

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1608-1612

Chapter 1608

"His family makes these traditional wedding attires," Ashton said calmly while adjusting the straps on his outfit.

"He sure has a great eye for... Wait, what?"

I paused mid-sentence when I realized that the sales staff had helped us because he recognized who we were and knew what we needed.

Ashton had seen right through it but kept it to himself when he saw me thanking the sales staff profusely.

That b*stard! I can't believe he let me make a fool out of myself!

I shot him a fierce glare at the thought of that. "Ashton!"

He let out a little chuckle and acted all innocent as he helped adjust my outfit. "Okay, okay... Next time, I'll be sure to tell you out loud that you've been recognized."

"You..." My face was all puffed with anger. Tell me out loud? That'll just humiliate me in front of others even more!

Ashton gave me a kiss on the forehead and led me toward the stairs as he said, "Come on, we need to get going now. We won't even be able to leave through the back door if we don't hurry up."

Having no other choice, I could only swallow my anger and leave the store with him.

Fortunately for us, the group of people waiting outside had yet to discover the back door, so we were able to get out of there smoothly. We then made a few turns through some alleys and successfully blended into the crowd shortly after.

While watching a fire-breathing performance, I noticed a rock candy vendor passing by and begged Ashton to buy me some.

I've always found it satisfying whenever I see people eat rock candy on television. Now that I finally get to experience that satisfaction myself, I realize flavor is only a part of what truly makes a food amazing. What's even more important is the feelings you have while eating it as well as the environment you eat it in.

I thought to myself while holding two sticks of rock candy in hand.

"Whoa, slow down there! People might think I'm starving you if they see you wolfing it down like this!" Ashton said teasingly.

Refusing to back down, I snapped back at him with the rock candy in my mouth, "Is that not the case?"

Ashton could only let out a wry chuckle as he said, "Yes, you're right. I've been starving you because I'm the worst husband in the world."

"Exactly! You're the worst!" I stuck my tongue out at him smugly before moving on to the next stall.

I was about to pass by an alley when a kid came running out and crashed straight into me. Having been knocked off balance, I would've fallen on my bottom and embarrassed myself in public a second time had Ashton not been there to catch me in time.

"Are you okay?" Ashton checked me anxiously for any injuries and let out a sigh of relief when he saw that I was fine. He then deliberately took up a stern tone and said, "From now on, you are to hold my hand tightly whenever we're in a crowded area!"

I stuck my tongue out at him mischievously before helping the child up as I asked, "Are you okay, kiddo?"

It wasn't until the child stood up that I realized she was a pretty little girl. I figured she wasn't wearing a mask because her parents feared they wouldn't be able to spot her if they lost her in the crowd.

The little girl was no princess and simply patted her bottom before saying with a bright smile, "Don't worry, ma'am! It doesn't hurt at all! I'm sorry for running so fast and bumping into you!"

What a polite and well-mannered child! On top of that, her voice sounds absolutely adorable too! Of course, not as adorable as my baby girl Audrey, though!

Feeling a lot better after hearing her apology, I generously handed her a stick of rock candy. "Here, this is a reward for bravely owning up to your mistake!"

"Thank you, ma'am! Thank you, mister!" The little girl thanked us both and waited till we gave her a nod before running back into the alley and disappearing into the crowded street on the other side.

Noticing that I was staring at the little girl, Ashton leaned in and whispered softly, "I think Audrey is way better."

Chapter 1609

Of course! No one could possibly compare to his little princess!

As I knew Ashton would never agree otherwise, I simply ignored him and turned around to carry on walking.

I had barely taken a step forward when Ashton yanked me back toward him to check me for injuries a second time.

After taking a moment to confirm that I could stand just fine, he held one of my hands and interlocked our fingers as he said, "I just told you to hold my hand tightly when in crowded places, remember?"

I knew he was simply trying to find an excuse to hold my hand, but I didn't have any evidence to support my argument. As such, I had no choice but to walk hand in hand with him.

