

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1393-1397

Chapter 1393

"How could you..." Simone's sad voice almost broke when she heard him.

"I'm fine, really," I stated clearly before pulling Ashton out of the kitchen. I did not want to be the catalyst that made their relationship go downhill.

Not long after we walked out, we saw the maid leading Bill into the house through the front door. Behind him stood a spectacled young man dressed in formal wear. I trailed Ashton's gaze and took a closer look at the new guest. We both stiffly froze the moment it clicked.

Armond was here.

Armond felt our burning gazes and looked up without shying away. A sly smile played on his lips, sending a shiver down my spine.

Bill entered the dining hall and greeted Nicolas courteously, "Mr. Hall, I've brought the man here."

Everyone around the table put down their cutlery at the announcement of a guest. Simone had just gotten out of the kitchen as well. She had her hair tied up and looked all freshened up like an elegant lady after the little brush we had back in the kitchen.

Nicolas nodded without haste and looked at the man behind Bill. "So... you're Armond?"

"Yes. It's nice to meet you, Mr. Hall." Armond bowed like a gentleman, but I could still spot a glint of sinister spite in his eyes through his glasses.

"I've looked at the research project you oversaw in M Country. Everything was very well done, so keep up the good work. Mr. Young will surely continue supporting you if you do," Nicolas said disinterestedly.

"That's very kind of you, Mr. Hall. I will do my best to make sure you and Mr. Young see good results," Armond replied with a smile.

"Take your time," Nicolas said, waving his hand dismissively. "I'm a businessman. I'm only interested in maximizing the profit of my investment, so you should probably focus on making my investment worth it and stop things difficult for Ashton and his family."

It seemed like what Tiffany said was true. Nicolas was really putting an end to all this and letting Ashton go.

Nicolas' words struck Armond like a lightning bolt. The smile on his face became rigid and unnatural. He probably did not know the relationship between the father and son yet. "What's with the sudden change? We've been working together really well all this while. It won't take long before we can take Ashton down."

"That's enough," Nicolas cut him short, his face darkening. "Didn't Mr. Young teach you that it's impolite to ask too many questions? The Hall family didn't give you the money and status you enjoy right now for you to create trouble. Do I have to discuss and explain my decisions to you right now?"

A scowl spread across Armond's face as he squinted his eyes at Ashton and I. "So you're expecting me to put aside our grievances and work together with him under you?"

I gulped a mouthful of cold air at Armond's sharp words.

If Nicolas were an imposing tiger, then Armond would be a venomous snake. You would never know when he would decide to strike you.

Even Ashton and I knew better than to not distance ourselves from him no matter what.

Surprisingly, Nicolas did not disagree with the statement. "This matter does not concern you," he stated blankly. After a period of silence, he opened his mouth once more. "See the guest out."

"Right away, Mr. Hall."

Just as Armond was about to disagree with Nicolas, Bill interjected. With that said, the man turned and left with Armond without giving the latter a chance to speak.

Although Armond was discontented with the arrangement, openly challenging Nicolas wasn't an option, so he left the estate reluctantly.

Ashton pulled me over to our seats once Armond left.

However, before I could even resume eating, I heard Ashton's voice ringing clearly beside my ear. "Armond isn't someone who lets people control him. Instead of letting him off just like that, why not leave him to me?"

Chapter 1394

Nicolas looked up at Ashton, unfazed. “Don’t try to act smart with me. That guy might be a beast, but I own the whole island. Nothing goes unnoticed under my nose. This is the only thing you need to bear in mind. He’s a lot better than you in many ways.”

“I’ll admit he’s better when it comes to doing unscrupulous things,” Ashton said, “I admit I’m not as good as him in this regard. I don’t have what it takes to do things like harming my own son. I don’t think I’ll ever beat him in that aspect.”

“Are you blaming me right now?” Nicolas interrogated with a hint of anger in his voice.

“Ashton,” I quickly cut in, putting my hand on his and shaking my head.

At my action, my husband clenched his jaw and kept quiet. Before long, his shoulders slanted helplessly. “I’m just giving an example. If you think you can trust Armond, ignore what I said.”

