

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1173-1177

Chapter 1173

There were two voice messages.

I tapped on the first one, and my heart stirred at a familiar voice – it was Marcus'. "Scar, is Ashton with you? If he... "

The message was cut off abruptly as if someone had interrupted it.

Without hesitating, I quickly tapped on the second one. I felt wrath boiling within me when I heard Holden's provocative tone. "Well, aren't I a courteous businessman? I showed you the proof even before we discuss business. But it depends on your sincerity whether you can listen to the rest. However, there is no need for you to worry. Even if the Taylor family masters all the communication base station's locations, they will be smart enough not to compete with you. You have my words that White Corporation won't be at any risk. So please make your decision well."

If he were in front of me at that moment, I would surely have punched him. This man has no bottom line. He even uses others' life as a bargaining chip.

Nonetheless, I admitted that Holden had made a brilliant move. Since Marcus had vanished for such a long time, the first thing he said was to ask for Ashton. This made me uncontrollably curious about it.

It took me a while to think, and I finally decided to respond with a voice message too. "So does the Taylor family always deal in such petty manner? You want to talk business, yet you only provide an incomplete voice message. Is this what you mean by courtesy?"

Holden's reply came in no time. "Wow, I must admit your negotiating skill has clearly improved. You must have learned a lot from Ashton, I guess. Alright then, let me throw you another bone."

Right after that came another message. This time it was the complete version of Marcus' previous message.

"Scar, is Ashton with you? If he wants White Corporation, just give it to him! Remember that your safety is the first priority! Do not take any risk! And do not try to find me!"

Marcus spoke at such a hurried pace that I needed to listen to it twice. Only then was I sure he was actually asking me to be on guard against Ashton.

Still holding the phone in my hands, I shifted my gaze down towards the direction of Ashton. Looking at him socializing professionally among those men, I could not shake off the insecure emotions within me.

All the evidence told me that Ashton was building a huge web, while all of us were like fish trapped within it. I was no exception to this.

I turned and entered the bedroom. Then, I sat on the couch and let myself sink into deep thoughts. I came back to my sense only after Ashton opened the door and came in. Apparently, all the guests had left.

"Why are you still up?" Ashton asked with a drunken tone while he threw his suits on the couch. He approached me and gave me a gentle kiss on my forehead. "Sleep early."

I could see that he was in an extremely joyous mood. Upon speaking, he wandered towards the bathroom, getting ready to freshen up.

But before he entered the washroom, I called out to him.

"Ashton, you invited all these people over. Was it to celebrate our soon-to-be-born baby? Or was it an opportunity to build your business network in advance?"

Ashton halted his steps. There was a long silence inside the room as the atmosphere turned suffocatingly tense.

Sometimes, one does not need words to say something; silence is enough to convey the message.

However, I would rather prefer Ashton to cover it up with a joke or something. At this moment, his complete silence was killing me.

It took a long moment before he turned towards me and held my shoulders with both his hands. He looked at me earnestly and said, "Your only priority now is to give birth. Let me handle everything in the company. There won't be any problem. Trust me."

Ultimately, he admitted it.

I furrowed my brows slightly as I recalled Marcus' intimidated tone talking about Marcus. I bit my lips as I asked, "How about Marcus? Are you really trying to help him, or is he just a part of your plan?"

Ashton's expression darkened when he heard Marcus' name, and his arms defensively wrapped around his chest. "As I have said, we should know when to draw a line between personal affairs and work. My acquisition of White Corporation is fully legal and logical, and I have given them the best terms possible. You took part in the attack against the Moore family, so you should know better that there is no partiality in the business world. If I have not acted on them, White Corporation would have been left on the chopping block of others."

Chapter 1174

When I looked into his eyes at that moment, I felt as if we were from two different planets. I have seen this ambitious desire in his eyes before. When we just got married, he dedicated all his attention to the company's business. Those eyes were always so calm and fearless as if nothing in the world could ever stop him from getting what he wanted. There was no denying I was deeply attracted to that side of him. But as for today, I am starting to find it troubling.

