

The More the Merrier Chapter 706

Chapter 706 Nothing To Be Ashamed Of

Zachary nodded. "That's right. It all depends on how well he treats you, Mommy. He hasn't even proposed to you yet, so you mustn't fall for any of his tricks! Just because a man marries you doesn't necessarily mean he loves you. For all we know, he could just be putting up an act!"

Arissa didn't know whether to laugh or cry when she heard that. "What you said does make sense, but where are you kids getting all this information? Did you read them off the internet or something?"

"We were just doing some research, Mommy," Oliver replied with a mischievous giggle.

"Stop reading that nonsense, or I'll confiscate your phone," Arissa warned him sternly.

Jesse seized the opportunity to rat them out.

"They were playing video games on their phones, Mommy!"

Arissa shot them a stern glare and said, "Kids like you shouldn't be on your phones so much! It's bad for your eyes! Gavin, I want you to supervise them and make sure they don't spend too much time on their phones."

"Okay!" Gavin nodded.

"Can we teach Tim how to use his phone, Mommy?"

"You may, but make sure to game in moderation. You are only allowed to game for half an hour per day, okay? I don't want you kids getting addicted to it."

Arissa had to set a strict limit for them, or they would surely go overboard with it.

"We only game occasionally, Mommy," Jasper protested.

Arissa pinched him on the cheek. "Says the one who spends the most of his time gaming!"

Jasper let out a mischievous giggle in response.

Arissa then shifted her gaze toward Tim as she asked, "Do you know how to make phone calls yet?"

"I do. Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper have been teaching me how to do it! They even taught me how to send voice messages!" Tim replied while showing his newly acquired skills to Arissa.

"Do you have your own phone number yet, Sweetheart? Could you tell me what it is?"

She was shocked to find out that Tim's phone had a SIM card installed.

"Yeah, but I don't know the number," Tim mumbled awkwardly.

"Daddy did it for him last night, Mommy," Gavin said.

"Yeah! Mr. Graham gave us all a phone number each!" Zachary added.

"Is that so? Hurry up and tell me the numbers, then. I'll save them on my phone. You first, Tim. Give me a call, and we'll find out what your phone number is," Arissa said with a smile.

"Sure." Tim nodded.

Arissa then read him her phone number while he keyed it into his phone with a serious look on his face.

"That's it. You're doing a good job, Sweetheart," she complimented him while ruffling his hair.

After saving his number, Arissa asked, "Were you familiar with numbers before, Sweetheart?"

"Yeah! Great-grandaunt and Grandpa have been teaching me. Nathan and the others taught me how to count too!" Tim replied with a nod.

Arissa flashed him a smile and asked, "Is Nathan a friend of yours?"

"Yeah... We used to work together..." Tim quickly held his tongue when he realized he almost let it slip.

Arissa's eyes lit up when she heard that. "What kind of work were you guys doing?"

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse were all staring at him curiously as well.

Tim lowered his head and buried his face in Arissa's chest as he mumbled, "F-Farming..."

Of course... It's common for kids in villages to help their families out at the farm.

With that in mind, Arissa patted him on the head and said, "Farming is nothing to be ashamed of, Sweetheart. You're making an honest living with your own two hands, and that's something to take pride in. I'm really proud of you for helping your family out, Tim!"

Tim's eyes lit up as he looked up at Arissa, who gave him a kiss on the forehead.

"Hey, Tim! You must be really good at weeding, right? I've never been able to pull them out of the ground!" Jasper asked.

"We usually use a hoe for weeding, but we do use our hands from time to time. It'll be a lot easier if you wear gloves when weeding with your hands. It'll keep your hands safe from cuts," Tim replied.

"Teach me how to weed when we get back to Rutaceae Village! I want to try farming too!" Jasper said excitedly.

"Be careful not to end up pulling the entire village out of the ground!" Arissa teased him with a chuckle.

Gavin and the others burst out laughing when they heard that.

What are you all laughing at me for? It's not like you guys know how to weed either!" Jasper exclaimed with his face red from embarrassment.

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Chapter 707 Is My Dad Still Crying

"Haha! You weren't even born yet when I was weeding!" Arissa replied while laughing. Jasper snorted in frustration. "I was talking about them! Besides, I won't believe you until I see you weed, Mommy!"

"All right, then. I'll bring you all to Rutaceae Village once your great-grandaunt is all better. You kids had better not complain about weeding being exhausting, okay?" Arissa replied with a grin.

