

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1543-1547

Chapter 1543

Tiffany seemed to have a clue after scrutinizing him for quite a while. The next second, she burst into laughter and yelled gleefully, "Hahaha! It must be retribution! Retribution indeed! See how he ends up paying the price for his heinous deed!"

The smile of schadenfreude on her face seemed to indicate that she had been expecting this moment long ago.

As a member of a prominent family with higher social status, Nicholas had his nose in the air. He was very particular about the excellence of the Halls' new generation in order to maintain the prestige of the family. Ever since he discovered that Ashton had a genetic defect, he straight away treated him as an inferior who would be a stain for the Halls. Somehow things had turned the other way round. The so-called descendants of the excellent genes had betrayed him by adding insult to injury. I wonder how he feels being betrayed by his outstanding children whom he had nurtured throughout all these years!

This was indeed the typical materialistic phenomenon as observed in most of the well-to-do families. Clinking glasses with each other jovially at the feasts did not really mean anything. It was common that whenever any of their family members encountered financial crisis or other issues, the others who were self-centered would choose to ignore them and even cut their ties with them so they would not be affected.

Ashton looked at her with complex emotions in his eyes. After a while, he instructed Joseph, "Head straight for the Hall family's villa in the western district."

Upon hearing his words, there was a change in Tiffany's expression. Her complacency was utterly erased by her agitation all of a sudden. "What's your intention? How did you find out about the place?"

She seemed to have lost her mind and shrieked hysterically. There was even a ferocious look on her face.

On the other hand, Ashton remained nonchalant at all the time. He turned calmly and gave Joseph a meaningful glance, hinting him to take her away immediately.

The next moment, Joseph gestured to his subordinates in order to drag Tiffany who was still rebuking non-stop out at once.

After they had left, the living room was finally back to peacefulness again. Ashton turned and glanced at me before shifting his gaze away hastily. As we locked gazes momentarily a while ago, I could sense that he was troubled by something at the moment. However, he was pretending as if there was nothing amiss and moved back to sit beside me.

Throughout years of striving hard for survival under crucial situations, he was sort of well-trained to act indifferently under any type of circumstances. Hence, he could easily hide his feelings from me most of the time. Yet if I could still sense something awry at the moment, it indicated that he was actually not intending to hide it from me. It was just not the time for him to pour out everything to me yet.

I bet it was something related to Tiffany, and Ashton would surely share it with me when it was time. Thus, I decided not to pressurize him into telling me at the moment.

As for Louis and the others, Tiffany was a nobody for them. They were more curious about the motive behind Nathaniel's sudden emergence.

"Nathaniel is indeed a chip off the old block. In fact, he seems to be more scheming and ruthless than Nicholas Hall. It still makes sense for him to set his parents up due to his abhorrence toward them. Yet it's really too much since he has the heart to put his own sister at risk. Even beasts don't inflict harm on their own flesh and blood. Imagine how cold-blooded he is," Louis commented. Staring off into the distance, he suddenly felt down.

He really had a point on this. So far Nathaniel did not express his hostility toward us or provoke us in any way. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that he was a pain in the neck. It was as if he was a fishbone stuck in our throats, invisible yet causing great discomfort to us. At the same time, we could not easily let our guards down, fearing that he might strike and put us in deep water at any moment.

As long as Nathaniel did not initiate any provocative act, it was inappropriate for us to make the first move. We could only continue to stay alert so we could retaliate at once when he struck the first blow.

To my surprise, Zachary was really confident and commented casually, "Anyway, K City is still our turf and we know every corner well. No matter how mighty he is, he's solely on his own. I bet it's a piece of cake for us to bring him down at any time."

Cameron chimed in, "I truly agree with your Dad. Talking about Nathaniel, it's just like holding a hand grenade which will go off at any time. I really feel uneasy whenever I think about that. Why don't we just make use of this chance to get rid of this fellow once and for all?"

I shook my head as I disagreed with their point of view. "I see it in a different way. I suspect that Nathaniel was the one manipulating the previous explosion case. If he's really the one, he's

definitely not a simple person whom we can easily deal with. We would only put ourselves at risk if we act recklessly.”

I had talked to Ashton about this earlier. Even though he did not comment on anything, he actually saw eye to eye with me that Nathaniel was no ordinary man whom we could easily get rid of. It was really risky if we acted impulsively without proper planning.

Upon hearing my words, Louis was infuriated and raised his voice, “So do you mean that there’s nothing we can do to him now? I can’t accept that! Even those high-ranking son of b*tches like Ezra Grant and the others were managed to be pulled down. Anyway, Nathaniel hall is just a greenhorn and can’t be as mighty as them, right?”