Now I realized he had never let go of his ambition. He knew I would probably have opposed him, so he delicately planned this intrigue by using GW Group to trick me into signing the letter of authorization. His shadow game completely bluffed me. All this while, he has always wanted to collaborate with Winzone Trading.

As thoughts ran wild in my head, I grabbed his arm tightly as I could no longer suppress my worries. "Ashton, could you please tell me what exactly you are doing?"

Hearing this, Ashton wrapped his arms around my neck and smiled at me patiently. "I know that you would get worried easily due to your previous depression and your current pregnancy. That's why I chose not to tell you. You should not endure too much stress for the sake of our baby."

I found his explanation hard to believe. "It has nothing to do with my depression or pregnancy. Ashton, you know exactly what I am asking."

I tried to collect myself, but I could hardly bear his lies anymore. "Why are you keeping so many secrets from me? You were the one who told me that launching in M Country would be like suicide. You said that you didn't want me to take the risk. Yet you are risking it all now. Why can't you do it a safer way?"

Right at this instant, I came to comprehend what Jackson had told me. All this while, what I knew was merely a tip of an iceberg.

Fuller Corporation had just moved its headquarters to K City for a year. Thus it would still be immature to enter the international market. Numerous parties had given the same advice to Ashton, yet all had fallen short on his deaf ears.

Right then, the smile on Ashton's face suddenly vanished. "Who told you about the finance project?"

I was stunned by this unexpected question, and I thought hard to find the most appropriate response. "It doesn't matter who told me. I am one of the shareholders, so it is just a matter of time before I discover it. Do you really think that you can keep me in the dark forever?"

Ashton was out of words. With that, he headed into the bathroom, and what I heard next was the sound of the running shower. And thus, our communication failed.

I still could not wrap my head around it, while I found myself sitting on the couch waiting anxiously for him to come out.

His shower was short and sweet like usual. After a short while, he stepped out in his bathrobe, with his hair still dripping wet. Seeing that I was still up, he gave a long sigh and slowly sat down beside me. The next moment, I could feel his gentle hands pulling me into his warm embrace.

It seemed like ages ago when we sat down and spoke our minds. I leaned quietly on his chest, listening to his familiar heartbeat. A while later, Ashton's low voice echoed in the room. "Don't you always want to know why I didn't attend Grandpa's funeral?"

I got up and looked at him in confusion. "Yeah. Why?"

George was one of the few elders who treated me well. I had always felt bad that Ashton did not attend his funeral.

"Do you know that Nora's and my parents all died in a car crash?" Ashton said.

"Yes." I nodded without much thought. "Nora mentioned to me that it was an accident. Did it have anything to do with this?"

Chapter 1175

I could see Ashton's eyes darkened as he lifted his head and gazed out the window. "You only knew both died in a car accident, but you did not know that both happened on the same day, separately in J City and A City. The day before that, they were meeting up for a business deal. What seemed to be two unrelated accidents was actually a long-planned scheme to eliminate the scapegoats."

I was stunned momentarily in puzzlement. “But what did this have to do with Grandpa?”

Ashton took a deep breath and said, “Why do you think that my parents would be willing to become the scapegoats without any fight?”

He looked at me sternly and revealed all the truths that happened years ago.

Ashton’s parents had signed some important documents due to their close friendship with Nora’s parents. But unbeknownst to them, those were some illegal documents regarding heavy crimes. On the day of the car accident, Ashton would have been in the car too, if not for George, who kept him behind. Three hours after that, Ashton’s parents got killed in a crash from J City to K City. At that same time, George brought Ashton to meet an old friend, whom Ashton later found out to be the mother of the murderer.

Both accidents were carried out so flawlessly that the cops concluded them to be pure accidents even after thorough investigation. With their deaths, the ones who should have paid for their crimes remained at large. And the real culprit went unpunished up till this day.

“A week before the accident, Grandpa had been hanging out with that particular friend. Thus my parents failed to detect any suspicion. They thought it was a deal with a trustworthy friend, so they signed those documents without hesitation. Grandpa, who knew all along about the friend’s criminal background, did not say a word to prevent this. Undeniably he was an accomplice.”

I could hear the malicious hatred in Ashton’s last word of his sentence.

