

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1288-1292

Chapter 1288

One's eyes and tone would never lie. During my video call with Ashton, the exhaustion he felt from dealing with Thora and the enthusiasm in his voice when he spoke with me was enough for me to ascertain his stance. If I was unable to trust him at this stage, I really didn't deserve his love at all.

"John, you and Ashton are actually the same, thinking that getting on someone's nerves will always work. Do you think women are that easily cheated?" Suddenly, Emma interrupted with a strange tone in her voice.

Having heard her comment, John's expression changed at once. Clearing his throat awkwardly, he quickly walked away into the crowd.

"What happened?" Given how rare it was for John to be cowed, I found it both strange and hilarious.

"I don't know what got into him. The last time he came over to my company to discuss your law firm's logo, he brought a girl with him. He should have at least chosen one with a clean reputation. Instead, the girl he brought had appeared in the tabloids before with countless other men. It was obvious that he was lowering his own self-worth just by doing that." Emma glared angrily at John's silhouette.

As I followed where her gaze leads, I couldn't help but smile. John oh John, you may be adept at dealing with someone else's problems. But when it comes to your own, you're not mindful at all.

"So, what did you do after that?" I asked curiously.

"I went downstairs and bought him ten packs of condoms. Then, I told him to use a couple more every single time and to visit the hospital whenever he was free. He shouldn't put his life at risk just for the sake of having a sex life. I finally realize that it's not my fault that he doesn't like me. Instead, he has really strange tastes!"

"Pfft..."

I couldn't help but burst into laughter and applaud Emma in my heart. "Emma, I gotta say, your reaction was really harsh." Furrowing her eyebrows, Emma was both upset and curious as to why I was laughing at her.

Nevertheless, I still couldn't contain my laughter. Even if Emma didn't say it out loud, I could still imagine the stunned look on John's face. This time, he had finally met his match. He assumed that he could do the same to Emma as he did to Hannah. But contrary to his expectations, his plan backfired horribly.

"Ms. Stovall."

Suddenly, a cordial voice rang out in my ear, causing the smile on my face to freeze. It wasn't until it faded away that I finally turned around.

Just as expected, Thora had finally come to meet me.

The moment we exchanged glances, we maintained a cordial smile at each other as if we were old friends. There was no way one could tell that we were in fact love rivals who had fallen for the same man.

As the host, Thora brought with her everyone's attention the moment she arrived.

"Ms. Ziegler, congratulations." I raised my champagne glass at her.

"Thank you." Thora smiled slightly without a hint of animosity. "I heard you have started your own law firm. Coincidentally, my company is involved in some complex legal situations. So, I was wondering if you're willing to help?"

It appeared that there was no escape for me. Despite successfully avoiding the reporters' questions, I couldn't hide from the nosy gazes of high society.

If I accepted her offer, it would mean that I was less successful than her. That after leaving Ashton, I had to rely on his new partner for business. However, if I declined, it would indicate that I was being petty. Trapped between a rock and a hard place, it was evident that Thora wasn't someone to be trifled with.

Just as John had said before, one needed to know where to strike. Since she had come to challenge me, there was no need for me to show any mercy.

After giving it some thought, I pursed my lips and replied with a smile, "Ms. Ziegler, you flatter me indeed. Let's not go as far as to talk about whether I can help. After all, I have never been capable of much. From the time my grandma took care of me to the time my husband protected me, I hardly knew anything about running a business. Even now, I have to rely on the support the Stovall family provides. But since you have requested this of me, I will certainly try my best."

Pausing a moment, I scanned around to find Brooklyn. "Mr. Newman."

Acknowledging me from within the crowd, Brooklyn approached and stood behind me. "Ms. Stovall, I am at your service."

"Ms. Ziegler is having a little trouble. Can you take a look or simply appoint someone in the company to help her? We can't very well let her be bogged down by trivial matters now, can we?"

I raised my voice on purpose to emphasize the word "simply" so that everyone else could hear it clearly.

Chapter 1289

Just as I spoke, Thora's expression darkened. Her earlier smile dissipated as she scrutinized me in surprise. Meeting her gaze confidently, I put on an innocent look. Given what everyone had just heard, their impression of me was that I was a fool that only relied on family connections.

Nevertheless, I was a fool that could elicit jealousy from many others.

Within this city, there was no one else that could shamelessly claim to enjoy the protection of one's family despite having nothing to contribute.

Within all the prominent families, their children had to either be exceptionally capable or extremely attractive. All of them had to work in their families' interest to enjoy the equivalent amount of protection. If one was born without any talent, one had to be extra careful not to bring any trouble to the family, or else one would be kicked out.

