today!”

Jesse nodded. “Great-grandaunt’s appetite was great this morning.”

“Okay! You guys carry on, okay? I’m going in to check on her.”

Arissa ruffled their hair and went into the ward.

Only then did the kids notice Edwin’s presence. “Hi, Mr. Whitley!” they chorused.

“Hello!” Edwin responded warmly. “Carry on, okay? I’m going in as well!”

The kids smiled and followed him in.

Since Mary was asleep, Arissa approached her silently and checked on her.

Then, she pulled the covers around her before retreating to the side and gesturing for Edwin to leave the soup there and leave the room together with her.

Edwin nodded, left the soup on the coffee table, and followed Arissa out.

When Arissa saw the kids had followed them in, she beckoned them over.

The six children glanced at Mary, then turned to leave the room.

“How long has Great-grandaunt been asleep for?” Arissa asked.

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Chapter 688 Slept Well

“I think she has been asleep for less than half an hour!” Zachary checked his watch and glanced at Gavin and the rest.

“You’re right! It’s been less than half an hour!” Gavin nodded. Arissa sat with them for a while outside the ward. “Sweethearts, do you guys know where Mr. Bailey is?”

“I think Mr. Bailey is over there!” Jesse pointed in a direction.

Oliver glanced at her and asked, “Mommy, are you looking for Mr. Bailey? I can call him!”

"I'm looking for him, but you don't have to call him because he might be busy. I'm sure he'll come over in a while," Arissa replied and stayed with the kids.

"Mrs. Graham, I can go look for Mr. Bailey!" Edwin suggested.

"Do you know where he is?" Arissa looked at him.

Edwin nodded. "This is Mr. Graham's hospital, so I know where Mr. Bailey is."

How did I forget about that? Arissa smiled.

"Go on, then. If he's busy now, I'll go and look for him later," she voiced.

The butler nodded before leaving to find Shaun.

At that moment, Gavin looked up at her and asked in concern, "Mommy, have you eaten?"

Arissa nodded. "I have! In fact, I had a lot of food!"

Jesse giggled and uttered, "Mommy, we ate a lot with Great-grandaunt at the hospital as well."

"How about you guys? Have you guys eaten?"

Arissa glanced at the five older kids.

"Mommy, I've eaten!" Gavin answered.

"Mommy, I've eaten as well!" Zachary replied.

"Ms. York, me too," Tim chimed in shyly.

Oliver adjusted his glasses again and smiled. "Mommy, we were still eating before you arrived!"

"Mommy! Mommy! Did you get scared when you woke up and couldn't find us this morning?" Jasper asked.

Arissa pinched his cheek. "I did! I only realized I had overslept when I woke up. When I came out, you guys were all gone."

The six children grinned from ear to ear.

"Mommy, did you sleep well last night?" Gavin asked, staring at her with sparkly eyes.

"I did!" Arissa stroked his hair and asked the kids, "Did you guys sleep well?"

The kids nodded. "We did!"

Arissa then looked at Tim and asked, "Tim, did you sleep well?"

The boy nodded. "I did! I had a good night's sleep as well!"

Gavin and the others smiled. "We all slept well!"

"Mommy, did Daddy call you?" Gavin inquired.

"He did. I went to the office before I came here," Arissa answered.

When she was talking, the kids were all staring at her.

Jasper then noticed the worsening wound on the corner of her lips.

"Mommy, it seems that your wound has worsened! It's swollen now!"

The other five kids instantly placed their attention on her lips.

Arissa felt awkward. "It's all right. I've already applied some medication."

"Mommy, how did you injure your lips?" Zachary asked because he forgot to ask her the night before.

Arissa looked at the kids and answered, "I bit on them accidentally."

The kids stared at her with widened eyes. None of them was convinced.

Jasper then giggled. "Mommy, could it be that Mr. Graham bit you?"

Arissa blushed and flicked his forehead lightly. "Nonsense!"

The boy stuck his tongue out in response.

Coincidentally, Shaun came over with Edwin at that time, so he heard the conversation.

With a smile, the former asked, "Arissa, Edwin said your lips are swollen. Let me have a look!"

"That's not necessary. I've already applied medication, so it'll heal soon," Arissa answered awkwardly.

My lips aren't even swollen because of the wound.

