

The More the Merrier Chapter 771

Chapter 771 Getting Yelled At

Ethen took one look at his angry employer and retreated carefully. Benjamin turned over his shoulder and shot him a glare. "Inform the managers from all departments to attend a meeting!"

"Got it!" Ethen sighed inwardly. A disaster is incoming. Arissa had to attend the meeting, too. She packed up her stuff and went to the conference room.

Everyone hadn't seen her for some time, so they were surprised to see her at the meeting. After their initial shock, they greeted her warmly. "Ms. York, you're back from your vacation?"

"Yes. Hello, Mr. Felch, Mr. Rock," Arissa greeted her colleagues cheerfully. That was what Benjamin saw when he strode into the conference room. At the sight of Arissa exchanging pleasantries with the managers from various departments, he scowled in displeasure.

"Mr. Graham!" everyone greeted him. Noticing his glare, Arissa flashed a pleasant smile and greeted him along with everyone, "Mr. Graham!"

"You look relaxed, huh?" Benjamin scoffed. Everyone exchanged looks after sensing Benjamin's displeasure. Once Benjamin took his seat, Ethen gestured for the rest to sit down, too.

"All departments, report your work progress to me!" Benjamin ordered curtly. Everyone felt a chill go down their spines. As no one dared to speak, Ethen had to volunteer to be the first one.

As expected, Benjamin reprimanded him harshly. "Did you complete the task I assigned to you?" Benjamin demanded. "Mr. Graham, I shall relay your orders right now!" Ethen replied hastily.

I just received his order a while ago. After arriving at the company, he wanted to hold this meeting. There was no time for me to carry out his order. Benjamin's voice was icy as he announced, "I'll be deducting a month's bonus for that."

Despite his reluctance, Ethen had no choice but to accept it. Benjamin swept his gaze around the silent room. "Do y'all want to have your bonuses deducted?"

It was unavoidable to get yelled at, so Arissa glanced at the rest and responded, "I'll go first." Everyone's gazes landed on her, and they heaved a sigh of relief inwardly.

Someone had volunteered to go first, and they wanted to delay their turn as long as possible. Benjamin shot her a sidelong glance.

Arissa reported, "I wasn't at the company recently, but no one in my department slacked off. No security breaches happened. The research and development proposal is ready. I've sent it to your office, Mr. Graham. After getting your approval, my department can start on it. I'll catch up quickly on the other tasks that are behind schedule."

Benjamin snorted. "When did you hand it to my office?"

Arissa gave him a look and responded, "Yesterday noon, Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin's Adam's apple bobbed slightly. He had just arrived at the company today and didn't notice the proposal on his desk.

"When will you catch up on the work that is behind schedule?"

"Today. Will that do?" Arissa directed a level stare at him.

Benjamin raised his brow. "Ms. York, are you sure?"

As he was practically breathing down her neck, Arissa felt anger rising within her. "If I can't complete everything by today, I shall give up on my bonus."

"If I'm not mistaken, your bonus is already gone," Benjamin sneered.

Arissa parted her lips and retorted, "You don't have to pay me my salary. Will that do?"

It was her fault for not coming to work and delaying the work progress.

Ethen glanced at them both anxiously. If he presses on, Ms. York might resign on the spot.

Benjamin harrumphed in response. "Remember what you said!"

Arissa wanted to yell at him that she wouldn't forget anything she said, but they were in the conference room.

Thus, she had to swallow her retort.

Benjamin gestured for the other departments to report their progress and then proceeded to yell at the managers. Compared to them, Arissa had had it easy.

Ethen saw their suffering, but he couldn't do a thing to save them.

The only way out is if Mrs. Graham is willing to placate Mr. Graham.

He wrote a note discreetly and handed it to Arissa: Mrs. Graham, you should pacify Mr. Graham. Otherwise, everyone can't work in peace this morning.

He also drew a crying emoji at the end of his note.

After Arissa read the note, the corners of her lips twitched. Pacify him? How do I do that?

She scribbled a reply: I don't know how to do that!

