

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1588-1592

Chapter 1588

Consequently, Emery was speechless, and her demeanor immediately softened up as she said, "I was joking! I had intended to buy all of them from the start. I asked her to give me one for free because I wanted to let her learn that sometimes you need to make sacrifices to gain more benefits. Alas, our little angel here's not that smart. It doesn't look like she's suited for business."

She picked up her bag as she said that, most probably to get some cash to pay the little girl.

At that moment, the child could not hold in her tears any longer as I felt those burning droplets on the back of my hand.

"Wait! She's buying your flowers! Don't cry!"

"I don't want you to buy all my flowers." The little girl started sobbing. "I only want to sell you one each. Mommy has been sick in the hospital for so long! Daddy told me that each sold flower is another prayer for Mommy so she could get well soon. I don't want money. I just want Mommy to get better."

They really were not wrong when they said women were like water. In only a few seconds, the tissue was totally soaked.

Audrey and Gregory had milder personalities and were my own, so they were easier to handle. Even with Summer, this type of situation had never occurred with me. So, I was at a loss and could only watch as the girl cried.

It was true that people were cruel and selfish, but they loved drama. Once the girl started crying, all those unconcerned passersby were surprisingly like-minded as they all looked toward our direction.

That feeling of being stared at by the entire world was not great at all.

Therefore, I signaled to Emery. "You made this mess! Handle it!"

But Emery acted like she was deaf, leaving me speechless.

So this is what good friends do? Do you leave the others behind to clean up your mess?

Right then, Summer spoke. "If you can hold it in and stop crying, I have an idea that could help you earn a lot more money and acquire more prayers for your mommy at the same time. If you accept, wipe off those tears and come with me. You only have one chance, okay?"

As soon as Summer finished, a mere one second was all it took for the crying to stop.

Immediately after, Summer took the girl by the hand, right in front of me, and headed downstairs after picking up the flowers and basket.

I was in awe. It was like watching Gregory tame Audrey all over again.

"In the end, Summer's still the best. Unlike you, who can't even handle a kid." Emery started attacking me after things calmed down.

"Why don't you handle the girl if you're so great? You're the one that made her cry! I have to say. We're both mothers now. It's about time you changed that attitude of yours. Don't just bear your fangs at anyone the moment you see them. Who would want to be near you after you scare them off like that?" I turned it around and lectured her instead, wanting her to be better.

Emery was like a porcupine right now, covered in sharp spines and quills. Anyone who got near her would get hurt easily. That said, she actually had the softest heart out of everyone and insisted on hiding it.

The truth was, I never even thought of buying all those flowers from the girl to free her up, but Emery did. Nevertheless, the girl would most likely only remember how ruthless Emery was and that she did not want to pay.

"Who cares?" Emery shrugged. "I only need to ensure that I can always enjoy the life of a single woman. That's all. Why would I want to meet new people and start playing the stupid guessing game of what are they thinking? I'm not interested and cannot be bothered. Those that would stay will stay. Those that won't, so be it. Why should I change? I am me. I'm just built different, you know?"

The atmosphere was getting heavy. It was clear that our Queen Emery did not want to dwell on the subject any longer. Things were not going to change even if we did.

About twenty minutes after, Summer came back, but the girl was gone.

"Did you help her sell all her flowers?" I asked. I was confident Summer could do it since she was eloquent, but twenty minutes was still an astonishing speed.

"They're all sold, but not by me. Just know that everything's settled." Summer told us and went back to accompany Audrey and the others.

Chapter 1589

How did she do it? I was curious.

And eventually, when we were leaving the mall, I got my answer.

At the entrance, there was a setup that was not there when we first arrived that read Charity Points. Beside it was a shiny signboard with simple details on it.

Fresh flower for ten bucks. Eighty percent of the proceeds will go to people in need. Leave a scent.

This was a high-class mall, so people that visited the place would not mind the mere ten bucks. Moreover, a self-service QR code scan was utilized for making payment, so it was less of a hassle. Women usually picked one up as they walked by. Some even made the payment but left the flower there.

While we stood there and watched, Summer gave us an explanation.

