

## The More the Merrier Chapter 716

### Chapter 716 It Was Given By Mommy

“Mommy, he wasted the eraser by rubbing it on the table!” Oliver said. Arissa was deeply amused. Still, she distributed some stationery to each of them and reminded them, “If you have extras, you can share them with Gavin and Tim.”

“I don’t need them. I still have a lot of these. I can share the other stationery I have with Tim, but not this set because Mommy bought it for me!” Gavin uttered cheerfully.

Arissa could not help but feel touched. “Tim, this is for you!” Jesse handed her box of color pencils to Tim.

“I already have a box of color pencils,” Tim said sheepishly.

“You’ll use up them very quickly. So just take it. I still have plenty!” Jesse stuffed the box into Tim’s hands.

“Thank you, Jesse!”

Tim held the box of color pencils while gazing tenderly at his sister.

Jesse grinned.

Zachary gave Tim a lot of stationery as well. Arissa bought various writing materials for each of them, but Zachary merely took two pencils.

“I already have—”

“Take them. I’ll use yours after I’m through with mine,” Zachary said with a smile.

Tim nodded. “Okay!”

Oliver and Jasper offered their new stationery to Tim as well. In a blink of an eye, Tim had so many writing materials he could barely carry them with his arms.

Still, he held all the stationery steadily, feeling touched by his siblings’ gesture.

Oliver and Jasper chortled when they saw how Tim was struggling. Then, they helped carry some of the stationery Tim was holding.

“We’ll help you carry them for now and give them to you when we’re back in the room later.”

Tim smiled in response.

Arissa felt content when she saw how the other kids cared for Tim.

Benjamin strode over when he realized all of them were still outside.

Noticing Arissa had handed out the stationery outside the house, he asked, "Why didn't you wait until you're inside before you give them the gifts?"

She looked at him.

"They were impatient, so I figured I would distribute the stationery in advance."

Then, she turned to Tim and said, "Tim, place the things in the shopping bag for now. I'll bring them inside."

Tim squeezed the present in his embrace and was reluctant to let it go.

"Put it in here. We'll take the stationery out upstairs and arrange them into your bag," Arissa coaxed him gently.

Zachary's eyes gleamed. "Mommy, you bought a bag for Tim?"

Tim was staring at her with glistening eyes as well.

Arissa tousled Tim's hair fondly and said to him, "Your daddy's the one who bought the bag. I only purchased these stationery."

Tim gazed at Benjamin and said softly, "Thank you, Mr. Graham."

Benjamin chuckled. "You're welcome."

Arissa turned to him. "Have Mr. Frank brought the bag over?"

He glanced at her. "I'll ask him."

Benjamin took out his phone and called Ethen. Coincidentally, Ethen arrived at the gates at that moment. The car he was driving turned into the compound of the house.

A glint flashed across Benjamin's eyes as he uttered, "He's here."

Arissa saw the lights from the car headlamp. She turned around and made sure it was indeed Ethen arriving before saying happily to Tim, "Sweetheart, your bag will be here soon!"

"Okay!" Tim nodded.

His eyes followed Ethen's car closely.

"Hehe, you'll also have a bag now, Tim," Gavin chirped while still holding on to his set of stationery.

"Hurry up and put the things into the bag. We'll split the items when we're back in the room later," Arissa urged her children.

Zachary placed the pencils into his pocket. "There's no need to put mine into the bag."

Oliver and Jasper placed the stationery they were holding into the shopping bag. Then, they took the writing materials Tim was hugging and put them into the bag as well. "These are all Tim's. There's no need to split the things later."

"Jesse, let me help you," Jasper said to Jesse.

"Thank you, Jasper." Jesse was delighted.

Jasper received the items and passed a portion of the things to Oliver. "You take some too!"

Arissa found their interactions to be comical. "All right. You can carry those by yourselves."

Benjamin swept his gaze over all his children. When he saw Gavin holding quite a few stationery, he uttered softly, "Gavin, don't you already have a lot of stationery? Let your brothers have those."

Gavin glared at his father. "Mommy bought these for me."