Ethen nearly burst into tears.

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Chapter 772 Did I Say You Can Leave

Ethen offered a suggestion: Why don't you pretend to have a stomachache?

Arissa was dumbfounded. If Benjamin discovers I'm lying, I'll be doomed. Besides, what use is it to pretend to be ill?

Benjamin's wintry gaze swept over and landed on them both. "Why are you exchanging notes in the conference room?"

Ethen started sweating bullets. Arissa didn't expect that Benjamin's gaze was sharp enough to catch them exchanging notes during the meeting. An awkward silence ensued as everyone stared at them.

"Give it to me!" Benjamin narrowed his eyes in an imposing manner. Ethen could scarcely restrain himself from beating his brains out. Mr. Graham caught us in the act. He will definitely punish me. He shot Arissa an imploring look.

Seeing how scared Ethen was, Arissa turned to look at Benjamin. "It was our fault for not focusing on the meeting. Punish me if you want to! I was the one who gave Mr. Frank the note."

The note was still with her. Benjamin's expression turned dark. "Where did you learn how to take the rap for someone else's mistake?"

Ethen hastily explained, "Mr. Graham, this has nothing to do with Ms. York. I was the one who started the conversation!"

Benjamin's face was as black as a kettle when he saw them defending each other. Everyone else dared not utter a word. "What did you talk about? Share it with us!" Benjamin asked as an icy sneer flitted across his lips.

I shouldn't have talked to Ms. York. It was my fault she got blamed, Ethen groaned in despair. Arissa glanced at Benjamin. "You should read it yourself."

If I say it out loud, what would everyone think of us?

"Say it out loud!" Benjamin barked. Arissa swallowed her anger and forced herself to say, "Mr. Frank is afraid that everyone can't work in peace since you're angry. He wants me to figure out a way to turn your mood around!"

She couldn't bring herself to say the word "pacify" in front of a crowd as it was too embarrassing. The entire conference room fell into a dead silence. It was so silent that even a pin drop would be deafening.

The managers' gazes darted between Arissa and Benjamin. So Mr. Graham is in a foul mood because of Ms. York?

Arissa lowered her gaze and stared at the paper in front of her silently. "Everyone, out!" Benjamin roared.

The other managers immediately packed up their stuff and fled the conference room. They were afraid of being lectured by Benjamin if they were too slow.

"You too. Scram!" Benjamin pinned Ethen with a withering look.

"G-Got it!" Ethen grabbed his notebook and dashed out of the conference room.

Seeing that everyone else had left, Arissa began packing up her stuff to leave.

"Did I say you can leave?" Benjamin glowered at her.

Arissa halted in her tracks before returning to her seat.

She shot the furious man a baffled look and pursed her lips.

"Mr. Graham, what can I do for you?"

The sight of her icy, calm expression caused Benjamin's fury to spring to life yet again.

"Arissa York!" he growled in a low voice.

Shocked, Arissa looked up to meet his menacing gaze.

She straightened her back and wondered if she had incurred his wrath.

"Mr. Graham, please speak your mind. I don't want to lag behind at work and get punished by you later!"

“Arissa, why are you upset with me?” Benjamin managed between gritted teeth.

“I’m not upset at you,” came Arissa’s answer.

“You’re not?”

Benjamin got up and held her chin. Tamping down his anger, he demanded, “Then why are you talking to me this way?”

Benjamin gave her a long, level look. His eyes were bloodshot, as he didn’t get to rest the last two days.

Arissa refused to look at him. “How should I talk to you, then?” Her voice was cold.

“Good!” Benjamin released his grip on her and sent a chair flying with a forceful kick.

Ethen was still around, so he hurried in after hearing the commotion.

He heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Arissa in her seat as Benjamin vented his anger.

Luckily Ms. York is fine. No, wait. I should be concerned about Mr. Graham.

“Calm down, Mr. Graham!”

Benjamin cast him a furious look. “Scram!”

Ethen glanced at them. “Whatever it is, just talk it out nicely.”

Having said that, he exited the conference room and left them alone.