“Mrs. Graham, let Mr. Bailey have a look! He can make it heal faster!” Edwin urged.

There was a hint of amusement in Shaun’s eyes as he scrutinized Arissa’s lips.

Then, he tilted his head to look at Edwin and asked, “Edwin, were Arissa’s lips that swollen before she went to look for Benjamin at the office?”

The latter froze momentarily before shaking his head. “I don’t think so. Besides, the wound wasn’t as apparent at that time.”

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Chapter 689 His Concern For Her

Shaun smiled because his suspicion had just been confirmed. “If it hurts a lot, I can disinfect your wound again.” “That’s not necessary. It doesn’t hurt that much,” Arissa replied.

His remark brought a faint blush to her cheeks. He seems to have found out about something. This is all that jerk’s fault!

Edwin glanced at her and perceived the hint of embarrassment in her expression. Suddenly, the truth dawned upon him, and his eyes widened in surprise.

“Mrs. Graham, don’t be shy. It’s better to let Mr. Bailey have a look if it hurts,” he advised.

Then, he urged Shaun, “Mr. Bailey, please give Mrs. Graham a more effective ointment!”

The latter nodded. “I’ll go and get one. It’ll fasten the healing process once she applies some to her wound from time to time!”

“Thanks!” Arissa was eager to end that topic.

Right then, her phone rang. The caller was Benjamin.

She picked up the phone and put it to her ear.

“Have you arrived at the hospital?” The man’s voice traveled from the speakers and into her ear.

“Yes,” Arissa answered in a low voice.

“Why is it so quiet there?” Benjamin sounded puzzled.

Arissa looked over and saw that the kids and Edwin were trying to listen to her conversation with Benjamin. It amused her.

"It's quiet because the kids aren't talking," she replied.

"Are they with you?"

"Yes!"

"Does the wound on your lips still hurt? If it does, get Shaun to prescribe you another ointment."

Arissa was embarrassed when Benjamin mentioned her wound again.

"I got it. Get back to work. I'll hang up if there's nothing else! Edwin and the kids are all here."

"All right!" Benjamin answered.

He actually had nothing to talk to her about. All he wanted was to hear her voice.

Shaun then came back with the ointment and passed it to Arissa.

"Mommy, apply it to your wound! Let's see if it helps!" Gavin urged. "Let me help you!"

After saying that, he wanted to take the ointment from her.

"It's okay. I can do it myself!"

Arissa uncapped the tube of ointment and applied some to her wound by using her phone as a mirror.

At that sight, Shaun chuckled and went into the ward to fetch her a cotton bud.

"Arissa, use this. It works better."

"Okay!" Arissa took it and spread the ointment over her wound with the cotton bud.

She did it lighter than Benjamin, so she did not feel any pain. Instead, the only sensation she experienced was the coolness brought about by the ointment.

"This is much better than the one Benjamin has!" she commented.

Shaun chuckled. "The one he has was from me as well. Perhaps it has expired!"

"I guess."

Realizing that everyone was looking at her, Arissa endured the embarrassment, turned around, and threw the cotton bud away.

“Get some rest, Ms. York!” Tim tugged at the hem of her shirt.

Delighted, Arissa stroked his head and replied, “Sweetheart, I’m fine. The only difficulty I have is when I have to eat.”

The boy frowned and exhorted seriously, “You should eat slower, then, Ms. York!”

His concern for her made her feel happy, and she nodded. “Okay. I will!”

She then hugged him dotingly before asking Shaun about Mary’s condition.

“Arissa, Mdm. Mary’s condition is under control. Since she has just arrived here, we’ll let her get used to her surroundings before starting the treatment course for her. Don’t worry,” Shaun explained.

He was worried that Mary had yet to adapt to the environment.

Arissa nodded. “Thank you very much!”

“It’s my job. Benjamin will withdraw my research fund if I don’t take care of Mdm. Mary well enough! Hence, don’t worry. Mdm. Mary will receive the best treatment here. Also, you don’t have to stay here and look after her all day long. We can manage,” he reassured.

Arissa was well aware of the quality of service the hospital offered.

Besides, Benjamin was the owner. As long as he gave the instructions, no one would dare to neglect Mary.

Furthermore, Shaun was in charge of Mary’s treatment, so she indeed had nothing to worry about.

