

When There Is Nothing Left But Love

Chapter 123-126

Chapter 123

With her hands on her knees overlapping each other, the woman turned towards me after a brief pause. "I am here to tender my formal resignation, Ms. Stovall!"

I widened my eyes in surprise. "I didn't think you'd give up on this job so easily, especially after how hard you've worked."

Everyone makes mistakes, but you don't have to leave because of it! Just fix it and move on!

I was starting to grow anxious when she kept quiet. "What's your reason for leaving?"

"I might be getting married soon, and my husband wants me to stay home and look after the family." Judging by her regretful tone of voice, I could tell that she was actually reluctant to resign.

"But you haven't got kids, right? You can still work after getting married! Besides, you'll probably find it difficult adjusting to life without work."

Grandpa had also wanted me to stay at home back then... I know he meant well. He didn't want me to overwork myself, but I couldn't stand watching Ashton and Rebecca being so close to each other every day!

Stacey nodded and flashed me a faint smile. "I'm sorry, but I've already made up my mind. Thank you for all your support and guidance during my time here, Ms. Stovall."

Having no reason to try and stop her any further, I nodded and said, "Very well, then. Email me your resignation letter and then hand over your work."

She gave me a nod of acknowledgment and began walking out of my office. Suddenly, she stopped in her tracks and turned around all of a sudden. "Ms. Stovall, things are not as simple as they seem with Fuller Corporation's audit and HiTech."

I looked at her in confusion, but she had left before I could ask her what she meant by that.

My mind sure is a mess lately... I keep forgetting things, and I can't even think straight at times... I know there's something wrong with Fuller Corporation's audit and HiTech, but I can't quite point out what it is. Oh well... Ashton won't discuss work at home, so I guess I'll have to set that issue aside for now...

At lunchtime, I got a call from Ashton telling me to go to his office and have lunch with him.

I wasn't sure if he had done it on purpose, but I noticed quite a lot of changes when I arrived. For starters, the color theme in his office had been changed, and the plants originally placed by the door had been replaced with two pots of cupheas.

The previously empty lobby was now also decorated with all sorts of potted plants.

Joseph had finished packing and was about to head out for lunch when he saw me. "Mr. Fuller is in his office. You may go straight in, Ms. Stovall!" he said after a brief pause.

I nodded in response and glanced at the newly-added desk in the corner. "You guys have a new hire in the Secretarial Department?"

Joseph, being a man of few words, nodded and replied, "Yeah!"

I knew I wasn't going to get any information out of him, so I didn't bother asking any further. I headed straight into Ashton's office.

The man was busy with his work when I entered, so he pointed towards the food on the table when he saw me. "Help yourself. I'll be done in a bit."

"Okay," I muttered as I eyed the Devil's Ivy on his desk and began chowing down.

He sat down next to me after he was done. "Is there anywhere, in particular, you would like to go?"

I shook my head. "Nope!"

I thought pregnant women are supposed to stay home! Why is he asking me where I want to go?

I stopped eating after a while as I didn't really have much appetite. "Is there a new hire in your office?"

He raised an eyebrow at me. "You sure are acting more and more like Mrs. Fuller!"

I ignored his comment and waited for him to continue, which he did after a brief pause, "It's someone who used to work for Dr. Ludwick. You'll be taking a break from work in a few months, so I figured having an extra secretary around would help smoothen things out."

Dr. Ludwick?

The first person who came to mind was that woman I had met previously.

At that moment, a woman came into his office. She was wearing a bright yellow dress with a high ponytail and exuded an air of youth.

"Pardon my intrusion, Mr. Fuller. I'm here to deliver some documents!" She awkwardly placed the files on Ashton's desk and shot me a nervous glance before leaving.

I looked at him and let out a light chuckle. "Looks like youth is in the air, eh?"

With an eyebrow raised, he reached out and pulled me into his arms. "Are you jealous?"

I shook my head. "No, it's just... Your office looks a lot different now that it's filled with life."

His shallow breathing could be felt on my neck as he spoke, "Well, you've now got our child inside of you."

I kept quiet. For some reason, his sweetness only seemed to fill my heart with an inexplicable sense of dread.