Why is it becoming worse?

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Chapter 773 Stop Kicking

Arissa’s heart was still pounding in shock. An ominous black thundercloud of temper settled over Benjamin when he saw her frightened expression. “Get out!”

Arissa’s heart skipped a beat. She quickly gathered her stuff and left the conference room. Rage seared through Benjamin as he proceeded to kick several other chairs.

A look flashed across Arissa's eyes as she turned over her shoulder. Gazing into the man's furious gaze, she forced herself to say, "Stop kicking the chairs. You don't want to hurt yourself, do you?"

Benjamin furrowed his brows as he realized his toes in his leather shoes were throbbing painfully. D*mn it! His chest heaved with anger. A while later, he marched out of the conference room wearing an ugly scowl.

D*mn it! She can affect my mood easily. "Mr. Graham, are you all right?" Ethen came to him hastily to show his employer some concern.

He was envious that everyone else could escape to their offices, yet he still had to face his employer's wrath. Mr. Graham is in a foul mood. If I don't show my concern, he'll vent his anger on me later.

Benjamin gave him a frosty look. "What did you two talk about? Tell me every word." Ethen flashed a wry smile and followed Benjamin to the office on the top floor by taking the elevator.

Without missing a word, he revealed their entire conversation to Benjamin. After he finished, he noticed Benjamin's expression turning a shade darker. Ethen couldn't help but pray that someone would come and rescue him from hell. Alas, it was purely his wishful thinking.

Ethen had no choice but to continue enduring the suffering. Benjamin's chest was still heaving as rage pulsed through his veins. Ha! She didn't even want to pacify me. Why did her attitude change suddenly?

Benjamin recalled that she had been acting this way since this morning. He then connected it to the events that had happened two nights ago and froze instantly. Did she hear the phone conversation?

His brows snapped together. Ethen peeked at his furious employer and asked softly, "Mr. Graham, what happened between you and Ms. York?"

Benjamin shot him a glare, and he flashed a sheepish grin. "Mr. Graham, if you want this stalemate to end, you'll have to figure out the reason," Ethen reminded him.

Ethen had been working under Benjamin for a long time. The only person capable of affecting Benjamin's feelings was none other than Arissa.

He refused to believe that Benjamin didn't care about Arissa.

In a low voice, he revealed, "Mr. Graham, Edwin told me Ms. York has been in a bad mood since yesterday."

Benjamin's eyes narrowed a fraction. "Why?"

As he didn't seem angry anymore, Ethen ventured a bold guess. "Could it be related to your sudden business trip? Perhaps Ms. York read about the news regarding you and Ms. Rosetta Adams and misunderstood things. It made the trending topics. Those who have a phone would have definitely seen it."

Benjamin's frown deepened. Was that the reason? When I took Rosetta's call two nights ago, she went out and even locked the kids' room from the inside. Obviously, she didn't want me to come in, and she started keeping a distance from me ever since.

His eyes lit up as the anger in his heart faded away.

"Mr. Graham, you need to sweet talk women. The more you argue with her, the more distant she will get," Ethen advised.

He dared not ask if Benjamin had romantic feelings for Rosetta and could only offer a piece of his advice.

Hearing that, Benjamin glowered at him. "Your year-end bonus is gone for this year!"

Ethen felt as if his entire world had collapsed. My bonus, all gone?

He cried pitifully, "Mr. Graham, I was showing my concern for you!"

"Why did you suggest that lousy idea to her?" Benjamin snapped.

She refused to do so, did she not? She didn't give in at all.

Ethen dared not refute him. "Got it."

Feeling annoyed, Benjamin gave him a dismissive wave. "Get out!"

Back in her office, Arissa was distracted.

She forced herself to focus on her work, but Benjamin's furious face kept popping up in her mind.

Grabbing the cushion, she hit it several times before managing to calm down.

That b*stard. Why did he get mad at me?

Arissa clenched her jaw and cursed Benjamin inwardly. A while later, she was calm enough to get back to work.