“I’m free now, so I’ll keep Grandaunt company,” Arissa said.

Shaun flashed her a smile. “I’ll head inside to see if her IV drip has finished!”

Arissa, Edwin, and all the kids followed him in.

Shaun then waited for the IV drip to finish before replacing it with a new one.

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Chapter 690 Arissa Was Not There

“Mdm. Mary’s asleep. Do you guys want to hang around at my office instead?” Shaun asked them. Arissa wanted to remain in the ward, and she requested Edwin to take the kids to the office since they would not be able to play freely there.

“Gavin, bring them to Mr. Bailey’s office. They haven’t been there before,” she said to Gavin too. “Okay, Mommy. I’ll be heading over with them now. If you get bored from staying here alone, you can come over too!” he replied.

The woman caressed her son’s head in response. Then, Gavin beckoned Tim, Zachary, and the others to head over to Shaun’s office to play.

The boy then began showing the kids around the hospital.

Tim, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse looked around curiously.

“Do you come here often, Gavin?” Zachary asked, puzzled.

Gavin nodded. “I came here for doctors’ appointments frequently when I was younger.”

In truth, the boy did not like hospitals.

However, that time around, he kept his aversion toward the place hidden because of Mary’s illness.

Both Edwin and Shaun knew that, and they were gratified to see how responsible Gavin was toward his younger siblings.

Gavin’s all grown up.

“It’d be best if you kids don’t come to the hospital often, but you’re always welcome to play with me in my office,” Shaun offered.

With a smile, he welcomed the six children into his personal space.

Gavin led his siblings to the couch as though he knew the place like the back of his hand.

There were also toys that he had forgotten to take home in the past.

Hence, he took them out and let the other children play with them.

Shaun and Edwin kept them company.

“If you have work to do, Mr. Bailey, please go ahead. We’ll be fine playing on our own,” said Gavin.

Hearing that, Shaun grew increasingly fond of the sensible boy.

He’s a lot more talkative now. Back then, he wouldn’t even look in my way.

“All right. I’ll get going now. Have fun, and help yourselves to whatever food there is here.”

The man had Edwin wash the fruits on the coffee table, which also had some snacks.

He had come over and prepared all the things beforehand.

“Don’t mind if we do, Mr. Bailey!”

Jasper, who was not shy, casually reached out for some food, distributing some to Jesse, followed by his four brothers.

“Here you go! And this is for you.”

Feeling awkward, Tim glanced at Shaun.

The latter noticed it and smiled at him dotingly. “I got all these ready for you kids. Help yourself with whatever you like! I’ll be off now.”

“Thanks, Mr. Bailey,” the boy remarked softly.

“You’re welcome!” Shaun grinned. He’s such a polite little kid.

Then, he spun on his heels and went on with his business while Edwin stayed behind to watch over the children.

Before walking away, the former took a picture of the six children eating and sent it to Benjamin, who was in the midst of reading a document.

Initially, the man paid no heed to his message notification, but after remembering that Arissa liked sending him texts, he checked his phone, only to see that Shaun had sent him an image.

Nevertheless, he clicked into the photo, and his gaze softened at the sight of the six children.

Then, he scrutinized the picture and even enlarged it. Still, Arissa was nowhere to be found.

Benjamin replied to the text: Arissa's not there?

Shaun was shocked to receive a reply from him.

Oh my, Benjamin actually replied to my text?

Crinkling his eyes in a grin, he quickly responded to Benjamin.

Shaun: Arissa's currently at Mdm. Mary's ward.

Benjamin was not surprised to know that, and he glanced at the photo of his children again.

Jonathan so happened to walk over at that moment and grew curious when he noticed that the man was on his phone instead of being caught up with work.

"What are you looking at?"

Benjamin shot him a glance. "My kids."

Jonathan raised an eyebrow. "Mind if I have a look?"

Truthfully, he wanted to interact with the children, but he was just too busy.

Benjamin handed his phone over.

Jonathan put down his briefcase and gazed at the picture.

Not even the stern lawyer could resist the children's adorableness, and he smiled dotingly.

"They're so adorable!"

Benjamin was pleased to hear that.

"Yeah."

Then, Jonathan directed his gaze to him. "Did you call me over to talk about Danna Adams' case?"