He was unwilling to give Arissa's present away.

"I'll buy more stationery for you if you like them," Arissa told Gavin.

"Hehe. Thank you, Mommy!"

Gavin was delighted. He even sneakily shot Benjamin a dirty look, rendering the latter speechless.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 717

### Chapter 717 New Bag

The children cheered joyfully when Ethen brought the car to a halt. "Mr. Frank, hurry up and show us the bag!" "Hurry up, Mr. Frank!"

Ethen was pleasantly shocked. That was the first time the kids had welcomed him in such a lively manner. He quickly retrieved the bag from inside the car.

“Here it is! This is Tim’s new bag!”

Ethen beamed at the children.

Gavin stepped forward to receive the bag before passing it to Tim.

“Here, Tim, hold this.”

“Okay!”

Tim hugged the bag fondly as his eyes sparkled with delight.

Arissa’s lips curved into a smile at the sight of the boy’s jolly reaction.

She crouched down and asked gently, “Do you like the bag, Sweetheart?”

“Yes. I love it!”

Tim glanced at her. Then, he looked down at his bag, unwilling to part with it out of adoration.

Arissa grabbed the bag, wanting to assist Tim in shouldering it. “Sweetheart, try putting on the backpack. I’ll help you adjust the height.”

The other five children—Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse—surrounded Tim, urging Tim to put on the bag.

“Hurry up, Tim.”

Tim gazed at them shyly before turning on his heels.

Arissa swiftly slung the bag on his shoulders.

Tim appeared cuter as he carried the bag on his back.

Even the bodyguards were staring intently at him.

Benjamin regarded Tim with a tender expression as well.

He then strode over, lifted the bag, and said, “The straps are too long.”

“I’ll take care of that,” Arissa responded before helping Tim shorten the bag’s straps so that it would hang higher on his shoulders.

She glanced at Benjamin, hinting at him to let go of the bag so that she could adjust the length of the straps.

Once Arissa thought the bag was nicely positioned, she asked, "Sweetheart, is it comfortable carrying the backpack like this? Does it feel too high?"

"It's just nice!"

Tim grasped the straps with his tiny hands in ecstasy.

Arissa patted his head lovingly.

"If you feel the bag is too high or too low, you can pull here. If you pull, the straps will become shorter, and the bag will go higher. If you want the bag to be lower, you can loosen the straps to make it longer."

She demonstrated the technique to adjust the bag's straps to him.

"Okay!" Tim nodded.

Oliver stared at Tim cheerily. "You look so handsome carrying the bag, Tim."

Tim blushed at that.

Arissa was also sizing Tim up. He looks extremely adorable, shouldering the backpack with his petite figure.

Noticing the price tag on the bag, she wanted to remove it.

Ethen handed her a lighter.

"Here's a lighter, Ms. York."

Just as Arissa reached out to receive the device, Benjamin stretched out his hand and cut across her. Then, he took off the price tag directly.

After that, he tossed the lighter back at Ethen.

The latter hurriedly caught the lighter before stepping forward to collect the price tag in Benjamin's hand and tossing it into a rubbish bin.

"Let's go in," Benjamin reminded after glancing at Arissa and the six kids.

"Let's go in, Sweethearts."

Arissa stood up while holding Tim's hand, the latter still shouldering the backpack. In her other hand was the bag of stationery.

"Mommy, we'll help you."

Zachary and Oliver walked up to her and offered to take the shopping bag.

Oliver placed Jesse's writing materials into the bag. Then, he and Zachary each grabbed one side of the shopping bag.

"Can you two manage?" Arissa gazed down at the two kids.

"Yes." Zachary smiled at her.

Arissa let go of the shopping bag, allowing them to bring it inside the house.

Gavin put his belongings into the bag and helped out as well.

"Count me in!"

Jasper joined his siblings in carrying the shopping bag. "Me too. Me too!" Jesse chimed in.

It became difficult for them to even walk properly as the five children shared the weight of the shopping bag.

Arissa laughed. "That's enough. Two or three people will be sufficient to carry the shopping bag. There's no room to walk if all five of you are crowded together."