Unable to hold in his temper, he paused and unleashed his frustration by striking the table. “After all, I still have the connection with the department. I’ll pay them a visit tomorrow and seek their help to investigate Nathaniel Hall. I don’t think Nicholas Hall’s children can turn out to be any better than him!” he scoffed.

There was a momentary silence. After a while, Louis finally realized that he had unintentionally offended Ashton as well when he criticized Nicholas Hall’s children. He stuttered in embarrassment, “I-I’m sorry. I don’t mean that...”

Chapter 1544

“No issue,” Ashton cut him off and held me up. “Let’s eat first. Letty has gastric problem and needs to have meals on time.”

Ashton was never a vengeful man who really minded about petty matters. Louis was relieved at the sight of his casualness and said joyfully, “Alright, let’s eat!” Within seconds, the slightly tense

atmosphere in the living room was replaced by the liveliness again. Calling the kids to come down for their meal, we headed slowly for the dining room.

We let the seniors make their ways first and trailed behind them slowly.

I grabbed the opportunity and asked Ashton tactfully, "What's your plan for Tiffany?"

When it comes to his own flesh and blood, I believed that Ashton would tend to be more forgiving and tolerant. What's more, Tiffany was apparently not as insidious as Nicholas and his wife. Hence, I bet Ashton would be more lenient with her.

With a look of nonchalance on his face, Ashton continued to move forward by holding my hands and replied casually, "As her elder brother, of course I will bear the responsibility for the sake of her wellbeing."

I was puzzled at his words and knitted my brows.

Those who had crossed paths with Ashton previously knew well about his temperament. He was a prideful man who would not easily let anyone who had provoked him off easily. Tiffany had deceived Ashton and tried to match him up with Thora previously just for the sake of her own benefits. I don't believe that he is able to put aside his wrath within such a short span of time!

This man really loves to twist his words and confuses me! There must be some hidden meanings behind his words!

Pfft! He's overpowered by his so-called pride and self-esteem, just like all the other men. I'm not surprised that he refuses to pour out everything to me at the moment. He surely has some plans in his mind and is waiting for the ideal time to unveil the truth. By then, he would be able to show off his intelligence in getting things resolved!

Ah! Even an outstanding and mature man like him has such a childish mind! Pursing my lips, I could not help feeling amused at the thought. Even so, I decided to let him be and continued to be supportive of him.

It was common for the elderly to lead a systematic lifestyle and have an early bedtime. Even though Louis looked as fit as a fiddle, he was on medication as well. When the clock struck eight at night, he took his medicine and went to bed right away.

The rest of us accompanied the kids while they were having fun among themselves.

Summer was analyzing her favorite mathematic sums as usual; Gregory was attending an online class with earphones plugged in. Audrey and Drew were actually the only ones playing among themselves. Both of them got along well with each other as they both had similar characteristics and grew up in a similar environment. Meanwhile, we were casually chatting while watching the two of them have fun.

When the clock was about to strike nine, Ashton told me that he had to go outside after receiving a call. He explained briefly, "It's regarding the orphanage. After double confirming with the police station, Joseph found out that nobody has ever lodged any police reports for some of the children. Thus, he doesn't know how to get the matter resolved. I'll go have a look and will be back soon."

In a split second, Audrey tossed her toy aside and dashed toward Ashton. She asked excitedly, "Daddy, where are you going? I want to go as well!"

Ashton stroked her hair affectionately and replied placidly, "You just stay at home and help to look after Mommy."

"I don't want!" Audrey yelled instantly and pouted her lips with furrowed brows. "I want to go out for some fun. Uncle John used to bring me to his working place too. Daddy, you haven't brought me out for a long time! I don't like you anymore!"

She snorted and stomped as she turned her back toward Ashton. At the sight of her crossing her arms over the chest like an adult, I could not resist chuckling.

Glancing at John who was seated quite a distance away, there were helplessness and resentment in Ashton's eyes. Oh! Looks like someone is jealous! I bet he's blaming John for spoiling Audrey all this while. He must be cracking his head at the moment on how he can win her heart again!

Nevertheless, the culprit of the dispute was still adding fuel to the already burning fire by saying, "My dear Audrey, you'd better don't make things difficult for your Daddy. Not everyone can treat you as lovingly as your Uncle John!"

Upon hearing his words, Emma pinched him hard on his arm and snapped, "Just zip your mouth and stop driving a wedge between them. Both of them are getting upset because of you!"

