

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1143-1147

Chapter 1143

Three days after Ashton and Joseph had left, the Facebook account of a news channel in Dartan announced that the country's homegrown air-conditioner manufacturing company was in the final stage of acquiring Eisen Corporation. Ashton sounded enervated when he gave me a call in the evening.

"I supposed it wasn't smooth sailing?" I asked.

"Yeah..." He let out a deep sigh. "I'm working things out on the other side. There might be a chance of turning the tables."

"And what would that be?"

"You'll get the details later on. It's not the right time to talk about it yet. How are you feeling these couple of days? Any pregnancy sickness?" He curtly changed the topic.

Perhaps he needed some good news to counterbalance the bad ones that had been troubling the company recently. I was stunned momentarily before telling him that I had been fairly well and things were as usual. I felt sorry for him, though.

"Fine." was how he responded to feign indifference. "I thought your life would be upside down without me by your side. It seems like I'm overthinking."

"Yes, Mr. Fuller. You've overestimated yourself." I went with the flow and trifled with his ego.

It seemed like my swagger had made him chuckle.

It was odd, but at least he's chuckling, meaning things weren't that bad. The acquisition of Eisen Corporation would bring in almost ten billion. Without it, it'd be an uphill climb for Fuller Corporation to launch other massive projects due to restricted cash flow.

Ashton then went on with what he wanted to say. "I'll be back in a week the most. Before I get back, stay at home and the baby comes first, understood?"

Professor Zidd had been reminding me about the same thing again and again. Of course, I'd never forget that. "I know, I know. And how about you? Are you planning to bring back a few pretty ladies from Dartan?"

"Haha. I can smell jealousy, Scarlett. Hahaha..." he teased and laughed hard.

"You're overthinking again. It's the pretty ladies that I care about, not you. Bye!"

I guessed I was slightly vexed. After hanging up, I threw the phone aside. My peripheral vision caught sun rays peeking through the curtains. I got up and drew them open.

I looked down and noticed that the number of bodyguards around the villa had doubled. The surveillance was watertight to the extent where every possible point of entry was guarded.

As I recalled what Ashton said on the phone, chills started to crawl down my spine. I could sense that a storm was brewing.

This very night, I went to bed early. As I rocked in and out of sleep, I heard the sound of furniture knocked down onto the floor. I quickly put on my robe and went downstairs.

When I got to the stairs, all the noise just now had turned into clamors of men. There was a man caught in the middle of more than ten bodyguards.

Creak... Mrs. Eriksen came out from the room with sleepy-eyed Summer after hearing the commotion. "Mrs. Eriksen, there's nothing to see. Get Summer back in bed." I stopped them just in time.

It wasn't a scene suitable for an elderly and a child.

After making sure that Summer had gone back in, I turned my head towards the floor below. The man who stood out from the bodyguards looked drained and was being sandbagged before five guards jumped on top of him and held him on the ground.

Phew! I let out a sigh of relief. I remained where I was as things might take a turn last minute. "What's going on?" I held on to the railing and gazed down.

Chapter 1144

In the absence of Ashton, I assumed all responsibilities for the household. I had to sound undeterred and stay composed to earn the bodyguards' respect,

Their chief walked towards me and reported, "Madam, this person intruded the villa a moment ago. We detected his intrusion and caught him in time. We'll lock him up in the basement after this."

"Well done." I nodded as a gesture of recognition. It'd be better to leave the interrogation to Ashton's henchmen since they were better versed in this area.

Once they'd gotten the green light, they trudged him towards the basement. "Scarlett!" That person shouted my name out loud.

Wait a minute. Isn't that Marcus?

"Hold on!" I immediately stopped them. "Bring that man over."

I'd been watching the whole episode from upstairs, and all I could see was heads jostling among each other. After the man was under control, I never got to see his face since the guards pressed it down on the floor like a pancake. But this voice, Marcus' voice, was simply too familiar.