"We don't need to go all the way to Rutaceae Village for that, Mommy! We have a garden in our backyard, remember? Mr. Whitley often does the weeding there!"

"Oh, you're right! I can't believe I forgot about that! I'll let you kids try out weeding when we have the time, then."

"Don't forget to buy us straw hats, Mommy!" Jesse reminded her.

“No problem. I’ll provide you kids with all the stuff you need. From now on, you’ll all be in charge of weeding the garden at home,” Arissa said.

A look of confidence appeared on Tim’s face when he heard that. “Okay! I’m really good at weeding!”

Arissa patted him on the head. “Great! Make sure you teach them all how to do it, okay?”

Tim nodded. “I will!”

Arissa gave him another kiss on the forehead. “All right. Now, stop talking and go to sleep, all of you.”

While glancing at each of the kids, she noticed that Oliver still had his glasses on and reached out to remove them.

“Thanks, Mommy,” Oliver said with a giggle.

Arissa gave him a pinch on the cheek. “Go to sleep now.”

The kids then closed their eyes obediently and slept soundly in her arms.

Arissa felt a warm sensation in her heart as she pulled a blanket over them and watched them sleep.

Right when she was finally feeling a little sleepy and began dozing off, her phone started ringing all of a sudden.

Not wanting to let it wake the kids up, she quickly answered the phone.

“Is my dad still crying?”

It took Arissa a few seconds to realize it was Benjamin calling.

“No,” she replied.

“Were you sleeping?” Benjamin asked after a brief pause.

“Yeah. The kids are asleep too. Is there anything else you’d like to talk about?” she said calmly.

“No, that’ll be all. You can carry on sleeping,” Benjamin replied and hung up the phone.

Arissa frowned. Didn't he ask me to take care of the situation myself? Why would he ask me about it after everything is over? He should call Old Mr. Graham himself if he's that worried about him!

She then put the phone away and tried to get some shuteye.

She was woken up once when the kids rolled around in bed but managed to go back to sleep shortly after.

The first thing Tim saw when he woke up was Arissa sleeping soundly next to him.

Not wanting to wake her up, he made sure to be extra gentle when turning his head. His lips curled into a smile when he saw his siblings sleeping soundly next to him.

It's so nice to finally have a mommy and siblings!

With that in mind, Tim continued staring at them until he dozed off again.

Zachary was the next to wake up. Seeing as everyone else was still asleep, he cautiously climbed out of bed to wash up in the restroom before leaving the lounge.

Edwin had already woken up a while ago and was preparing afternoon tea at the time.

"Come have some snacks, Zachary," he greeted Zachary warmly upon seeing him.

"Thank you, Mr. Whitley," Zachary said as he made his way over.

"Don't mention it. It's my pleasure to prepare this meal for you all. Are you the only one awake?"

"Yeah. Mommy and the others are still asleep. Do you think Mr. Graham likes my mommy, Mr. Whitley?" Zachary asked curiously as he sat down on the couch.

Edwin's eyes lit up as he asked, "What about you, little guy? Do you think he likes your mommy?"

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Chapter 708 Why Has He Not Proposed Yet

Zachary frowned as he replied, "His attitude was really horrible before." Although the way Benjamin treated Arissa had improved a lot lately, Zachary was still uncertain if his father actually liked her or was simply treating her well because they asked him to.

Edwin chuckled. "Your father has always been cold to everyone. He was cold to your mother because he didn't know her that well and thought she had ulterior motives for being with him. Now that he has gotten to know her better, it's only natural that his attitude toward her will change. Trust me; there's no way he'd let her sleep in his bedroom if he didn't like her. Your father doesn't just let anyone into his bedroom, you know? Even the housekeepers at home aren't allowed in there. I don't think he'd even let me in there if he didn't need someone to clean it from time to time."

Zachary narrowed his eyes as he said, "Maybe he just wants to take advantage of Mommy."

"For that to happen, your father would first have to like your mother. He could've just let her stay in the guest room, but he insisted on moving all her stuff into his bedroom instead. That's how you know he likes her, Zachary. He would never let people near him unless he likes them. Have you ever noticed how he only pays attention to your mother when eating? He'd even help top up her plate, which is something he has never done for anyone else. Even Gavin rarely gets that kind of treatment from him. I'm sure your father just hasn't realized that he likes your mother," Edwin explained with a smile.

Zachary's eyes went wide with surprise. "Huh? How is it possible to like someone without realizing it?"