Ashton was a man full of pride. No one would believe him if he were to behave obsequiously to people he disliked. Showing his true colors on and off was more his style, and such a thing was good for us in some sense. The Hall family would be aware that it would not be easy to totally undo what they did to us.

Nicolas letting Armond go right in front of us was a clear warning. He wanted us to know that he still had a way to get back at us if we went against him.

The peaceful family meal we had was nothing more than a facade.

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After Ashton secretly sent out our location yesterday, he ordered people to sneak to the island to look for the antidote.

But even the best-laid plans could go awry. Nathaniel knocked on our door early the next morning.

Ashton was sitting on the couch working on his tablet, so I went to get the door myself. "Morning, Nathaniel. Is there anything you need?"

"Go get ready. We're going to the research center on the island to take a look," he replied, glancing at Ashton.

My mind raced at his suggestion.

No Hall family members were pushovers, nor were they fools. They knew we had our own agendas for coming to the island. After Nicolas blatantly turned down Ashton's request to be involved in the family business, there was no way Nathaniel would be kind enough to risk incurring his father's wrath just to help us.

Ashton came up beside me when I was lost in my thought. "Sure thing, Nathaniel. Scarlett and I will be downstairs in a bit."

"Alright." Nathaniel nodded briefly and walked off to the staircase.

Ashton stood at the door, watching his brother walk away before he closed the door behind him.

When he began dressing, I headed over to help him with his tie. "What do you think of Nathaniel?" I asked.

Ashton's gaze lowered before he looked back into the mirror to fasten his cufflinks. "He's easily the most tricky one in the family. He looks harmless on the outside, but his thoughts are deep as the sea."

When I was done with his tie, Ashton took his coat from the hanger. He shot me a quick look and caught my gaze in the mirror before saying, "He might look amicable, but his every step is calculated. Since he's plotting something, let's play along and see who comes out on top. It so happens that they just sent a message saying security is so air-tight at the research center it's difficult to break in, so we should just go take a look ourselves."

Ashton summarised his observation of his brother as he got ready. He seemed confident he would be able to deal with Nathaniel.

I applied on some makeup as I listened to him speak. After I was done, I picked up a cardigan and trotted downstairs with him.

Everyone moved around on scooters on the island, so it took us less than five minutes to get to the research center.

The entire building, which looked modern and innovative, was securely guarded by a transparent protective layer made of special materials. There were surveillance cameras every one hundred and fifty feet, so there were no blind spots. It would not be possible for even a fly to make its way in. Nathaniel scanned his handprint at the security checkpoint, and we walked in through the main gate. Security was seen to be tighter the further in we ventured. Passwords and iris recognition were required to go into the base of the research center. To call it a tech company might sound glamorous, but it was nothing more than just where a bunch of people in white coats worked.

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After a trip around the center, we figured that the main industry on the island was pharmaceutical.

Healthcare was an industry essential to humans both in life and in death. Not only did the Hall family had the manufacturing and sales of drugs covered, but they were also involved in researching. They had the know-how to monopolize the whole industry. I finally understood why an affluent philanthropist like Bill Young would work under them.

We did not come across the poison center the entire morning. The whole production chain was legal, sanitary, and green.

When our group arrived at the last research lab, we bumped into Armond, who was busy inspecting the lab at the time.

“Why are they here, Mr. Hall?” Armond asked coldly without the slightest effort to hide his enmity toward us.

“Oh right, I forgot to tell you. I need you for another project, so just put your current project aside for a while,” Nathaniel answered without much emotion in his voice.

“Put my project aside?” Armond glared at both of us spitefully. “I thought you would know what you’re doing, but it turned out you’re just the same as these two good-for-nothings. Are you really kicking me aside now that your family is happily reunited? I have not forgotten the sufferings the Murphys went through because of your family. I will make sure you guys pay.”

“The Murphys only have themselves to blame. The police would not have something on them if they were truly innocent,” I interrupted.

What I saw at Armond’s villa was still fresh in my memory. They were the ultimate villains on earth. They came in second to no one.