"Ouch!" John gasped exaggeratedly and said jokingly, "How nice if I can have a sweet little princess like our little Audrey! How about we have another baby girl?"

"Stop!" Emma straight away pressed her index finger on John's lip and snapped at him, "Go ahead to have one by yourself! I would never go through the horrible process and endure the excruciating pain again!"

John leaned closer to her with his smiling face and coaxed her, "Cool down. Think of how adorable Audrey is! Oh! If we could have an adorable little princess like Audrey who can keep you company and be your best helper at home. By then, you won't be grumbling about feeling bored again since you're the only female at home."

Chapter 1545

Emma glared at him in displeasure. "Are you sure you get what I mean when I grumble that I'm bored?"

“What do you mean?” John was baffled.

Emma was enraged and almost stretched out her hand to pinch John on his arm again. Nevertheless, she put down her hand as something crossed her mind. “Forget about it. Anyway, don’t ever dream of having another baby girl again!”

In an instant, John felt dejected like an inflated balloon. Besides, he could not catch what Emma was thinking at the moment. Shrugging his shoulder, he was silent and did not persist to talk her into accepting his request.

My goodness! John is still as simple-minded and can’t read Emma’s mind after so many years!

It seems he never gets to understand women. Women are the same in general. Other than being tough on the outside and soft on the inside, we yearn for everlasting affection, attention, and care from our beloved partners!

When John tried to track down my whereabouts by all means around the world previously, he had sacrificed his family time for Emma and their son. Since they could eventually reunite with each other, Emma would definitely hope that they get to have more romantic moments with each other.

Nonetheless, John was never a romantic and sentimental man. As a computer expert, he was a bit too realistic in a way. Poor Emma, it’ seems like there’s a long way for her to go before my dumb brother learns about romance!

Looking at how the two of them were bickering with each other, Ashton turned slowly toward me, hinting me to speak up for him.

I used to be really protective of my children, and was reluctant to let them be exposed to any potential challenges of the outer world. As time went by, I gradually understood that the problems could not be resolved by hiding ourselves forever. The exposure to the hardships could be considered as intensive training sessions for ourselves. In other words, we tended to become mightier through the endurance of obstacles in life.

Therefore, I agreed to let Audrey go to the orphanage with Ashton. I decided to reveal the other side of the real world to her, giving her a picture that life was not just solely about beautiful moments all the time.

“Just let her go this round. I’ll accompany her,” I said gently as I stood up.

No doubt kids are innocent and lack courage. We as parents should play our role well and help them in boosting their courage.

Both Ashton and I could foresee that our children would never lead a free and easy lifestyle. Hence, I felt that it was practical to expose them to the outer world earlier so they would be able to experience the uncertainties and adapt better to the various types of challenges in life. Even though Ashton and I would try our best to be their all-time mentor and protector, we had to give them space to be independent.

The moment Audrey heard that I allowed her to follow Ashton out, she was over the moon. Before Ashton could open his mouth to say anything, she was already trotting toward the main door as she yelled jubilantly, “Hurray! I can go out to play now! Time to go out to play!”

I could not resist knitting my brows. Both Ashton and I have a cool temperament. How on earth does she have such a lively characteristic?

Glancing obliquely at Ashton, I was surprised that he actually looked calm and approved it silently. Stretching out his hand instinctively, he gestured to me to hold his hand.

My lips lifted into a smile as I walked toward him. The moment I grabbed hold of his hand, both Summer and Gregory stood up and gazed at us seriously.

“Both of you want to go with us as well?” I asked tentatively.

“Yeah.” Gregory nodded and replied firmly, “I’ll follow wherever Audrey goes. As his elder brother, I’ll protect her well!”

His words really warmed my heart. I was really proud of him.

“Oh! How sweet! Audrey is really lucky to have such a caring brother!” I complimented Gregory and patted his shoulder as a token of encouragement.

I was thankful that Gregory played his role well as an elder brother and was protective of his sister at such a young age. At the same time, I could not help letting out a deep sigh as the dispute between Ashton and his siblings flashed across my mind.

Later, I raised my head and gazed at Audrey. As we locked gazes, both of us smiled knowingly at each other. “Needless to ask, Gregory offers to protect Audrey, and you need to protect both of them, right?” I asked jokingly.

“Hehe!” Summer giggled shyly. There were sparkles in her smiling eyes.

In the end, we agreed to be fair and bring along all three of them.

Drew was the youngest among them, yet he was very observant and smart like John. The moment he saw Audrey and the others step out, he also stood up in an instant and tried to catch up with them.

As expected, both John and Emma tagged along with us as well since Drew was clingy to Audrey.