However, we didn't get very far before I felt something tugging at my right sleeve.

I turned around and noticed the little girl from before staring at me with puppy-dog eyes.

“What is it, kiddo?” I asked.

“Rock candy,” she replied. Although she didn’t say anything about wanting more, it was obvious from the sight of her licking her lips.

Did she finish it already? But it hasn’t even been two minutes! “Didn’t I give you one just now? Did you drop it or something?” I exclaimed in shock.

She shook her head and pointed at the street behind her as she replied, “It was my sister that you gave it to.”

I shifted my gaze toward the direction she was pointing at and saw another girl who looked just like her. She was standing next to a food vendor and waving a stick of rock candy happily. It was an adorable sight to behold, but I felt a spine-chilling sensation spreading throughout my body instead. I then subconsciously handed the little girl my rock candy and only snapped out of it after she left.

Ashton and I continued strolling through the night market, but I couldn’t seem to concentrate as my mind was all over the place.

It is indeed difficult to tell two completely identical people apart. What if I had an identical twin? Would the people around me be able to tell us apart?

I was so lost in thought that I didn’t even notice Ashton falling behind. It wasn’t until I had gotten really far that I noticed he wasn’t next to me and quickly turned around.

There were tons of tourists on the busy street behind us, but Ashton's height allowed him to stand out in the crowd even though he was dressed rather plainly.

Even so, we were soon separated by a huge crowd crossing the street between us.

"The ninety-nine couples are about to make their marriage vows on stage! Head over now if you are interested in witnessing the event!"

As everyone was running toward their destinations in a hurry, I had to stand on my tiptoes just to see where I was going.

I used to think nothing of crowded places whenever I saw clips of them on television. I always thought it was just people being a little closer to each other, only to realize how hard they were bumping into each other when moving. A tiny and frail woman like myself could easily get lost and stuck in the crowd.

"Ashton!" I called out to him desperately as I felt my legs go weak from anxiety.

Despite insisting on us sticking together a while ago, he had disappeared completely from sight within seconds when the crowd began rushing about.

The next thing I knew, an arm had wrapped itself firmly around my waist.

I turned around immediately and saw Ashton leaning in close as he tightened his grip on me.

His sudden appearance caught me completely off guard, and I found myself frozen in shock for a couple of seconds.

“I’ll recognize you.” He then took a moment to catch his breath before continuing, “No matter where we are, no matter how many Scarletts are out there, I’ll always be able to recognize you instantly. Won’t you have a little more faith in your husband?”

I knew he had a strong understanding of human behavior, but I didn’t think he would notice such a subtle change in my facial expressions.

Regardless, my feelings of unease had nothing to do with him as they stemmed from my fear of the unknown. Unsure of what to say, I simply pursed my lips and kept quiet.

Ashton broke into a wry smile and gave me a comforting hug before holding my hand as he led me through the crowd. “For now, let’s go watch the couples make their vows. I’ll take you somewhere special later.”

Chapter 1610

We soon arrived at the venue for the event and saw that the organizers had placed choral risers on the stage for the ninety-nine couples to stand on. That way, neither of them would have their faces blocked by the person standing in front of them.

Their wedding attires looked a lot more vibrant under the warm lighting, and the colors were reflected on the faces of the guests standing close to the stage.

Instead of the overwhelming euphoria that I experienced during Ashton’s proposal earlier, seeing the couples boldly make their vows on stage had a kind of soothing effect on me. It helped suppress my feelings of unease temporarily, and I silently gave them my most sincere blessings.

Ashton then brought me out of there after the couples completed the ritual.

“If you like it, we can have people organize their weddings here every day,” he said as we casually strolled down the street.

Knowing that he was trying to distract me, I teased him by asking sarcastically, “Aren’t you supposed to do that for me alone? What, is it too expensive for you?”

Ashton arched an eyebrow at me and replied with a smirk, “I’m fine with that. You might not be able to handle it, though.”