Never would I have thought that George would conduct this kind of secret crime. My brows furrowed as I asked Ashton. “So the reason you are so desperate to expand now is to revenge for your parents?”

However, the more I thought, the more unconvinced I was at Ashton's plan. "If that's so, you should be more careful to maintain your power, shouldn't you? Based on your recent reckless move, anyone can see that you are aiming the skies. Ashton, both of us know perfectly that if you fail this time, you will lose everything. Since you have waited for so long, what do you have to lose to wait a little longer? Please at least wait till our baby is born."

"I am running out of time." Ashton shook his head unyieldingly. "I spent five years moving Fuller Corporation to K City. I cannot afford another five, so I've got to defeat him within these two years. If all those officials who were behind this got ranked up, then I'll lose this chance forever."

Ashton sounded calm but extraordinarily persuasive. I agreed that if he did not do this now, he might regret it for his whole life. Sometimes opportunity could not stand the test of time.

That night, I hugged Ashton to sleep, but I could not close my eyes the entire night. I was fully aware of the danger my husband was in, yet I failed to find a good reason to stop him. I had never been in such a dilemma, between the fear of losing him and the love to support him. With those train of thoughts in my mind, I dozed off somewhere around dawn.

The moment I woke up, Ashton was not by my side. Mrs. Eriksen said he had gone back to the office.

It had been a long time since I last accompanied Summer to eat breakfast. Even though I hardly had any appetite, I drank a bowl of soup together with her.

I did not expect Jackson would come back again so soon, this time with a lawyer. The two tall men stood in front of me and looked at me with determined expressions. Jackson knew that I would never give up, so he might as well proceed with the judicial process without wasting time.

Chapter 1176

Summer ran over and hugged Jackson tightly. "Mr. Jackson, it's good to see you again!"

Jackson smiled as he stroke Summer's head gently while the lawyer beside him started speaking professionally, "Ms. Stovall, I come to represent Mr. Jackson to discuss your child's custody."

I turned my back against Summer and whispered, "Don't say this in front of the kid."

Then, I gave a gesture to Mrs. Eriksen, signaling her to bring Summer upstairs. After that, the three of us sat down in the living room.

Jackson sat right opposite of me, with his arms crossed. He had been avoiding my eyes since arrival, while his lawyer was the one who did all the talking. "Ms. Stovall, you and Mr. Jackson are not blood-related to Summer, and both of you were friends of the deceased Ms. Markle. Mr. Jackson thinks that since you are starting to focus on your own baby, it will affect Summer's childhood. He hopes that you will voluntarily give up your custody, then there will be no need to bring this to the court."

This lawyer seemed to be an experienced one, as he knew they would not find any actual negligence in how I treated Summer in terms of the law. The only possible way they could win this was going after the emotional aspect. Normally for custody cases, the judge would also fully consider the emotional condition of the guardian.

I cast Jackson a cold glance and responded to the lawyer. "I don't know if Jackson has told you that I, too, am a law major, and I just passed the judicial examination recently. So you can save all your professional moves on me. I have the ability to take care of Summer alone. As for my own baby, Summer has always wanted company. Thus it would not affect her in any negative way. My love towards the two of them won't be biased."

As I noticed Jackson was still sitting there indifferently, as if all these had nothing to do with him, I started to get furious. I deliberately turned the topic against him. "Jackson also has his own child. Can he guarantee he will treat Summer with a fair share?"

Both of them were obviously well-prepared for my accusation, as they did not show any reaction to my words.

The lawyer glanced at Jackson as if he was getting the latter's approval. Seeing that Jackson nodded his head, the lawyer turned to me again and spoke firmly, "The child of Ms. Alder that you mentioned is not actually the child of Mr. Jackson. And Mr. Jackson can guarantee that he will never have another child. So he will love the two kids with all his heart. Is there anything else?"

I was befuddled at what I heard. "How could this be?"

Jackson did not lift his head but said with a low voice, "It has nothing to do with you. All you need to know is that I will love Summer more than you do. I will not let her stay in the battlefield of the Fullers."