As for me, by admitting my incompetence in the face of a powerful career woman, I was indirectly flaunting the unconditional love that I enjoyed. It was something I already had but everything that Thora craved. Hence, there was nothing more painful for her than this.

That being said, this was her own doing. After all, she was the one that started it and I was just returning the favor, albeit with the intensity of a hundredfold.

With impeccable timing, Brooklyn rubbed salt in her wounds. “Ms. Ziegler, Ms. Stovall doesn’t understand the situation, so let me explain it to you. Ever since the law firm began its operations, we have received a lot of work from both the Stovall and Moore families. Therefore, most of our top lawyers are bogged down with work. Hence, if you don’t mind, I can get one of my assistants to help you. What do you think about that?”

D*mn, I didn’t expect Brooklyn to be so good at insults. It was really brazen of him to suggest assigning an assistant lawyer to deal with the president of a listed company. No wonder John liked him so much.

After the brief exchange, Thora didn’t gain any advantage at all. Instead, she had been badly beaten down. Nevertheless, she managed to remain calm despite the rage burning in her eyes.

Suddenly, a figure stepped out from behind her and raised his hand to throw a glass of wine toward me.

Reacting instantly, Brooklyn stepped forward to shield me from it.

However, when the man raised his glass halfway, a hand came out of nowhere and grabbed his wrist. With a forceful twist, the man collapsed onto his knees and pleaded for mercy.

Losing its support, the wine glass that was heading in my direction fell onto the ground instead. Upon impact, its contents spilled in every direction. Unable to evade in time, Thora’s pure white dress was now stained with jarring red.

Amidst the commotion, Ashton's threatening voice rang out.

"How dare you!"

Just as he spoke, Ashton shoved the man's hand aside and kicked him to the ground.

The incident had caught everyone's attention. Only then did I notice that Ezra and Zayne were also present. It was just that they weren't tall enough, hence I didn't see them earlier. But now that everyone came over to see what was going on, their presence was finally felt.

At that moment, they looked at Ashton in both a suspicious and threatening manner.

By getting close to Thora, Ashton obviously wanted to get on Ezra's good side. But now that he had defended me in public, Ezra would begin to doubt the authenticity of our divorce.

Nevertheless, Ashton didn't seem to care as he glared coldly at Thora. He warned, "How dare your assistant harm the mother of my children? Do you intend to show the whole city that anyone can harm my children? And that there would be no consequences for doing so?"

With that, Ashton had indirectly declared that harming me was no different than harming his children. By doing so, he had warned everyone and guaranteed my safety.

I couldn't help but admit that Ashton's reaction was exceptionally quick. He could easily turn any incident into an excuse to gain an advantage.

Not too long ago, he had used the same reason to beat back Zander.

Just as he spoke, the crowd fell into silence. All of them were waiting in anticipation to see how this competition between love rivals was going to end.

Chapter 1290

A while later, a female voice boomed. "You're fired."

Thora's swift decision to dissociate herself came as no surprise. After all, she was a successful businesswoman who had been through many vicissitudes.

Hearing her words, the assistant's face fell immediately. He then staggered to his feet and pleaded with Thora, but she shot him a look, shutting him up. Indignant, he glared at me resentfully before storming away.

"Are you satisfied with my decision?" Thora asked.

Instead of replying to her, Ashton glanced at the ground for a second before removing his blazer and draped it over her shoulders. "Today is a big day for the Ziegler Corporation. Don't let the media capture any of these. Go change your clothes first."

As soon as he said that, he cast a quick meaningful glance at me before he turned around and weaved through the crowd. Meanwhile, Thora gazed at the blazer thoughtfully and strode toward the door nearby.

Seeing that there was nothing left to watch, the crowd that gathered around eventually dispersed.

I adjusted my hair and scanned my surroundings. When I saw that no one was looking at me, I sneaked a glance at Ezra and his group of friends and found them chatting away happily at the other side of the room. Seeing that they had let their guards down, I heaved a sigh of relief.

Hopefully, Ashton's plan can go well after this.

Since this dinner was meant to be a trap, we could not stay long at this banquet anymore. All of this was just an act. Thus, the longer we stayed, the higher the chances of giving ourselves away will be.

After pondering for a while, I turned to Emma and Brooklyn. "We should leave now."

"Where did John go? Let me go and find him first," Emma said.

Before I could say anything, she had hiked up her gown and made her way into the crowd. Left with no choice, I trailed behind her.

Although there were many people in the room, it was easy to see that John was not in here. As such, she brought us to the garden outside.