In view of my safety, the bodyguards kept a distance between him and me. One of them tugged his chin upwards and turned his head towards me.

No way! Marcus?

I was affirmative that this man with a scruffy jawline and miserable eyes was Marcus. But was that really him?

"Release him." I commanded. Marcus would hurt anyone but me.

The bodyguards looked at each other and hesitated. None of them released their grasp as they weren't ready to face Ashton's wrath if anything were to happen to me.

"Let go of him! He is my friend! If anything happened, I'll answer for it."

They finally gave in and retreated to the door.

I then went down the stairs to meet him. "If you want to see me, you could've just told me straight. There's no need to sneak in in the middle of the night."

“Oh, you think that I didn’t?” Marcus looked at me coldly. “It is almost a mission impossible to be able to meet Mrs. Fuller nowadays.” My words got stuck in my throat. I then turned to one of the bodyguards and lifted my brow, signing for him to spill the truth, and his silence eventually gave it away. Well, why would Marcus lie?

Ashton must’ve been worried that someone out there may cause me harm and ordered to bar all male visitors from entering the villa.

I didn’t have a lot of male friends, and Emery could walk in anytime. I wouldn’t have noticed this new protocol.

“I’m sorry.” I apologized to Marcus and had him take a seat. “Where have you been for the past two months? You just vanished.”

“M Country.” His eyes were solemn.

“Is the White Corporation planning to expand its business overseas?” With what Marcus was capable of, it wasn’t surprising that he could augment the family business to greater heights.

He only shook his head and stared blankly at the ground. His mind was wandering elsewhere. “Camelia and the baby have gone missing.”

“What? How’s that possible? I thought she was constantly by your side?” I shot out a string of questions to confirm that I didn’t mishear anything.

That silly girl would never ditch Marcus for anything.

Between Marcus’ tightly knitted eyebrows, I saw the excruciating torment he was enduring.

It was the first time he reacted in that manner. I was worried about Camelia, but seeing Marcus’ heart wringing and was concerned about her wellbeing, I couldn’t help but feel happy for her. If Camelia could see what was happening now, she’d die with no regrets.

After an extended discontinuance, Marcus spoke again. "About a year ago, the GW Group sent someone to White Corporation, hoping to engage in equity financing. In return, they would help us penetrate the overseas market, and we could utilize their AI technology unconditionally. I wanted to win Ashton so badly back then and said yes to their proposal instantly. When I went deeper into the details, only did I become aware of GW Group's malign intentions. I had to give them 51% of White Corporation's shares in exchange for their AI technology. In other words, they would gain absolute control over the company. That's basically selling the company out, no? I had a change of heart there and then, and we parted on bad terms. Later on, Camelia and my boy were gone. The airline's record showed that they were last on a flight to M Country."

Chapter 1145

"It's the GW Group again." The thought of them gave me goosebumps. If Ashton had been more adamant with Sean back then, I'd be the one missing now.

Marcus' head was still hanging low. "I've been searching for them in M Country for the past two weeks but to no avail. I wonder how they're doing now..."

I was lost for words. The GW group must've kidnapped Camelia and her child as leverage. It was just a matter of time till they get in touch with Marcus. And by then, Marcus could only yield to them.

What Ashton said was true. The GW group was callous and brutal.

Seeing how Marcus was mentally disheveled, I decided to let him mull over a bit. I got up and went to the kitchen.

"Have some water. You have to take good care of yourself in order to get them back." I handed him the cup.

Instead of taking a sip, he plonked it on the table and grabbed my wrist in a flash. I quickly waved my other hand towards the bodyguards to show them that it was alright.

“Scarlett.” Marcus looked earnestly at me in despair. “I’ve never ever begged you for anything. Could you help me out this time?”

“Yes, Marcus. I’ll send someone to look for them. Camelia is just like a sister to me. If the situation permits, I’ll look for them myself!” I’d do anything for Camelia, my bestie.