This upheaval had caught me off guard. Jackson's lawyer had clearly noticed my confusion and started firing a bunch of questions at me. "When Summer grows up and finds out that she looks different from her sibling, how would you answer her? And most importantly, you went through miscarriage twice, didn't you? And you even got kidnapped! Mr. Jackson doubts that you and Mr. Fuller are fit to be parents."

My head was in agony until the moment they left. Jackson's lawyer was undoubtedly a good debater, while every one of his words pierced through my heart mercilessly. As a lawyer, he was doing a brilliant job. But as another human, he was way too mean. I understood law too well to know that the kidnap alone could alter the judge and the jury's decision.

Jackson had a wife, and even though they were not really wealthy, they still would be able to provide Summer a decent life. Hence, I knew I stood no chance, even if we were financially better off. Compared to a luxurious but risky lifestyle, the judge would probably prefer a normal yet stable life for the child.

Chapter 1177

For the entire day, I did not see Ashton. I then called Emery as my stressful emotion refused to subside. "It's hard to believe that before I could become a lawyer, I had become a defendant. Such an irony."

The second Emery heard that Summer might be taken away, she assured confidently, "That lawyer has nothing but a foul mouth. Anyone can stoop low and play dirty. Fret not. I promise no one would lay hands on Summer as long as I am here."

After hanging up, I stared emotionlessly at the phone with a blank mind. On my way to Summer's room, I suddenly had this strong feeling that I could lose her forever. At that moment, I felt as though a thousand needles were stabbing through my heart.

It was already 9 p.m., so I supposed Summer should be asleep. I opened her door as quietly as I could, only to hear her sweet and carefree voice echoing in the room.

"And also candies, please. Ms. Collins, please bring me these if you come over. Mommy never lets me have them!"

Ms. Collins? Which Ms. Collins is she talking to? Out of curiosity, I tiptoed my way towards Summer's desk and saw her video-calling someone.

"Okay, I promise. Remember, this is a secret between us. Don't tell anyone."

My back stiffened the moment I recognized Stella's voice coming from the computer. Since when is she so close with Summer that they are still chatting at this hour?

Feeling utterly displeased, I asked suddenly, "Summer, are you asleep?"

Startled by my voice, Summer clumsily shut her computer and jumped swiftly into her bed, pretending to be sleeping.

I was amused by her cuteness, but I tried to put on a stern face. “Are you really sleeping? Why aren’t you under your blanket?”

I could notice her tensed body and her nervous breath, yet her eyes were still tightly closed.

It was difficult for me not to laugh at this scene. But instead, I gave a long sigh on purpose. “Alright, if you really don’t like me, then I won’t come and visit you anymore in the future.”

“Mommy! Wait!” Summer jumped out from her bed and grabbed my hands tightly. “I love you, Mommy! Please don’t send me to Xavier’s house. I want to be with you. I promise I will be a good girl!”

Upon that, I could see tears started to well up in her eyes. How could I bear to hold a grudge against such a sweet kid? I patiently tucked her in her bed while trying to communicate in a mature tone. “Summer, since when did you exchange contact with Ms. Collins?”

Summer had her own WhatsApp account, but her contact lists were none other than some close elders. Besides, she seldom used it except during special occasions, for which I would usually be the one to set up the video call for her. I had never expected she would use it on her own and even added Stella.

Following that, Summer covered her face with her blanket, unwilling to answer my question. Judging from her stubborn behavior, I knew she liked Stella very much. Apparently, kids would do anything to protect the things they treasured.

I bit my lips and reached my hand towards Summer. Gently patting her back, I tried to comfort her. “Summer, of course, I will want you to have more friends. But I am your closest friend, so we should not keep secrets from each other. I promise that I won’t be mad at you. Okay?”

Soon after that, Summer started revealing everything to me.

Back when I was confined by Ashton, he had brought Summer to Fuller Corporation. During that time, the company was under mass development, so everyone was fully occupied. Whereas Stella, who was at the counter, was the only one available to babysit Summer. Stella was an expert around kids, so they

became good friends in just one morning. At that time, she even created another private chat account for Summer. That was why I did not see her contact in Summer's original account.