We walked along the veranda, turned a corner, and suddenly saw John in a well-lit room opposite us. He was standing beside a bed with his hands in his pockets, looking solemn. It was as if he was discussing some serious matters.

"Jo..." Emma was about to call out to John, but I hurriedly tugged at her arm and stopped her, gesturing her not to act rashly.

True enough, in the next second, Ashton appeared and stood beside John. From what I could see from afar, the atmosphere in the room was tense, and both men were cold and reserved, seemingly raring to fight.

Seeing that, my first thought was that there must be someone else inside the room with them. If we go to them now, we would only bring trouble to them.

Just when I was still focused on them, Brooklyn came out of nowhere and shushed us. Then, he hurriedly pulled us to hide behind the corner where we had passed just now.

As soon as we hid, Zayne brought Ezra and his group of friends out from the ballroom and walked toward the room where John and Ashton were at. There were about eight of them. I did not recognize all of them but based on their demeanor, they must be some prominent, wealthy people.

Soon after they went inside, rattling and clanging noises came from the room. When the commotion ended, John kicked open the door and rushed out in a huff, leaving through the back door.

A few minutes later, a wail of pain was heard, and two bodyguards came out dragging an unconscious person into the garden.

Not long after that, harmonious laughter rang from the room, and some of Ezra's friends walked by the window every now and then, sipping on their wine happily. They looked as if nothing had happened.

After that, we got home and bumped into John in front of Louis's study.

Seeing him, Emma let out a snort before storming to her bedroom and slamming the door shut.

"Looks like you're going to sleep in the guest room tonight," I teased.

"It's okay. Even if we sleep together, nothing will happen, anyways." He shrugged nonchalantly.

“What were you and Ashton doing at the garden just now?”

Chapter 1291

“Nothing much. I was just putting on an act for you. You’re the mother of Ashton’s kid and the only goddaughter of Uncle Louis. No one should humiliate you in front of so many people. Since the Ziegler family wanted to make you lose face, firing an ordinary staff is not enough of a punishment for them.”

So I guess the fainted man who was brought out of the room was the guy who splashed wine on me...

Ashton and John had a very simple intention; they just wanted the Ziegler family to know that even though Ashton and I had divorced, they were still not allowed to humiliate me.

Actually, I had gotten back at them, but Thora’s subordinate was too reckless, causing Ashton to be infuriated. Hence, he took the matter into his own hands and made them pay. I sighed. They made me feel so useless.

Despite his nonchalant expression, I still could not forget the scenario I had seen in the garden. He confronted more than ten people, including Ashton, all by himself. Needless to say, it must have been a tough fight. Although he had achieved what he wanted in the end, the fact that he had risked his life for me was undeniable.

In this world, no one should risk their life for the others.

“I know you’re doing it for my own good, but please let me handle it by myself. Whether it’s you or Ashton, you should take care of yourself well. You can’t look after me forever; you need to think about yourself as well.”

John was still as laid back as ever. “Who says I can’t look after you forever? Almost half of our life has passed. I don’t mind taking care of you for a couple more decades.”

I sighed. “That’s not the point. What are you going to do with Emma? I don’t know why you’re treating her like that. Is it a method to test if she would leave? Or is it for other purposes? No matter what it is, I think you should stop.”

Hearing this, the smile on his face froze. He looked down at his feet and frowned.

“John...” Seeing him being like this made me sad. “Emma is not Hannah. She has never thought of leaving you. Why can’t you have the courage to admit that you love her? Do you still remember the time when you came to me and talked about Hannah? Have you forgotten the heartache that you endured? Even though Hannah is a good woman, she never planned to spend the rest of her life with you. As for Emma, although she has her own issues, she loves you, John. And she’s the one who is going to be your wife for the rest of your life. Do you think it’s okay to treat her like that?”

He remained silent and narrowed his eyes slightly. I wasn’t sure if he was thinking over my advice.

After a long pause, he looked up at me and smiled wryly. “I know what to do. Don’t worry. I know what I want with my life. It’s getting late. I should call the nurse to give you the injection and let you go to bed early.”

With that, he stepped past me and went downstairs without waiting for my reply.

Looking at him leaving, I felt a sudden pang of sorrow.

John had so many worries that held him back, and I could not deny the fact that the root cause was somehow related to me.

After the nurse left, I called Holden.

“Hello there, Scarlett. You’ve called at just the right moment. I was just about to call and thank you for helping me out with the communication base station. I know you would never call me for no reason, so tell me what you need from me, and I’ll do everything I can for you.” Holden was exceptionally enthusiastic that day. I reckoned that he had probably gained a substantial amount of profit from his cooperation with White Corporation.