Marcus seemed disappointed with my offer and turned his head away. “That’s not what I’m talking about.”

“Then, what do you want?” Right, Marcus could obtain a bigger search team with a phone call and needn’t come here personally. It must’ve been something else for him to risk his life. The bodyguards almost locked him up in the basement, assuming that he was a hitman.

What exactly did he want?

After some time, he gave out a pitiful gaze and uttered a few words with his chapped lips. “From what I know, Ashton is trying to strike a deal with the GW group.”

A week later, the Fuller Corporation announced that its subsidiary in Dartan had gained 18% of Eisen Corporation’s shares through a swap transaction via an intermediary. As a result, it had successfully acquired Eisen Corporation by withholding more than 50% of its shares.

Scores of investment organizations brought a suit against Fuller Corporation in Dartan, saying that Ashton intentionally manipulated the stocks and wanted compensation for their financial damages from this hedge fund. While the government was dismissing the case, Ashton was already back in K City.

He was back home an hour later.

“What a victorious return, Mr. Fuller.” I welcomed him with open arms.

He reciprocated with a long hug in front of Summer.

After he gave Summer her present, Mrs. Eriksen took her aside to unbox it.

Ashton and I finally got to sit down and caught up a bit after two weeks.

“Hey, the international media put out news about you being thoroughly ravenous, and your actions had caused suicides of those who’d lost their fortune in the share market. It seems like they’re going to bring you to court on the issue of equity transactions too. They won’t let you get away with what you’ve done.” I teased him using the news I read on Facebook.

He appeared unruffled and turned around to embrace me. While he habitually fiddled with my hand, he talked about this project that involved tens of billions. “Just let them do as they please. It’s not the first time something like this has happened, anyway. It’s funny how those who’ve pocketed so much profit from it are jealous. But what can they do? They can’t sue me in Dartan, and their charges against me in M Country were dismissed. At the end of the day, they achieved nothing but embarrassed themselves. I’m not interested in stopping them from their foolish acts.

Chapter 1146

I was not familiar with the workings of the stock market, but judging from Ashton’s tone, he was on top of this matter and would have executed it perfectly.

With Eisen Corporation’s technical support in place, Fuller Corporation only had to focus on developing its global network of warehouse and storage facilities. This would drastically reduce the time required for them to establish themselves in K City.

I stayed quiet for quite a while, secretly observing Ashton. When I saw he was in a good mood, I abruptly asked, “Did GW create any problem for you in your acquisition bid?”

Ashton lifted his head and inspected me with his probing gaze. "Why do you bring them up out of the blue?" I felt he could read what was on my mind.

I turned my head slightly to avoid his gaze and stammered, "Eh... just a casual question. You said they were ambitious, so I was worried you'd let your guard down, and they will take advantage..."

I regained my courage as I spoke. I turned around, and strode over to him, causing him to back off a little in surprise. "Yeah. As your capable wife, of course, I have to watch your back. Can't I?" Ashton eyed me suspiciously, then let out a laugh, amused. "Of course you can. I am just not used to that."

He repositioned himself comfortably to hold me in his arms and explained to me. "GW is extremely influential in M Country and formidable in K City. However, Dartan is not their territory, so their clout cannot be felt there. That was one of the reasons why I chose Eisen Corporation in the first place."

I nodded. It was easy to see. Once out of M Country, Fuller Corporation could invest and grow without undue influence from GW.

But his reply did not work to my favor, as I could not bring in the subject I had in mind. I bit my lips, lost in thoughts. I was oblivious to his mocking, and that raised his suspicion.

He took me by my shoulders and sat me squarely in front of him. He squinted his deep dark eyes and commanded, "Out with it. What are you hiding from me?"

I overestimated my ability. It was pointless trying to conceal anything from this shrewd man.

I pursed my lips, looked over Ashton's shoulder in the direction of the door behind him, and said, "You can come out now."