No mother would be able to carry herself with composure when faced with the culprit who abducted her own child. Just as I was about to lambast Armond, Ashton tugged me by my sleeve – he was signaling me to calm down.

“You’ve done enough to us,” Ashton pointed out, looking at Armond right in the eyes and pulling me into his arms. “Since we’re all working for the Hall family, I guess I can put your offenses behind.”

I whipped my head toward Ashton in horror and disbelief.

Armond had been disgruntled when Nicolas took our side yesterday. Is Ashton trying to stoke the man’s anger?

As I anticipated, Armond was vexed. “So you’re saying I have to be grateful to you after losing so much on my end?” he replied sarcastically.

“You don’t have to. I’m not that petty. You simply need to make sure you’ve learned your lessons from our past dealings,” Ashton rebutted coldly with a smile.

John’s ability to insult people seemed to have rubbed off on Ashton. I widened my eyes in shock, unable to believe the words that I had just heard come out from his mouth. My husband could outdo John himself.

A chilling stillness filled the air after Ashton spoke. “More like I’ll teach you a lesson!” Armond cried out as he heaved a punch in full speed at Ashton’s face.

Ashton pulled me backward and stood in front of me instinctively.

Just as the impact was about to reach Ashton, a hand flashed before my eyes and caught Armond’s fist with precision. The next thing I knew, the man was hit on the shoulders and flipped over. His body slammed against the floor in a painful thud.

“Mr. Murphy...”

The many security guards around dared not move a muscle because the person who had attacked Armond was none other than Nathaniel himself.

Armond’s face contorted in agony as he groaned on the ground, but Nathaniel seemed totally unfazed. “We will compensate for all the losses your family suffered. You should know your place here. You have no right to touch anyone from the Hall family,” Nathaniel commented passively as he adjusted his suit.

Armond glared at him in fury from below.

Unlike me, who was completely stunned by Nathaniel’s swift reflexes, Ashton did not seem surprised by it.

Chapter 1396

When I finally came back to my senses, I realized that everything was just as Ashton had said—there was no small fry in the Hall family.

Nathaniel disregarded Armond, who was still on the floor, and wore a smile as he turned toward us. “Let’s head over to our next stop.”

He walked past Armond and headed toward the door casually as if nothing had happened. His indifferent behavior unsettled me.

Ashton looked at Nathaniel's back quietly before he took my hand in his and followed after his brother.

Crash!

"You'll regret this, Nathaniel Hall!"

A loud noise of shattering glasses reached my ears right after we went out of the room. I jumped at the noise and looked back at the mechanical door nervously as a bad feeling ate me up from the inside.

"Don't worry, Scarlett." Nathaniel's voice pulled me back to reality. He still had that calm and reliable look on his face. "He's just a nobody. I'll take care of him," he assured.

After the elevator door opened, Nathaniel led the way and went out. I caught a glimpse of his gaze as he walked out, and a wave of suspicion crept into my heart.

When Ashton saw how I was refusing to move, he patted me gently on my back. "Don't worry, Nathaniel will make sure everything is okay," he said softly.

I met Ashton's determined gaze before I looked at the enigmatic man waiting for us outside the elevator. This was the first time I felt so unsure ever since I set foot on the island.

Will anything happen to us? Will our children be safe? We're surrounded by the Halls, and Armond is after us. Will everything be okay?

"Ashton's right," Nathaniel tried convincing me to step out. "Both of you can trust me."

He sounded genuine and honest, and he looked so too. If I had not seen with my own eyes how he took Armond down single-handedly, I would have been deceived by his looks.

The pressure from Ashton's hand intensified on my shoulder. He was asking me to get my act together so Nathaniel would not suspect that we had already seen right through him.

I forced a smile on my face. "Of course. You're the only person we can trust."

Nathaniel and I nodded at each other, and I went out with Ashton holding my hand. We continued our visit looking at the research projects undertaken by the family.

After the confrontation in the morning, everyone seemed to be distracted. We took a cursory look at the facilities and had some casual exchanges before finding any excuse to leave.