After lunch, I took a short break in the lounge before returning to his office.

The place was a bit noisy – he seemed to have gone out. Since I had nothing else to do there, I figured I would head home.

On my way out, I ran into a petite young woman who flashed an awkward smile when she saw me. “Ah, Mrs. Fuller, I didn’t realize you were here! Am I disturbing you?”

She looked somewhat familiar, but I couldn’t quite remember who she was. “You are?”

Chapter 124

“My name is Kristina. We’ve actually met before. Maybe you don’t remember me, but I’m sure you remember my uncle Caleb. Mr. Fuller has recently hired me as his secretary!” she said with a smile.

My mind was still in a bit of a daze as I had just woken up from a nap, but I got the gist of what she said. Why would Ashton hire her as his secretary all of a sudden?

“So you’re the one who decorated his office with these plants?” I asked. Both Ashton and Joseph used to have plants in their offices, but it didn’t take long before Ashton got rid of them for being in his way! Why is he letting her decorate his office now?

"Yup! Mr. Fuller's office seemed rather lifeless due to his cold personality, so I asked Mr. Campbell for some advice and placed some potted plants in there," Kristina replied.

"Ah, fair enough." I nodded and massaged my forehead as I walked out of his office.

With Stacey gone, I had to do most of the work on my own. Although Fuller Corporation's audit had been completed, there were still many things to work on with HiTech.

By 8 p.m., I found myself incredibly exhausted despite having made it safely through my first trimester.

As I was packing up and getting ready to head home, I received a text message from Ashton: I have some business to attend to, so I'll be home late. I've ordered some soup for you, so make sure you have dinner on time!

I didn't give it much thought as I understood how busy he was and didn't want to hog him all the time.

I drove straight back to the villa and was surprised to see Mrs. Eriksen busy mopping the floor.

"What are you doing here, Mrs. Eriksen? Didn't you say you'll be very busy these few days?"

The woman paused and let out a sigh before turning towards me. "What could an old woman like me possibly be busy with when even my son finds me useless?"

We have a part-time maid to clean the villa. Seeing as to how she has cleaned the entire place spotless, I'm assuming she's in a bad mood...

"I've been feeling rather unwell after dinner lately, Mrs. Eriksen. Is this something you could help me out with?"

"Hmm, you do look bloated. Give me a minute. I'll whip you up a home remedy. Go for a walk after drinking it, and you'll be all better!"

I followed her into the kitchen and leaned against the door as I ranted, "Oh, Mrs. Eriksen... You have no idea how tough life was for Ashton and I while you were gone! Neither of us can cook, so we didn't really have anything to eat!"

"Haha! You kids should really learn to take better care of yourselves! I'll stay here to look after you from now on. That baby of yours will be due in a few months, so we've got to be extra careful!" she said with a chuckle.

Mrs. Eriksen seemed to be in a much better mood after a brief chat. Feeling a little tired, I drank a bit of the herbal mixture she made me and went straight to bed.

I was woken up in the middle of the night by the ringing of my cellphone.

"Hello..." I answered sleepily without checking the caller ID.

"Am I speaking to Ms. Scarlett Stovall, the wife of Mr. Ashton Fuller?" The man on the phone sounded very professional.

"Yes, and you are?" I replied while checking the time. It's two in the morning! Who on earth could be calling me at this hour?

"I'm calling to inform you that flight H898 from J City to K City has been involved in an accident. Your husband was on board that flight and is currently being rushed to K City Hospital. We need you to come over right away!"

I sat bolt upright. An airplane accident? How...

My mind went blank, and I agreed without a second thought, not knowing what else to do.

My hands trembled as I punched in Ashton's number on my phone. No one answered the call.

I tried calling Joe and Josiah too, but it was probably too late at night as they weren't picking up either.

In my state of panic, I decided to call Rebecca. She answered the phone rather quickly, and I could hear her sobbing profusely on the other line. "Where are you, Scarlett? Ash is in danger! Come quick!"

"What happened? Where is he?" I clutched the phone tightly in my palm as I asked.