Before Ashton could turn to look, Marcus had already walked into the hall. Their eyes met, and the air turned tense instantaneously. Their relationship had always been fraught with hostility.

I was worried the situation would get out of hand, so I grabbed Ashton's arm and started explaining, "Marcus is here to seek your help. GW kidnapped Camelia and Toby. He was hoping we can sound Sean out to see if he had any useful information."

Ashton turned around and gave me a terrifying dark look. I withdrew my hand in awe.

He had always felt uneasy about my relationship with Marcus. Hence, his reaction to seeing us together was understandable.

However, what he did next was unexpected.

"Joseph!" he summoned Joseph.

"Yes sir. What can I do for you?" Joseph stood at the door respectfully and asked.

"Replace all the security standing guard outside. Every single one of them!" Ashton ground his teeth and commanded. Joseph could tell it was a non-negotiable demand, so he hurried off to execute it.

I was stunned, but I understood his reasons for doing so.

Chapter 1147

Before he left the house, Ashton had given clear instructions not to let any man into the house. Not only was Marcus allowed into the house, to make matter worse, none of the security bothered to inform him about it. Ashton expected discipline from his men, so he would not tolerate such misconduct.

I was to be blamed for their plight. However, Ashton was raging at that moment, so I would have to wait for another opportune time to plead for them. Marcus' problem was the top priority then.

After giving out his orders to Joseph, Ashton sat up straight, and his expression was grave. He was in a cold, uncompromising mood.

Marcus did not want to make things difficult for me. He took the initiative to move forward, sat on the sofa, and humbly spoke to Ashton.

“Please don’t fault Scarlett. I begged her to help me. All these years, I had done too much wrong to Camelia and our child. I can’t sit back and do nothing now that they are in danger. Ashton, I gave Scarlett up to you. Could you not return the favor and help find out about my wife and child?”

This was as humble as Marcus could get. Both Ashton and he were men of great ego. They would not be able to let go of their pride completely, even when asking for help.

He really gave his all for Camelia. They were both my friends, and also due to the indebtedness I felt towards Marcus, I had no excuse not to help.

Seeing Ashton was unmoved, I got anxious. I kept my cool and nudged him gently. “Could you do it for me? GW is eager to work with Fuller Corporation, so they would not reject your request. So long as...”

Before I could finish my plead, Ashton rebuked me with a growl. “So you want Summer and you to end up like Camelia?”

My mind went blank as I looked at Ashton. He was furious, and the veins were bulging on his forehead.

What is he saying? He is aware Camelia and Toby were missing? So he already made up his mind, and all he cares about is our own safety?

This was not the Ashton I knew.

Ashton could probably read my mind. He coldly turned around and told Marcus to leave. "You'd better leave. Scarlett is pregnant, so she shouldn't be moving around too much. I will never allow any danger near her."

"Ash..."

I wanted to plead for Marcus, but Ashton stood up and marched upstairs, leaving me no chance to do so.

Only Marcus and I were left in the hall after Ashton marched out. The place was eerily empty and quiet. Other than the echo of Ashton's footsteps, only our sighs were audible.

Marcus did not voice any dissatisfaction. He stood there, numbed. After a while, he quietly walked out too. I could only helplessly watch his visibly gaunt back disappear through the door.

I was of no help when the White Corporation got into trouble. When Benjamin and Sharon passed away, I was not by Marcus' side. Now, the only family he had left also went missing, and my dearest had refused to help him so as not to endanger me. I owed Marcus too much. On the other hand, I could not pin any fault on Ashton. He refused to get involved as he was protective of me. He was only doing his best to protect the ones he treasured.

The bedroom door was left ajar. Obviously, Ashton was waiting for me. I could not face him, so I turned and went into the study instead.

As I looked at the pile of notes for the bar examination, I had a wistful thought. Maybe if I were a top lawyer, I could unreservedly march into GW's headquarters and demand to know Camelia and Toby's whereabouts.