"If the customers buy the flower, the mall will track the payment to the customer's member profile and award them points that could be used to redeem gifts from the mall. With this, not only does the mall

fulfill some customers' wish to do charity, but it also becomes an extra source of income. The little girl won't have to make her pitch one at a time anymore because we've already made a preliminary agreement with the mall. This will be the girl's kiosk from now on, so she should see some improvements in terms of income. I hope this helps with her mother's illness."

Emery nodded her head in satisfaction after hearing that. "You did great, but I'm quite curious about how you convinced the manager of the mall to do this."

I had that same question in mind, knowing that an agreement would only get accepted if the terms were mutually beneficial to both parties. To malls like this, profit from these acts of charity was just spare change. On top of that, their partner was a little girl. With so many variables to consider, it was obvious that the risk outweighed the reward. As the manager, they did not need to let the mall go through the hassle.

"About that..." Summer calmly put up the side-eye and showed us her phone that she took out of nowhere. "This is my Facebook account. I promised the mall that I would write an article promoting their good deeds every month for the coming six months, so they agreed. There were some other conditions, but we don't have to talk about that."

We squinted our eyes to take a look and instantly understood everything.

ForeverAutumn. One million and more followers.

Advertisements on Facebook accounts of that caliber usually cost around fifty thousand per post. That meant that the mall saved three hundred thousand in terms of advertisement expenditure by just utilizing a small section of the wide-open space at the entrance. It's a deal with no downsides. Why wouldn't they?

Indeed, amassing such a following at such a young age would be considered a momentous feat if it was anyone else. But, not Summer. She was a genius that received early admission into a university overseas that made an exception just for her. It was almost expected of her to accomplish this much.

That said, I was still a little surprised. “Did you make this account on your own?”

“Yeah.” Summer smiled. “We’re living in the era of the internet. You’d be amazed at how fast information can travel. I initially did this to amass following in hopes of finding you sooner, Mommy. Even though I no longer need it, it still feels great to be able to use it for a good cause.”

“Not bad.” Emery applauded as though she was Summer’s superior, but she still gave her some sharp critiques. “That name’s got to go, though. It’s too corny. People would think you’re an old granny from hearing that. Change it to something like FourSeasons. With some photo’s taken by the company I invest in and your reputation as a teenage genius, I reckon your followers would double in number. Then, you only have to hire someone to manage it for you and wait for the cash to roll in.”

Summer pursed her lips and smiled before lowering her head to look at her phone. “It’s okay. I like that name. I want to remember how autumn feels, always.”

I did not know why, but at that moment, the smile on her face looked a little gloomy, like she had gone through many hardships.

Separated for six years, absent from the most crucial time of her life, it was no wonder I could no longer understand Summer fully.

Chapter 1590

The more you learned, the more you hid, they say, and Summer had been very considerate ever since we reunited. Now, seeing her doing things quietly on her own gave me a bad feeling.

Coincidentally, Joseph brought the maid over to carry the things we bought and interrupted the conversation.

We did not bring it up after that, so I thought it was over. However, Emery actually kept it to heart. Not two hours after we got back, she appeared at our doorstep. She took out an entire stack of documents and dumped it on the table, telling us that she wanted to groom Summer.

“We’re all family here, so I’ll cut to the chase. Summer is a diamond in the rough for business. Let her come back and learn how to do business with me. She can take MBA courses too. I’ll fully support whatever project she comes up with in the future and will not intervene. There’s only one condition. I’m not letting a talent like you get snatched away, so we need to sign a contract, so I don’t have to worry.”

Summer clearly did not think about that, so she did not respond and merely looked at Ashton and me.

Suddenly, a lazy voice grew louder from afar. “The Fullers has so many properties waiting to be inherited. It’s still uncertain whether the kids could do it, but how great of you to snatch an heir away to make money for you. That’s quite a plan you got there.”

Holden walked down the stairs with his silk pajamas and messy hair. Anyone would know he just got of bed from a glance.

He’s still here?

“This is family business. Keep out of it.” Emery could not care less about who he was. She was ruthless if someone spoiled her mood. “You, however, are on all the covers of entertainment magazines after just getting back, Mr. Taylor. It looks like you’re very popular no matter where you go. Are two kidneys enough for you?”

“Since when did you care?” Holden tied the drawstring at his waist while coming down. “Would you like to try and see whether two is enough?”

After the incident with Hunter, Emery already detested people like Holden, that went around flirting with girls. So, now that he triggered her, I had to interject immediately, "Things are getting out of hand, you two. Can we talk about something else in front of the kids, for my sake?"