"He was bringing me over to K City, but then something went wrong with the plane... He tried to protect me during the emergency landing, and he..." She began crying even louder as she continued, "My parents are in the ER as well. The doctors need you to come to sign the consent forms. I'm sorry, Scarlett! I won't try to steal him from you anymore! As long as he survives, I'll do anything..."

I felt no need to listen any further and hung up the phone to save myself from the heartache.

Now that the news had me wide awake, I got off the bed and paced about in the room. After calming down a little, I decided to give Macy a call, but there was no answer.

I tried calling Nick instead, and he picked up the phone, much to my surprise.

"What the hell, Letty? It's three in the morning! Do you miss me that much? Is that why you're calling me at this hour?"

Chapter 125

"Do you know where Ms. Anderson is?" I didn't trust Rebecca, so I had to confirm it with someone else.

"She was sending Rebecca to K City with Zachary. Oh, I think your husband went with them as well." Nick was probably staying up late as he didn't sound tired at all. I could even hear the faint clacking of his keyboard in the background.

"Have they checked in with you from K City?" I asked with a frown.

"No, why would they? I'm a nobody!" He raised his voice a little.

"I meant your mother, Cameron. Did she text you saying that they've all landed safely in K City?" I didn't know a lot of people in this circle, so Nick was the only person I could ask.

I heard a loud smack when he slammed his fist on his keyboard. "She has never talked to me about anything for over twenty years now. There's no way she'd tell me about minor stuff like these! Anyway, why are you calling me this late at night? Is there something you wanted to ask me?"

"I've received word that the plane they took was involved in an accident. Could you please help me look into it?" He was the only person I could count on to find out more about what happened.

"Okay, I'll go check!" he said after a brief pause and hung up the phone, leaving me to wait for his reply.

Feeling empty without Ashton around, I went downstairs and switched on all the lights in the villa.

I even tuned into the news on TV in hopes of hearing something about the accident, but there were no reports about it whatsoever.

Nick called me back about fifteen minutes later. "I've booked us tickets for the earliest flight. It departs at seven. Are you coming?"

I shuddered a little upon hearing that. "Yes!" My voice was weak, and I was finding it difficult to breathe.

I had a ton of questions in the back of my head, but they all ended up stuck in my throat.

"Things got a little bumpy when the plane made an emergency landing at the airport, but I think they'll be fine," he said after a long pause.

"Okay. I'll see you tomorrow morning!"

I couldn't go back to sleep after hanging up the phone, so I sat in the living room with my arms wrapped around my knees. The next four hours felt like hell as I sat there in the huge and empty villa, waiting for time to pass.

I suppose a smaller house would've been better...

At dawn, I packed my stuff and left the house as quickly as I could.

Nick was already at the airport with the tickets in hand by the time I got there.

The airport wasn't that crowded at the time as most of the people there were in a hurry.

Nick glanced at his watch when he saw me and said, "We've got half an hour left. I think we should go through security now."

"You didn't get any sleep at all, did you?" I asked when I saw how pale he looked.

He raised an eyebrow at me. "I could ask you the same thing."

I kept quiet, simply nodding in response.

The queue at the security wasn't long, and it was soon our turn. I handed my flight ticket and ID card over to the security officer, who gave me a strange look after seeing my name. "Scarlett Stovall?"

I saw that Nick had already cleared security on his end and urged the officer, "Yes, that's right. Could you please hurry it up? We're in a bit of a rush."

"Sorry, but we'll need you to cooperate with the investigation," the security officer replied.

Before I knew what was going on, two young men in police uniforms had come up to me and began dragging me away.

Nick ran over and stood in front of them. "What's going on here, officer?"

"We're from the Bureau of Industry and Commerce (BIC). We've received reports of Fuller Corporation being involved in the black market, so we're having Ms. Stovall come with us to aid the investigation."

I had no idea what they were talking about.

Nick grabbed one of them by the arm and said, "Why are you guys arresting her? She's an ordinary employee! If anything, you should be arresting the person in charge of Fuller Corporation!"

"Sir, please don't get in the way of us doing our job. Ms. Stovall is an employee of Fuller Corporation, as well as the wife of the person in charge. Most of the company's documents were signed by her, so she has a direct connection to this case. You may consult a lawyer if you have any further inquiries."