"This might come as a surprise to you, but adults can sometimes be a lot shyer than kids when it comes to their feelings. Don't worry about it, Zachary. The adults can handle their feelings themselves. I'm sure your mother likes him too if she's willing to marry him. Do you not want them to be together?" Edwin said.

Zachary bit down on his lip and shook his head.

"No, I fully support them being together if that's what they want."

He did want Benjamin and Arissa to be together, but he was a little worried after seeing how poorly he treated her in the past.

Edwin gave him a pat on the head. "I know your mother only promised to marry him to calm your grandpa down, but he has taken her word for it. Even so, whether or not they'll actually get married is ultimately up to them."

"Why hasn't Mr. Graham proposed to my mommy yet?" Zachary asked with a pout.

Edwin let out a sigh as he replied, "There has been a bit of a misunderstanding between your father and your grandpa. He hates doing what your grandpa wants him to do, so it's possible that he feels pressured into marrying your mother. As such, he might not marry her even if he has feelings for her. Do you understand what I mean?"

"What, is he going through a rebellious phase or something?"

Edwin chuckled at that. "Maybe."

Zachary clicked his tongue in disapproval. "This is the first time I've seen an adult behave like a rebellious teen!"

"Who are you talking about?" Gavin asked as he came out of the lounge and sat down on the couch.

Zachary shot him a glance and said, "We're talking about your daddy, of course!"

"Oh, I wholeheartedly agree with that statement. By the way, Zachary, do you not like Mommy being with Daddy?"

Gavin was a little worried since Zachary was vehemently opposed to it before.

As Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse saw him as their leader, they were more inclined to follow in his footsteps.

Zachary shot him a glance as he said, "No. I'm just concerned about whether Mr. Graham truly likes Mommy."

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Chapter 709 Wait Till Daddy Likes Mommy

"In that case, why don't we wait till Daddy likes Mommy before letting them date each other?" Gavin suggested. Zachary agreed with his brother's suggestion readily.

Arissa woke up at around the same time Tim and Jasper got out of bed. "Where's Gavin and Zachary?" she asked. "I don't know, Mommy. I just woke up," Jasper replied.

"Me too," Tim chimed in as well.

Arissa quickly ran out of the lounge, only to breathe a sigh of relief when she saw the two of them outside. "My goodness. I thought you two ran off on your own."

"Mommy!" Gavin and Zachary called out to her in unison.

"Come have something to eat, Mommy," Zachary said.

Arissa chuckled. "When did you two wake up?"

"Zachary was the first to wake up. I only woke up about twenty minutes ago," Gavin replied.

"You kids can go ahead and eat. I'll join you after I wash my face," Arissa said as she went back into the lounge.

"Are Zachary and Gavin outside?" Jasper asked while putting his shoes on.

"Yeah. Go wash your faces, Jasper, Tim," Arissa replied.

The two of them then ran into the restroom to wash their faces.

Noticing that Oliver had woken up as well, Arissa made her way over to the bed and handed him his glasses.

"Go wash your face, Sweetheart."

"Okay," Oliver said with a yawn as he slid off the bed.

Seeing as Jesse was still asleep, Arissa gave the little girl a pinch on the nose and said, "Wake up, Sweetheart. You won't be able to sleep at night if you nap for too long."

"Okay..." Jesse mumbled as she rolled over and carried on sleeping.

Arissa gave her a smack on the bottom. "Come now. Wake up."

"But I want to sleep longer, Mommy!" Jesse protested in her adorable voice.

"Come on, get up. Your brothers are all awake. You won't be able to fall asleep tonight if you don't get up now," Arissa said with a smile.

Jesse pouted as she sat upright with her hair all messy.

Arissa shook her head helplessly when she saw how Jesse looked.

Her hair looked fine before going to sleep, so why did it end up like this? See, this is why I don't want her to keep her hair long! It gets so tangled up that combing it becomes a real pain in the neck!

"Go wash your face. I need to go keep your great-grandaunt company downstairs," she said while giving Jesse a light smack on the head.

Jesse let out a yawn and smacked her lips. "Something smells nice..."

Arissa chuckled in amusement when she saw her sniffing at the air like a dog.

"There's food outside."

"What kind of food?"

“I don’t know. You’ll get to eat it after you wash your face.”

“Okay!”

Jesse loved food so much that she ran into the restroom without even putting her shoes on.

Arissa chuckled as she brought Jesse’s shoes over to her.

“Make it quick, Jesse!” Tim, Oliver, and Jasper urged her when they saw her enter the restroom.