Before he gave a response, Holden plopped himself down on the sofa and placed one leg on the armrest. "It's a taboo for people like me that work in the grey area of the law to make enemies. And on top of that, I love women. I only replied because she did not sound very polite. I'm a victim here, you know?"

Emery sneered after hearing that and said, "If that's the case, there would be no more criminals left in the world."

Even though things were not friendly between them, at least they stopped arguing and decided to ignore each other completely.

After a while, Holden spoke once again. "Summer, if you really want to come back, I have quite a few great connections. Maybe you can think about it."

At present, Emery just calmed herself down, but what Holden said immediately triggered her again. "I knew something was off! So, you just wanted her for yourself! There's an order for everything, Mr. Taylor. Don't you dare think I, Emery Moore, am like those cheap girls you meet that gets pushed around!"

"I've said nothing of the sort." Holden shrugged nonchalantly. "I had that idea ever since Scarlett came back and told me about the incident with flowers. You only got the chance because I overslept. I'm not sure you'd win if we really talked about the order."

"You..." Emery was at a loss for words because of how mad she was. An eloquent person like her was no match for someone as thick-skinned as Holden. All she ended up doing was gritting her teeth and calling him a shameless bastard.

Holden smirked, unbothered.

“What are you guys talking about?” Ashton came back and asked while handing his coat to the maid.

“You better take good care of your kids. There’s already a devious man plotting to use them,” Emery said sarcastically.

Hearing what she said, Holden sat up straight and wanted to refute Emery’s claim. But before he could do that, Ashton approached and asked as though he heard a funny joke, “Oh? Who has that much guts?”

Chapter 1591

Ashton sat down beside me and instinctively wrapped his arm around my shoulders. “Are you getting bullied, Summer?” he asked while looking at her.

“No, Daddy.” Summer smiled and explained calmly, “Aunt Emery and Uncle Holden were just thinking of letting me tag along to learn how to do business from them.”

Ashton nodded in understanding and asked, “What do you think then? Are you interested?”

Summer pursed her lips and looked like she was still undecided.

Ashton was extra patient. “You don’t have to think about what others think. Just follow your heart. You’re still young, so it doesn’t really matter if you don’t want to. If you want to continue learning, I’ll support you.”

“Thanks, Daddy.” Summer seemed to have gotten some bravery from her father’s words and smiled. “I’ve actually been thinking about doing business for quite a while now. I was just afraid that Daddy and Mommy won’t agree to it.”

Just as I thought, the girl was hiding so much from me, and I did not even realize. All I ended up doing was putting up a resigned smile. “Let’s hear it then.”

At that moment, Ashton raised his hand on my shoulder for a bit and placed it back down. It felt like he was comforting me, so I looked at him, only to find him with no reaction. Maybe I’m just thinking too much.

“I want to open a bar!” Summer told us.

“The largest one in the whole city!”

“A bar?” I blurted out before Ashton had a chance to speak. That prompted me to recall all the things that happened that rainy season.

This time, the pat on my shoulder was more apparent, so I could confirm that Ashton was indeed trying to comfort me. But this time, my eyes were glued to Summer, so I did not react to it.

Having lost her parents since young, Macy, me, and my grandmother relied on each other. Macy was like a seed that fell into a crack on the wall, living tenaciously while growing up. She worked hard and became the youngest bar owner in J City, casting her pride and dignity aside in the shady parts of the city to amass some hope for our future. In those dark days, Macy was my shining star.

Alas, fate was cruel to the Leeroy family, and she left us at the best time of her life.

Every time I thought about this, I could feel my heart constrict. It was suffocating.

So, at that moment, I was instantly engulfed in horror. I was afraid that Summer was going down the same path Macy did. Start a bar, become the owner, meet a selfish man, and regret it forever.

“Yes, Mommy.” Summer’s eyes were burning brilliantly with passion and sincerity. “I’ve been to quite a few of them with my friends when I was overseas and had always been fascinated by it. I wish to build something that’s like a club. A place where we can maintain the atmosphere while still allowing for maximum privacy. A place for the customers to relax or talk about top secrets without worries. I did some research and found out that there aren’t many bars like that in the country. So, it should be a great prospect.”