Since he had pointed out my intention, I might as well skip the pleasantries and cut to the chase. “I know your social circle is bigger than mine, so I need your help to find someone.”

On the next day, I went to the office and asked Brooklyn to hire a personal assistant for me.

Since the law firm belonged to the reputable Stovall Corporation, we had received more than a dozen of applications by that very afternoon. I interviewed all of them myself and hired an overseas female professor. There was once a joke on the internet that said that humans were categorized into three types of people, that was male, female, and female professors. It was meant to tease those women who had better leadership skills and were more outstanding than the men.

Although some may find it offensive, I could somehow understand why the joke was made after spending a week with my new personal assistant, Millie. She was incredible in everything; there was nothing she was not capable of. In fact, even Brooklyn was impressed by her. Hiring her was indeed a correct decision as she saved me from a lot of trouble.

Chapter 1292

After the banquet that night, Ashton seldom contacted me anymore. I knew this must mean that he was getting closer to his goal.

One night, I was staying at home as usual.

As I came out of the bathroom, I habitually went to the single-seater sofa near the balcony to scroll through social media. As soon as I picked up my phone, I noticed a shadow on the ground, moving toward me quietly.

Sensing danger, I kept my guard up instantly and mentally prepared myself for an attack.

Right then, a figure suddenly broke in through the window and charged toward the person beside me. When I turned around and looked at the commotion, I realized that it was Miller in a camo getup fighting with Ashton.

With his towering height and self-defense martial arts skills, Ashton should have been able to overpower Millie easily, but her attacks were equally swift and brutal. After a few blows, he still had not gained the upper hand and even had an obvious shoe print on his custom-made suit.

Seeing that Ashton was not an easy opponent to deal with, Millie suddenly knelt down and rolled sideways before lunging at Ashton with the dagger that was strapped to her leg.

He was forced to retreat a few steps back while Millie continued to attack him before leaping up and aiming her sharp dagger at Ashton's neck.

"Stop, Millie!" I shouted immediately.

She stopped in her tracks instantly. Ashton grabbed the opportunity to snatch away the weapon in her hand, threw her over his shoulder, and pinned her on the ground.

Silence filled the bedroom as he pressed the knife against her throat.

Worried that he might kill her, I quickly clarified, "She works for me."

Ashton glanced at me for a second before lowering his gaze and spoke in a hushed tone. "Next time, remember to take down your opponents in one hit before deciding if you should let them live. If it weren't for Scarlett, your life would be gone a second ago."

Millie frowned and refused to admit defeat. "Same goes to you. If it weren't for Ms. Stovall, you might not dodge my knife either."

She had always been like this; diligent and quiet. But whenever she spoke, she would catch everyone by surprise.

"Can you guys talk with each other peacefully without the knife?" I asked. It was quite worrisome to see the knife as they talked.

Hearing my words, Ashton pondered for a while before releasing his grip on Millie and stepped away. The moment he took away the knife, Millie sprang to her feet as well.

"It's a good dagger, but you're lacking the skills to wield it properly." He tossed back the knife to her as a hint of annoyance flashed in his eyes.

"If you're not happy that you didn't win against me, let's fight again and quit the snarky act," she retorted, not afraid to get on his bad side at all.

Ashton shot her a cold look, and the tension in the air was ramped up again.

I rolled my eyes and decided to distract their attention. I sat down on the couch and moaned in pain. "Ouch!"

Ashton immediately came over and embraced me. "Have you gotten the injection today?"

As soon he finished speaking, I threw my arms around his neck and grinned. "Hehe. Don't be angry, Ashton. It's my fault. I should have told Millie about our relationship earlier. That's why she thought you're going to harm me and attacked you just now. Can you forgive her for me?"

I bit my lip and looked at him with an innocuous expression, acting cute.

Ashton scowled and shook his head as if he was unhappy with my act.

Taking a deep breath, I decided to throw my dignity away. I held his face abruptly and left a tender kiss on his forehead. "Please don't be angry anymore. Pretty please with a cherry on top?"

A smile slowly spread across his face at that before turning into a full grin, lighting up his dashing face.

Now that he had smiled, it meant that the matter was resolved. Ashton was actually quite particular about hygiene and cleanliness. Moreover, the suit that was stained by Millie just now was one of his favorite custom-made suits. Thus, if I did not please him enough, he would not have let it slide.

After the situation got under control, Millie chimed in, "I was forced to look at your public display of affection. Ms. Stovall, you should pay me for it. I'll consider it as my overtime pay."