The More the Merrier Chapter 774

Chapter 774 Kingsley Deliberately Had Lunch With Arissa

I need to earn money to raise the kids. If I don't complete my work, I'll lose my salary and would've worked for him in vain. The thought made Arissa extremely furious. Why would I work for him without receiving anything in return?

Adrenaline coursed through Arissa's veins as she threw herself into work. At noon, her colleagues informed her that it was time for lunch, but she merely grunted in acknowledgment and went back to work.

It wasn't until her phone rang that she stopped working. "Hello?"

"Ms. York, come upstairs for lunch." "No, thanks. I need to catch up with work," Arissa told Ethen. She then returned to her work. Upstairs, Ethen turned to Benjamin and reported, "Ms. York needs to work and doesn't have time to have lunch."

Benjamin snorted. "Who told you to ask her to lunch?"

Ethen was surprised to get snubbed. Didn't Mr. Graham acquiesce to it? He didn't say anything when I made the call. Now, he's blaming me for calling Ms. York.

Benjamin's expression was grim as he ate his lunch. A few bites later, he stopped and said, "Clear these away!" "Mr. Graham, you only had a few bites," Ethen reminded him. Benjamin's irritation crackled. "I said, clear these away!"

Ethen let out a soft sigh. He walked over and was about to do as told when Kingsley showed up. "Benjamin, I taught the parents a lesson on your behalf. Oh? Did you prepare a spread because you knew I was coming?" Delighted, Kingsley took a seat and grabbed a fork to eat.

Ethen couldn't help but admire him for his courage. Benjamin shot him a look. "Did you clear all traces?"

Kingsley gobbled down the food in his mouth and nodded. "Yeah!" Benjamin's brows scrunched up when he noticed Kingsley taking one bite of each dish. The observant Ethen immediately grabbed one dish which Kingsley hadn't touched.

Kingsley glanced at him. "Ethen, how could you take the lamb chop away from me? Put it down!" "Ms. York hasn't had lunch yet!" Ethen informed him in a soft voice.

Taken aback, Kingsley whirled around to look at Benjamin. The latter was glancing at his phone with his legs crossed. There was no telling what was going on in his mind.

For no reason, Kingsley felt a chill go down his spine. "Oh, so Arissa hasn't eaten yet. Ethen, what are you doing? Hurry, ask her to come upstairs for lunch!" Kingsley berated him.

Ethen was torn between laughing and crying. "I did, but she refused to come up. She's busy with her work." He didn't forget to give Kingsley a pointed look.

Kingsley glanced at Benjamin. "Benjamin, why didn't you ask Arissa to come upstairs for lunch?"

"She can starve if she likes. That has nothing to do with me!" came Benjamin's icy answer. Kingsley blinked in bewilderment. "Benjamin, did you get into a fight with Arissa?"

Benjamin's expression turned stony.

Kingsley gaped in disbelief. "You really had a fight with her, huh?"

He turned to Ethen and asked, "Why did he fight with Arissa?"

Ethen dared not gossip about Benjamin in front of him and could only offer an embarrassed smile.

Shaking his head, Kingsley ordered, "Ethen, pack these up. I'll deliver them to Arissa."

"Sure!"

That was actually Ethen's plan, but he had to delay his plan as Kingsley had shown up without warning.

Thus, Kingsley and Ethen left to deliver lunch to Arissa.

Benjamin glanced at them briefly before returning to his phone.

It so happened that all employees in the IT department had gone out for lunch, so there was no one around.

Kingsley knocked on the door to Arissa's office.

"Come in!"

Kingsley opened the door and stuck his head in. Flashing a grin, he greeted, "Arissa!"

Arissa was surprised to see him here. "Mr. Watts? Why are you here?"

“I heard you haven’t had lunch yet, so we brought it down for you. I haven’t had lunch yet too. Let’s eat together!”

Kingsley gestured for Ethen to bring the food in and arranged them on Arissa’s coffee table without waiting for her permission.

“Come, let’s eat. You can’t work while you’re starving, right? You need to fill your tummy to gain energy to work.”