The five kids giggled.

Seeing how the children were fooling around, Benjamin stepped forward and seized the shopping bag.

The kids turned to look at him instantaneously.

Benjamin's eyes casually swept past them. "Let's go inside."

Upon noticing Benjamin lending a helping hand, Arissa held Tim's hand while urging the other five children to enter the house, "Come on, Sweethearts, let's head in. Just let your daddy carry the shopping bag."

## The More the Merrier Chapter 718

The five kids stopped fighting and dashed in together. "Come on, Mommy!" "Hurry up, Tim!" Arissa responded as she ran after them with the boy.

Benjamin also followed after them. As for Ethen, he volunteered to carry the shopping bags in. "Let me, Mr. Graham." "I'm good," Benjamin replied.

Since it was getting late, Arissa asked her six children to go upstairs to get ready for a shower. Before going up herself, she turned around and took over the shopping bags from Benjamin.

"It's okay. You can go get busy. I'll bathe the kids," Arissa said.

Ethen obviously came to talk about business with Benjamin.

"Go check on them, Edwin," Benjamin said to the butler.

"Right away, Mr. Graham," Edwin said smilingly.

With everyone dismissed from his presence, Benjamin headed for his study, expecting his assistant to follow suit.

"What are you doing? Hurry up!" he reminded Ethen, who was still looking longingly in the direction of the children.

"Sure, Mr. Graham."

Ethen went in after him and started filling him in on the progress of work.

Meanwhile, Arissa brought the children back to their room, and the kids started packing their schoolbags.

"I'll sharpen the pencils for you, Tim," she said gently as she helped him pack.

Arissa took the sharpener and clamped the pencil on it. "Mm? Why's it not working?"

The children started giggling when they saw their mother having difficulty with the device.

"Mommy, you have to turn it manually. You didn't buy the electric one," Jesse pointed out.

Arissa felt awkward and replied smilingly, "What was I thinking? You know, back then, we didn't even have anything fancy like this when we went to school."

Edwin couldn't help chuckling.

“Let me do it for you, Tim!” Oliver offered, taking one of Tim’s pencils.

Beside him, Arissa and Tim watched on intently.

“Oliver, do a few more for Tim,” Arissa said, giving more to him while she kept those that were already sharpened.

“No, I wanna do it on my own!” Tim exclaimed in excitement.

“All right. Oliver, let him have a try.”

“So this is how you do it...” Oliver demonstrated it another time to make sure Tim knew how to do it properly.

Having seen how it was done twice, Tim felt confident.

“You need to turn it faster, Tim,” Zachary interrupted as he did a circling gesture to show Tim how it should be done.

Tim nodded and did as he was told.

“All good?” Arissa asked encouragingly.

Tim took out the pencil carefully. “Yay! My pencil is sharp now! I can also do it on my own!”

The boy was exhilarated when he saw that he did well.

“What about another one?” Arissa asked, passing Tim his other pencils as she kept those that were already sharpened.

Edwin and the children came closer to have a look at Tim maneuvering the sharpener.

After having another go, Arissa decided it was time for them to sleep. “All right, we’ll leave the rest for next time. You can sharpen them when they become blunt.”

Tim agreed and helped Arissa keep the rest of his stationery back in his schoolbag.

Then, Arissa got up to pack a set of clothing, pajamas, and a pair of sandals for him.

“Sweetheart, remember to change your clothes if you get dirty. I’m putting in your pajamas too.”

“Yes. Thank you, Ms. York,” Tim replied gratefully.

Smiling, Arissa gave him a pinch on his cheek before she turned toward the others. "What about you guys? Are you all done packing?"

"Yes! We have everything inside, Mommy," Zachary reported.

"Mommy, everything is in my schoolbag too. Even my water bottle is inside," Jasper added endearingly, trying to get Arissa's attention.

Arissa went through their schoolbags one by one to ensure they have everything they needed.

"Where's your pajama, Oliver?" She suddenly stopped at one schoolbag.

The boy smiled at her cheekily. "I'll put mine in tomorrow, Mommy."