Both families ended up heading for the orphanage together. It was as if we were on a special family outing at night.

When we finally reached the orphanage, it was already ten at night.

Most of the children there had gone to bed, except those who were brought back from overseas by Joseph. At the moment, they were all gathered in one of the classrooms.

I started to feel uneasy the moment Ashton told me earlier that those children were rescued from the illegal lab involved with human genetic modification. Initially, I thought that those unfortunate children who were abducted for the experiment might be disfigured or even in a gory mess after being ill-treated. Hence, I kept telling myself to stay calm so as not to scare my children a while later.

Nevertheless, I was surprised at what came into my view when I stepped into the particular classroom.

Chapter 1546

In the old classroom, there were about more than ten children of different ages lining up in two rows. All of them were dressed in the same type of white hospital gown. Apart from feeling anxious due to the arrival of the strangers, they looked clean without any visible wounds. Based on my observation, there were no physical signs which implied that they had gone through a traumatic experience.

Heaving a sigh of relief, I was thankful that none of the children was in a pathetic state as imagined by me earlier.

Ashton stepped onto the stage and glanced at them before he asked Joseph, "Have you done a background check for all of them?"

Joseph replied respectfully, "Yes, most of the children's information is well kept in the orphanage of M Country, except for these children. Basically, there isn't any record for them. Thus, they are sent here temporarily."

Ashton did not really react to his words. Squinting his eyes, his mind drifted into contemplation.

On the instant, the whole classroom was in pin-drop silence. At the moment, only the heavy panting of the children due to their anxiety was still audible.

Audrey was excited as it was her first time seeing many children at the same time. When Ashton was still deep in his thought, she took the chance to squeeze out from my back and walked toward them.

I instinctively stretched out my hand, yet I was not in time to hold her back.

Fortunately, Gregory reacted fast and moved forward instantaneously. Grabbing hold of Audrey's hand, he accompanied her to inspect all the children one by one.

Those who lined up in the first row were about Drew's age. Since they were younger, they looked a bit shy and timid. Audrey just roughly browsed through the first row before she held Gregory's hand and moved on with the second row.

All of a sudden, she came to a halt in front of a boy whose body size appeared to be the smallest. Her big round eyes were glued to him.

After gazing at him for a while, she took out a lollipop from her pocket and handed it to him. "Take this."

However, the boy was indifferent and did not accept it.

Out of curiosity, I looked intently at the boy. For a split second, I was stunned as he looked familiar to me. However, when I took a closer look at him, the sense of familiarity was gone. My heart flinched at the sight of his sunken cheeks and dry skin due to malnutrition.

The laboratory where the inhuman experiment was carried out was just like a smaller scale of society, and only the fittest could survive. He must be in the so-called lower level of society and ended up as the victim of bully. That was why he appeared to be a lot thinner compared to the rest of them.

As a mother, I was relieved that Audrey was soft-hearted and sympathized with the weaker ones.

Assuming that the boy did not dare to receive the lollipop from Audrey, I encouraged him gently, "Don't be afraid, just eat."

As a pitiful boy who was treated as a specimen in the laboratory, I expected him to be lack of confidence and nod shyly at me to express his gratitude. Out of my expectation, he only raised his head and gazed at me. I was impressed by the unusual calmness in his pair of eyes. He was apparently more matured than the other boys of the same age. I presumed that he must have gone through a lot all this while and had a complicated background.

After gazing at me placidly for a few seconds, he shifted his gaze away. The next moment, he raised his hand abruptly and stretched it toward Audrey's neck.

In an instant, Gregory dragged Audrey one step backward and blocked in front of her. He yelled with a stern look, "What are you doing?"

Audrey almost stumbled and fall. After she managed to balance her body, she was confused with the current situation. Both of the boys were facing each other as if they were opponents on a wrestling stage.

Ashley's eyes lit up as something crossed her mind. She tugged at her clothes casually and jumped a few times on the spot.

Out of a sudden, something dropped from her shoulder.

Audrey's face lit up when she picked up the thing. Showing it to Gregory, she said cheerfully, "Greg, see this? He is actually helping to take this away from my shoulder! He doesn't intend to hurt me!"

There was a piece of small wrapping paper for a candy.

Audrey had a sweet tooth like Gregory. Since we did not allow her to take too much candy, she was smart enough to secretly took the candy and hid it elsewhere so she could savor it without our knowledge.