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Chapter 775 Benjamin Turned Off The Surveillance System

Arissa smiled and finally decided to have a short break. She rose to her feet and approached them. “Thank you, guys.”

“Why are you thanking us? You should thank Benjamin instead!” Kingsley teased her and threw a glance at Ethen. “Ethen, am I right?”

Casting a look at Arissa, Ethen nodded and said, “Yeah! Ms. York, Mr. Graham barely had anything after knowing you were not going up for lunch.” Arissa was stunned. He barely had anything?

“Maybe he’s not hungry. Oh, forget about him. It’s no big deal even if he skips a meal. Let’s dig in!” Kingsley handed Arissa a fork. Arissa took it from him, then he scooped some salad for her. “Enjoy.”

Arissa could not help feeling embarrassed. “Mr. Watts, I’ll help myself. You should eat too. Mr. Frank, come and join us!” “Sure!” Ethen sat down jubilantly and joined them at the table.

Seeing them bury their heads in their food, Arissa followed suit. It was indeed a harmonious sight when the threesome sat around the coffee table, having their meal.

Meanwhile, Benjamin, seated in his office, would turn to look in the direction of the door from time to time. Kingsley is not really eating together with Arissa now, is he?

Seconds later, he stood up and sat behind his desk again. He took a document but was not in the mood to flip through it. He tapped on the keyboard, and soon, the harmonious scene of the threesome having their meal in Arissa’s office was shown on the computer screen.

At the sight of Kingsley and Ethen chatting and laughing with Arissa, Benjamin turned off the surveillance system right away in exasperation. Next, he pressed the button for the internal line, thinking of instructing Arissa to come up.

However, he dismissed the idea the next second and called Ethen instead. Ethen's heart skipped a beat when he saw that it was Benjamin who had called him.

"Look at you. You look so scared," Kingsley teased. Ethen smiled bitterly. "Mr. Watts, since you're not afraid of Mr. Graham, why don't you answer the call, then?"

"Well, my phone's not the one ringing." Kingsley pursed his lips. Arissa looked at them. Ethen quickly answered his phone. "Mr. Graham..."

"Pass the phone to Kingsley!" Benjamin's intimidating voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Chuckling inwardly, Ethen handed his phone to Kingsley. "Mr. Watts, Mr. Graham wants to talk to you."

Kingsley shot daggers at Ethen and took the phone from him. "Benjamin, do you need me for something?"

The man on the other end of the line thundered, "Get your ass up here!"

Kingsley smiled sheepishly. "But I haven't finished my meal."

"You have one minute!"

Ah! That's a warning!

Touching the tip of his nose, Kingsley looked at Arissa with a smile. "Arissa, I'll buy you a meal next time. I have to go up now!"

With that, he rushed out of her office.

"Ms. York, enjoy your meal. I have to get going too. I'll be back later to clean up."

Ethen quickly made himself scarce as well.

Silence ensued in the whole office. Looking at the dishes on the coffee table, Arissa could only continue eating alone. Since Kingsley and Ethen did not eat much, she had a bloated stomach after finishing all the dishes. After clearing everything away, she went back to work.

Benjamin was looking through a document when Kingsley and Ethen stepped into his office.

With a smirk, Kingsley sat right in front of him and knocked on the desk. "Quit pretending. Why did you ask us to come up?"

Benjamin lifted his head and shot him a glare. "Kingsley Watts, you must be very free now, huh?"

Kingsley quirked his brows. "Of course not. Ain't I working for you here? My goodness! I don't even have time to enjoy my lunch!"

Benjamin snorted. "This is not a cafeteria. It's okay you can leave now." Kingsley's lips twitched. So his motive for asking me up was to chase me away!

He bent forward and fixed his eyes on Benjamin. "Let me guess. Are you jealous because you saw us accompanying Arissa to have lunch in her office?"

Benjamin narrowed his eyes at Kingsley. Kingsley chuckled. "Dare you say that you didn't look at the surveillance footage just now?"

"Get lost!" Benjamin demanded him to leave.