"Don't worry; I'll go check on things in K City. We'll decide our next course of action then!"
Nick called out to me.

This is bad... With both Ashton and myself absent from Fuller Corporation during such a crisis, I'm not sure if Joe and Jared can handle it on their own...

The police officers brought me to an interrogation room where I was sat down in front of a middle-aged woman. "My apologies for bringing you all the way here like this, Ms. Stovall. As your company has been involved in some legal issues, I will need to record my following conversation with you. I hope you will cooperate with me in this investigation."

I nodded, having finally calmed down from the shock and fear.

Chapter 126

The middle-aged woman continued, "According to our investigations, Fuller Corporation has already been audited under the supervision of the public during this month, and you have submitted the audit report to the Economic Network."

I nodded without saying a word.

"I've gone through the reports, and I see your signature on most of them. Are you aware of the company's fiscal deficits, Ms. Stovall?"

"Officer, that's not illegal, is it?" I asked with a frown.

She shook her head and flashed a faint smile at me. "No, but the problems that arise from it are. HiTech, which's owned by Fuller Corporation, has caused the accidental death of four employees six months ago due to inadequate safety measures. However, Fuller Corporation has tried to sweep everything under the rug instead of resolving the issue. That has resulted in three of the workers' family members committing suicide last night."

"Four employees died in an accident?" I stood up from my chair in shock. "How come?"

She sneered at me upon seeing my panicked reaction. "Drop the act, Ms. Stovall. You were the one who handled those incidents, so you should know it better than anyone else."

I stared wide-eyed at her in confusion. "I'm not putting up an act! It's only been a little over a month since I've taken over HiTech, and the accident in South District happened about half a year ago! I wasn't in charge of it back then!"

"I knew you were going to say that. It's true that you've only taken over HiTech's case recently, but HiTech was already under your management when you were made director of Fuller Corporation a year ago. George Fuller handed the company over to you along with 15% of its shares."

I was completely bewildered and shook my head profusely as I said, "I'm not in charge of the South District. I have no idea about what happened!"

"You're doing to need evidence to back up your statement, Ms. Stovall. We have all the documents you've signed in HiTech throughout the entire year, so I suggest you plead guilty. Since you're not the person in charge, your improper handling of the accident will only get you fired at worst."

I began to calm down as I relayed what the woman had said. She's right; this isn't a criminal case at all! It's just an industrial and commercial issue involving the company!

"Sorry, but I'm unable to answer your questions on this. What you're doing right now counts as unlawful imprisonment, and I have the right to sue you for violating my human rights by interrogating me for a criminal case."

There's no way I'll be the one being investigated for issues with Fuller Corporation. As for the case with HiTech, I can only assume someone is trying to set me up! I mustn't admit to any of these accusations, or my reputation will be ruined forever!

The middle-aged woman chuckled when she saw how calm I was. "Very well, then. You may have your attorney bail you out so you can go have a chat with Fuller Corporation and its stockholders in J City!"

"Oh, you bet I will!"

I then quickly contacted my lawyer and was allowed to leave after taking care of the paperwork.

I drove straight to Fuller Corporation and parked somewhere nearby when I saw a huge group of people assembled outside the building.

I don't know what's going on, but I have a feeling that things are about to get a whole lot worse...

Instead of getting out of the car right away, I tried calling Jared again, but there was still no answer.

Fortunately for me, Joe answered his phone when I called him after that.

"Mr. Quinn, I need an explanation for the four lives that were lost in the workplace accident at HiTech!"

"I think you should be more concerned about Ashton making it out of the operating theatre alive, Scarlett."

At that point, I felt myself breaking down as I rubbed my aching forehead. "He got himself into an accident because he decided to go to K City for no apparent reason, so how is that my responsibility? You shouldn't have double standards like this, Mr. Quinn. Now, I know you've heard about what happened in Fuller Corporation."

"I've already had someone assigned to handle the situation in Fuller Corporation. As for HiTech, old Mr. Fuller has transferred 15% of its shares over to you with your knowledge.

Ashton decided to have you sign the papers for the factory in South District, so you can ask him about it when he gets out of the ER."