“Okay!”

Her three brothers then stood outside the door while she used the restroom.

“Zachary and Gavin are already helping themselves to the food out there. You boys can go join them if you’re done washing up,” Arissa said.

“We’re waiting for Jesse, Ms. York,” Tim replied.

“They’re literally in the next room. You don’t have to wait for Jesse,” Arissa said while adjusting their clothes.

However, the three of them insisted on waiting for Jesse as they had promised to do so.

“I don’t know how to flush the toilet, Mommy!” Jesse exclaimed from inside the restroom.

“Isn’t it automatic?” Arissa asked as she went inside to have a look.

“There’s a button on the wall, Mommy!” Oliver shouted from outside the restroom.

The three of them had been trying to figure out how to flush the toilet earlier.

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Chapter 710 Wash Your Own Hands

Arissa gave the button a push and the toilet was flushed. It’s built higher, so I guess they made it according to Benjamin’s height. “How advanced,” she commented drily.

Upon hearing that, the kids laughed. “Quickly now, go and eat something,” Arissa urged. Jesse smiled and asked, “Mommy, do you not need us to wait for you?”

"That's not necessary. I'll be there in a bit." Arissa waved them away and said, "Help me close the door, will you?"

Jasper snickered. "It's not like we're going to look at you, Mommy."

Arissa put on a stern face and replied, "What if someone comes in and sees me?"

The kids giggled and ran out after closing the door for her.

"Hurry up, okay, Mommy?"

"Hurry up, Ms. York!"

"Okay!" Arissa answered sweetly.

She then washed her face and tied her hair up before heading out.

All six of the kids were eating together. When they saw her, they asked her to join them.

At the same time, Edwin was also calling out for her.

Arissa smiled and sat down. "Thank you for preparing these, Edwin."

"No worries. All I did was tell the people in the kitchen what to do. Besides, these are bought by the bodyguards," Edwin answered.

He then sat down and watched the kids while they ate. Arissa glanced at him and asked, "Edwin, were you able to get some rest?"

"I did. I slept for twenty minutes." Edwin beamed.

Arissa nodded in response.

Once they were done eating, Edwin cleaned the place up and went back to the Graham residence.

Meanwhile, Arissa brought the kids over to accompany Mary. When evening came, they kept Mary company while she had her dinner.

After that, she gave the elderly woman a bath and got ready to leave.

"Grandaunt, rest well, okay?" Arissa said.

"Got it. Don't come over again tonight. Bring the kids home for dinner." Mary waved her hand.

Arissa and the kids bid Mary goodbye and informed Shaun they were leaving. With that, they went back to Yaleview.

By then, Benjamin had already gotten back, and he was reading a book on the couch.

The kids were chatting away happily until they saw him.

“Daddy!”

“Mr. Graham!”

Arissa cast him a glance before telling the kids to wash their hands.

Wearing an apron, Edwin smiled and said, “Mrs. Graham, you guys are back! Dinner is ready.”

“Got it!” Arissa responded with a smile and brought the kids to get their hands washed before dinner.

A glint flashed across Benjamin’s eyes when he saw her bringing the kids away without greeting him. Soon after, he frowned.

“It’s time for dinner, Mr. Graham,” Edwin reminded.

Benjamin got up and walked over. That was when he saw Arissa washing the kids’ hands for them. Seeing that, he sized up her expression, and he could tell that she was ignoring him.

“Did you guys come back from the hospital?” he asked.

The kids looked at him and kept mum because they thought he was talking to Arissa.

Arissa ignored him and kept washing the kids’ hands.

“Sweethearts, wipe your hands and go to the dining room,” she said.

The kids wiped their hands dry and ran to the dining room.

“Ms. York, Mr. Graham, hurry up!” Tim yelled.

Arissa smiled at him and replied, “Okay!”

“All right,” Benjamin responded as well.

Arissa merely glanced at him and lowered her head to wash her own hands.

Benjamin walked up to her and said, "Wash my hands for me."

Arissa narrowed her eyes. "Wash your own hands, Graham."

With that, she turned around and left.

Benjamin furrowed his brows at her response. Is she doing this on purpose?

He then turned around and saw her leaving without even sparing him a glance.

After washing his hands, he went to the dining room as well.

By then, Arissa and the kids were already seated at the dining table, and they were waiting for him.

The displeasure he was feeling eased up a little when he saw that.

"Let's dig in," he called out.

Only then did Arissa start taking food for the kids. "Eat up, my Sweethearts."