I was worried about the children, so Ashton and I headed back to the castle the moment we could.

Before we arrived at the nursery, we heard someone arguing.

"I'm sorry, but Mr. and Mrs. Fuller have already insisted that no one other than our own nanny can touch the kids."

"I understand, but I'm a certified nanny who has been working for the Hall family for many years. The children are almost one! You should really leave things to the professional. I'm not here to harm the children, I'm only here to make some assessments."

"No, we're good. We'll take care of the babies ourselves."

Joseph was arguing with the nanny Nicolas had assigned for the children. They were speaking in Ustranasion, and the negotiation was done cordially.

I stood at the door for a second, thinking about what I should do to turn down Nicolas' offer, but Ashton barged right in.

"Get out," he ordered. The whole room fell into dead silence at his sudden appearance.

The nanny Nicolas hired was a Chanaean woman. Despite her perfect skin and well-kept body figure, her eyes betrayed her age. Her dyed hair and colored contact lenses could easily make anyone mistake her for a local from M Country, but under a closer look, her skin tone said she was from Aploth.

The woman was taken aback by Ashton's commanding tone, but she quickly recollected herself and tried negotiating again.

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The woman took a step closer to us and started speaking to us in Ustranasion. "Mr. Hall has the best of the children in mind. They are the family's heirs. They need special care and upbringing to ensure they grow up to be capable members of the family. I'm sure you can understand why..."

"Speak your native language," Ashton interjected her impatiently.

The woman stared at him and continued speaking in Ustranasion. "I'm sorry, I don't understand what you're..."

"It seems like you don't even know your mother tongue. How can someone like you teach my children? Get out of my sight, now," Ashton threatened, not bothering to give her a chance to explain.

“How dare you!” Before the woman could continue, Joseph had already stepped in between them. He cast a severe glare at the woman and gestured at her to leave. “This way, please.”

Upon seeing everyone so adamant about her leaving, the woman stomped out in a fury.

Once the commotion died off, Ashton walked over to the children to check on them. When he was sure Gregory and Audrey were alright, his tense face relaxed.

“All of you may leave first.” I felt I had to talk to Ashton alone after some consideration.

Joseph and the nanny left without any objection, closing the door behind them after they left.

I went closer and squatted down beside Audrey, toying restlessly with her chubby hands. “Do you think it’s worth it, Ashton?” I blurted out anxiously.

My husband read my face and understood my concern almost immediately. “I’m not losing any one of you.”

I understood what he meant. It would not be a complete family anymore without me. He was willing to undertake great risks to keep the family intact.

“But it’s only the second day, and I’m already gripped by fear. What if something happens? I know the Halls will never harm the children, but what if...”

Armond would do whatever it took to get rid of us. What will happen to the children if something happens to us? The Halls are only gonna groom them into cold-hearted beasts.

As for Nathaniel, he might seem harmless, but God knows what he’s planning in his head.

I was so lost in all these worrying thoughts that I did not realize Ashton staring at me for some time. He circled his arms around me from behind, causing a familiar scent to waft around me and invade my senses.

“It won’t take long. My men are already on the island. I’ll bring you, the children, and the cure home safely. Summer is still waiting for us at home. You need to stay strong,” he whispered in my ears in a low voice.

My hard look softened instantly when I looked at my children.

Macy left and entrusted her daughter to me. There was no way I could leave Summer behind. Besides, how could I let Gregory and Audrey grow up without their mother?

I held on to Ashton’s hands around my waist and pursed my lips in determination. “I’ll stay strong.”

I knew there was no turning back since the day I fell in love with Ashton.

A week went by peacefully after Ashton sent the nanny away.

His men, who had already located the most possible spot where the antidote was hidden, were already planning on how to break in to acquire the cure.

But Ashton received a text from Armond the next day, asking him for a meet-up at the golf course on the island.

I obviously would never let him go alone. I started packing my clothes as the hour of their meeting approached, getting ready for whatever was to come.

As usual, Ashton looked calm and composed as he sat on the couch reading some documents.

I could not wrap my head around how he could remain unflustered under such a circumstance.