If I was not mistaken, Audrey must have eaten a candy earlier and hid the piece of wrapping paper under the collar of her blouse so nobody would discover it. Gregory was used to walking behind Audrey in order to cater to her safety. If not, they would be walking abreast. Therefore, it was impossible for him to spot the piece of wrapping paper. On the other hand, the little boy was a little taller than Gregory and he was standing face to face with Audrey a while ago. Hence, he could easily spot the piece of the wrapping paper under her collar and was about to help her take it out. Yet Gregory who was overprotective of his sister had misunderstood him.

Chapter 1547

Everyone was relieved after the previous tense moment was proven to be a misunderstanding.

After knowing that the boy did not have any bad intentions, Gregory finally stepped aside.

Audrey handed him the lollipop again with a cheerful smile. "Thank you so much! Now you can eat the candy! This is my favorite candy! It's really yummy!"

This time, the boy did not reject and took it at once.

Audrey's smile widened as the boy held the lollipop in his hand.

At the same time, Ashton made a decision and announced, "Let all of them stay and give them financial aid under Madam's name till they grow up.

Joseph replied in acknowledgement, "Noted."

Ashton turned to look at Gregory and instructed, "Gregory, bring your sister over here."

Upon hearing his words, Gregory held Audrey's hand and led her back obediently.

When both of them were in front of Ashton, Gregory said respectfully, "Daddy, I've brought Audrey back."

"Good," Ashton nodded and turned to look at Audrey. "Next time, never ever approach any strangers without your Mommy and my permission. Can you promise me that?" Ashton asked sternly.

There was only the usual intimidating indifference on his cold, expressionless face.

Audrey could sense the displeasure in Ashton's tone. Instead of refuting as usual, she nodded obediently and replied softly, "Alright, Daddy."

"Let's go home now," Ashton said again.

Next, he turned to face us and prepared to leave, letting both Gregory and Audrey walk in front of him.

Gregory obeyed Ashton's instructions as usual and stepped out at once, with Audrey trailing closely behind him.

After walking forward for two steps, Audrey came to a stop abruptly. She turned to look at the little boy and was reluctant to move forward.

Ashton followed her gaze and knew at once about what was playing in her mind. After pondering for a while, he lowered his head and asked her, "You want to bring him home as well?"

Pouting her lips, her forehead creased into a frown as she gazed at the boy with a look of sympathy. She gulped and said softly, "He's so thin. If he continues to stay here, he will starve. Aunt Emma ever mentioned that the children in the orphanage are the most pitiful. I just feel like helping him..."

I could sense that she was being tactful with her words, especially her last sentence. She was more like mumbling at that time, apparently fear of infuriating Ashton.

John probably had taught her before that she was not supposed to be rude especially when she was on certain occasions. As a result, she did not dare to make a big fuss despite her reluctance to part with the boy.

Ashton was an assertive person who would not easily change his mind. I thought it would not be an exception this round, and Audrey would end up feeling upset. Nonetheless, he was being sympathetic unexpectedly.

Instead of replying to Audrey right away, he moved forward and looked straight at the front. In a low and stern voice, he instructed, "Come over here."

He was obviously instructing the boy.

The boy moved swiftly from his current spot to the front of all the orphans.

When he stood right in front of us without anyone blocking his way, we were shocked to see his exceptionally thin figure. Even though he was actually wearing the smallest gown, it was far too loose for him. I even doubted whether he would be blown away as well if there was a gust of strong wind.

My heart started to ache as a surge of sympathy welled up from within me. I truly felt for Audrey. I myself could not resist feeling sad for the boy, what's more Audrey was just a child. She surely had a stronger feeling than me.

Standing right in front of Ashton, the boy looked helpless like a small tree in front of the enormous mountain.

"I'm giving you two options. If you choose to go home with me, I will raise you well and bear the cost of your education fee. In return, you will need to attend classes together with my daughter and stay by her side all the time, putting her safety as the top priority. If you choose to continue staying here, Fuller Corporation will provide you financial aid, but you will be on your own. Think about it and make your choice. The final decision lies in your own hands."

Ashton remained indifferent as usual and did not soften at all although he was facing a child.

Within seconds, the boy made his choice and replied firmly, "I choose to go back with you."

Before Ashton gave his instruction, the boy had approached Audrey. Imitating Joseph, he lowered his head and bent his body as he stretched out his hand to lead the way. "Miss, please walk in the front."

In a blink of an eye, Audrey's face brightened up as she trotted out to catch up with Gregory.

Meanwhile, the boy was fully aware of his status and trailed behind them obediently.

Tucking both of his hands in the pocket, John pondered as he gazed at the boy's figure. So they just let the boy follow them home without a second thought? They are willing to take the risk and raise him even if they don't have any clue about his background?