"No. You're gonna forget it tomorrow."

With that said, Arissa went to take Oliver's pajama, and Edwin folded it.

"And the last one. Jesse, are you not putting in your toy? I'm not sending it to school for you tomorrow."

Arissa was surprised when she realized that the girl did not put her favorite toy in her schoolbag.

"No, Mommy. I'm not sleeping without it," the girl replied, smiling.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 719

### Chapter 719 I Want To Shower With Them

"Then should I pack you another one?" Arissa asked. "No. This is the only one I'm bringing," the girl replied while shaking her head. Since there was nothing Arissa could do with her, she went on to check on Gavin. She was impressed that the boy had arranged his things immaculately.

"Gavin's a good boy. Everything in his schoolbag looks neat!" A big smile broke out on Gavin's face.

"I rearranged everything just now."

Arissa caressed his head lovingly and turned to look at Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse.

“Make sure you guys learn from Gavin, all right? Look at his schoolbag. Everything inside is well laid out.”

The children, including Tim, went over to see for themselves if that was true. What they saw took their breath away.

It was as if Gavin’s schoolbag was one of those displayed in a shop.

“Everything’s so neat!” His siblings could not help but compliment him. “You’re so good at it, Gavin.”

Looking at the impressed lot, Arissa and Edwin could not help but smile.

“All right, children. It’s time to shower and go to bed. You guys have to be up by half-past six tomorrow for school,” Arissa instructed as she went over to the dressing room to get their pajamas.

“Gavin.”

“Thanks, Mommy,” the boy replied politely, taking his clothes from his mother.

“Tim.” Arissa handed the pajama over to Tim.

The child quickly ran over. “Thanks, Ms. York!”

“Zachary and Oliver!”

Arissa handed them their clothes in two hands.

“Jasper?” Arissa turned toward him.

“Thank you, Mommy!”

“Okay! Shower time!” she said.

Edwin brought the boys into the bathroom and filled the bathtub with water.

After settling the boys, Arissa took Jesse’s pajama and went to another bathroom with her.

“Mommy, can I shower with them?”

“Well... Okay!”

Arissa put down Jesse’s pajama and brought her to the first bathroom. The boys were startled when they saw Arissa and Jesse.

“What are y’all looking at? I’m bringing Jesse’s foldable tub here.”

She asked the girl to wait for her and went off.

Edwin was tidying up the bedroom when he saw Arissa walking in.

“The boys refused to let me help,” the butler informed.

Arissa laughed. “Well, they don’t let me either. Just leave them be. You should go get some rest, Edwin. I’ll tuck the children in after they’re done showering.”

“Sure. I’ll get them some milk then.”

“Sounds great.” Arissa nodded as she walked back toward the bathroom.

The six children were having a jolly good time in the bathroom when she got back. The five boys made bubbles on their heads with the shampoo and then did the same for their sister.

“Stop doing that! It’s gonna get in your eyes!” Arissa warned.

They laughed and washed the shampoo away when they were scolded.

Arissa pulled Jesse over and put her on her lap. She lowered the girl’s head so she could clean her hair.

“Close your eyes.”

Jesse closed her eyes, smiling. Meanwhile, Arissa kept eyeing the boys to make sure they were not up to any mischief.

“You okay, Tim?” she asked. “Do you know how to clean your hair?”

“Yes!” the boy said confidently.

Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper knew how to clean themselves.

When Arissa saw that Gavin was cleaning himself adeptly, she was relieved.

“Be quick. Don’t catch a cold,” Arissa reminded.

“Yes, Mommy!”

They quickly washed off the shampoo from their hair before entering the bathtub.

Then, they scrubbed one another’s backs.

Arissa was glad to see that the boys were helping one another.

“Let’s see who’s the fastest!” Jesse suddenly shouted.

“You’re bathed by Mommy, so you’re gonna be the last for sure, Jesse,” Zachary joked.

“But I’ll be the cleanest among all of you,” Jesse said begrudgingly.

“Well, we soap and shower properly too!”

Jesse ignored the boys. “Mommy, hurry up.”