“You little devil!” Emery was ecstatic after hearing Summer’s proposal. “You really are something special! That’s a bold idea! I like it! I’m in!”

On the other hand, Holden rested his head on his hand while leaning back on the sofa. He did not go against Emery and merely kept his eyes on Summer. It was apparent that he was scheming up a storm in his head with how he looked at the moment.

With how Holden did things, he would surely hit Summer up when Emery was not looking if he was interested. Emery would not even know when and how she lost.

But that was all an afterthought as I only had Summer’s intention in mind. I was more worried than anyone present, but I did not want to show it. So, I did my best to hold it in and kept my voice calm. “Summer, tell Mommy, besides liking it, is there any other reason why you would like to open a bar?”

When the question left my mouth, I instinctively clenched my fist. I was afraid that I might hear the answer in my head, that she knew.

About her past, about Macy, and about how she died.

That said, Summer remained smiling and looked at me innocently. There was not much change in her expression when she said, "Mommy. Isn't that enough? This is the only thing I like besides math. Can I do it?"

Chapter 1592

At that moment, my sight became blurry, and I kept seeing Macy's face overlapping with Summer's. It was like time and space no longer bound me, and that person sitting in front of me was not Summer but Macy.

"A bar is challenging for a woman for sure, but aren't other jobs the same? Rather than working our lives away for someone else, let's work for ourselves. You know, Letty. I like that dreamy feeling under the flickering lights. It helps me forget about all my insecurities. And sometimes, I get to see people I missed."

That was what Macy said that convinced me.

Because she liked it, I supported her. Because she liked it, I sent her over to Jared. Because of all that, she never got to experience true love until the day she died.

Even if everyone was safe, I still feel that thorn in my heart rooted there, unremovable.

There was a fog over my eyes, and I could no longer differentiate the real from the surreal. As a mother, I should be supportive of my children's dreams, but I could feel something weighing me down, forcing my mouth shut so I could not speak.

Maybe it's Macy. Maybe she and I have the same idea. I'm sure of it.

“Your mom and I understand.”

Ashton’s deep voice cut through my thoughts and snapped me out of them. The next second, he grabbed my hand and pulled it over, placing it on his lap as he fiddled with it.

“That said, you should know that opening up a bar is not an easy task. Disregarding the initial funding, those complicated under-the-table connections won’t be easy to handle. Let Joseph gather some information first, and we can discuss it from there. Okay?”

Summer and Audrey were different. She was not as stubborn, so she was easier to talk to. “That will do.”

“Alright.” Ashton gave a faint response and said, “Since you’re bored of staying at home, maybe you can plan out the project the company has at Wenville?”

“Of course I can,” Summer replied with a smile. It was like nothing was going on in her life worth grieving. “But I would like Mr. Cress to help me. Will that be okay?”

Summer was referring to Jared. After he sent her back, Jared had rented a place in K City and would pay short visits to the kids every day.

“It’s your project. So you decide.” Ashton gave her the green light to anything she wanted.

As he spoke, he pulled me up and headed to our room. “If you need anything, just ask Joseph.”

“Got it. Thanks, Daddy. Good night, Mommy.”

“Good night,” I replied in a daze, with a voice that was no louder than a kitten’s while I let Ashton drag my body up the stairs.

When we got to our room, he locked it and took me into the bathroom, where he undressed me without uttering a single word.

Facing each other with our naked bodies, he turned on the shower and tested the temperature before pulling it over my head.

As the hot water flowed, he started massaging my head with the tip of his fingers. The warm sensation it gave me was enough to let me forget about even resisting.

After he dried me off, Ashton wrapped me in a towel and carried me back to the bedroom. He lifted the cover and gently put me down on the bed. Then, he came from the other side of the bed and embraced me from behind.

My body was soft like water, and it instinctively got closer to him.

“Why are you so nice to me today?” I asked him.

“Aren’t I always like this?” His voice was hoarse.

“Nope.” My lips curled as I was pleased and relaxed. “All you wanted to do back then was take advantage of me.”

“Then, consider today an exception and let me be a saint for once.” Ashton adjusted his position and buried his chin in my neck.

I could vaguely tell that he knew my mind was going wild, and that was why he did all that quietly. He wanted to calm me down, bit by bit.

However, right or wrong, it did not matter. Ashton let me understand that as long as I stay with him, all my worries would go away even if I did not say anything.