Arissa smiled at the girl. “Yes, Jesse.”

As requested, Arissa cleaned the girl and helped her put on her clothes. When the boys were done, she put on their pajamas for them as well.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 720

### Chapter 720 Stay The Night With Us

“Children, come out and dry your hair!” Arissa had already gotten the hair dryer ready when she shouted at them to go over. They sat down on the couch while their mother plugged in the hair dryer.

By that time, Edwin had gotten the milk ready. When he saw that they were occupied, he left the glasses of milk on one side and went to clean the bathroom.

“Mommy, you’re so much better at it than Daddy and Grandpa. You’re so gentle,” Gavin praised smilingly as Arissa blow-dried his hair.

Beside him, Tim nodded in agreement.

Arissa was happy to hear their compliment.

“I like you better too, Mommy,” Zachary added.

“Me too! Me too!” Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse cried out in unison.

The smile on Arissa’s face deepened.

“Go and have some milk. Mr. Whitley left it on the table. Go to bed after that. It’s past ten already,” Arissa instructed as she kept the hair dryer after she was done drying the children’s hair.

Gavin took the glasses of milk and passed it to his brothers and sister.

“Mommy, this is for you.”

“Okay. Thanks.”

When she was done keeping the hair dryer, Arissa went over to the table to join the kids.

After they finished their milk, Arissa hurried them to bed.

After tucking them in, Arissa found the children blinking their round eyes at her in anticipation.

“Mommy,” Jesse called out, “could you sleep with us tonight?”

“Yeah, Mommy. Sleep here,” Gavin insisted.

Seeing that the children were longing for her accompaniment, Arissa agreed to it readily.

“All right. I’ll go shower, and I’ll be back. Okay?”

“Okay!”

The children were glad that Arissa agreed to spend the night with them.

Although Tim did not say anything, the smile on his face was enough to show his happiness.

“Hurry up, Mommy. We’ll be waiting,” Jasper urged.

It had been a long time since Arissa slept in their room.

“Sleep first. No more games,” Arissa replied as she went over to pick up the empty glasses.

It so happened that Edwin had just finished cleaning the bathroom. When he saw Arissa wanting to wash the glasses, he came over to relieve her.

“You should go shower, Mrs. Graham. I’ll do it.”

Arissa nodded. “Thanks, Edwin.”

Edwin smiled at her and went off to the kitchen.

As for Arissa, she returned to the master bedroom to shower. When she came out to dry her hair again, half an hour had already passed.

She rushed over to the children's bedroom when she was finally done.

When she got there, Edwin was reading them a bedtime story, and despite how interesting the story was, Arissa could tell from the kids' faces that they were struggling to keep their eyes open.

"Edwin, you should go rest. I'll take over."

"Sure. Goodnight, Mrs. Graham," the butler whispered with a smile.

"Goodnight, Edwin," Arissa said.

After Edwin closed the door, she lay on the bed with the children.

"Mommy! Come over to the middle!" Gavin beckoned.

The children moved apart, making a room for Arissa right in the middle.

"Over here, Mommy!"

"All right," Arissa replied gently.

When she lay down, she put her arms around the children and planted a kiss on their foreheads.

"Goodnight, my sweethearts."

"Goodnight, Mommy," the five kids said. Tim, too, replied, "Goodnight, Ms. York."

"Sweet dreams!"

Arissa pulled the blanket over them and closed her eyes.

With their mother beside them, the children fell asleep in no time.

Likewise, Arissa dozed off very soon in the familiar scent of the children.

Meanwhile, Edwin went downstairs to get Benjamin a drink.

He whispered, "Mr. Graham, have some water. Are you resting anytime soon? It's late."

"Yeah, I'll be done soon. Are the children asleep?" Benjamin asked.

“They were almost asleep when I left. Mrs. Graham took over after I came down,” Edwin replied.

Benjamin nodded. “You should also call it a day, Edwin. I’ll go to bed soon.”

Edwin nodded and left quietly, since Benjamin was still engrossed in work.

Not long after the butler left, Benjamin received a call from Darius.