“Are you underestimating me? Besides, it’s not like it takes a lot of effort to play the role of the bride. All I have to do is walk a few steps and sit in the carriage...” I mumbled softly as I followed behind him.

Ashton simply chuckled in response and said nothing further, which struck me as a little strange.

It wasn’t until we moved further away from the crowd that I realized Ashton was headed outside of the area.

“Are we heading back now?” I asked as we got closer to the entrance.

I kind of feel like spending some time with him alone. It is our wedding night, after all. Honestly, it has been ages since I felt like just clinging to Ashton and spending lots of time just doing nothing in particular. Maybe it’s because we’ve already gotten to that stage where everything is stable in the relationship.

“Not yet,” Ashton replied and continued heading toward the parking lot.

He then found the black MPV that Joseph had parked there and opened the door before helping me into the car.

The car was empty, save for a laptop that Ashton began working on after sitting down.

He then pulled up a bunch of pictures on the screen and zoomed in on them so I could have a clearer look.

They were all pictures of “me” attending high-end social events with different men, but the woman in the picture obviously wasn’t me.

In the last picture, I was able to clearly see the incomplete photograph that was in the woman’s purse.

Although I had finally found out that the mysterious man was none other than Nathaniel, it was nothing worth being surprised about.

After all, Nathaniel was incredibly adept at making comebacks. Given how he had taken out the entire Hall family, it would make perfect sense that he was the mastermind behind everything.

“Feel safer now that you know who’s behind all this?” Ashton asked casually, showing no signs of pressure from Nathaniel’s actions whatsoever.

“A little, I guess.” I let out a long and deep breath and stared at the pictures on the computer in confusion. “Nathaniel hates the Hall family and has always wanted to be free from it. Why would he still do this to us now that he already got what he wanted?”

“Don’t bother trying to understand a madman’s logic!” Ashton replied with a sarcastic chuckle.

Having found someone to target my emotions at, I exclaimed angrily, “It’s really annoying, though. We could all go our separate ways and live our lives peacefully! Why won’t he just leave us alone?”

As much as I hate to accept this fact, there are always people who can't stand others living happily and will do everything they can to take that happiness away. When will this madness end? Are they planning on fighting until one of them is dead?

After taking a moment to calm myself down, I turned toward Ashton and suggested, "Should we take the initiative to arrange a meet-up with Nathaniel and see what he wants? It doesn't matter if he wants money, power, or even an apology. We'll just give him what he wants in exchange for him to leave us alone."

Chapter 1611

Ashton gave me a gentle caress on the back before staring blankly ahead as he said, "He doesn't want any of those."

His tone was calm, but I could feel the tension in his words and asked with a frown, "You mean... He just wants to destroy us completely?"

Ashton was quick to reject his own theory. "No, he has no reason to go that far. There are no unresolvable conflicts between us, nor do we owe him anything."

The lighting in the car was really dim, and I couldn't even make out his facial expressions unless he spoke.

After a moment of silence, Ashton sat upright all of a sudden and put the laptop aside before tracing a pattern on my palm.

"Do you know what I just wrote?" he asked after completing the pattern.

I was so distracted trying to figure out his emotions that I didn't really pay attention to what he was doing. "Stovall?" I guessed as all I recalled were the letters "S", "T", and "O".

"Correct," Ashton said with a smirk before tracing another word on my palm.

This time, I paid attention and gave him my answer before he even asked. "Fuller, your family name."

Ashton finished tracing the word before looking up at me as he said, "Nope, that's the wrong answer. I traced the word 'Stovall' both times."

"That's impossible! I clearly saw you trace the word 'Fuller'!" There was no way I would get it wrong as I had been staring at his finger the whole time.

Ashton simply maintained the faint smile on his face as he continued tracing the third word on my palm.

This time, he even made sure to slow down and traced the word in a neat and clean motion, so it was hard to get it wrong.

However, I had learned from my mistake and waited till he traced the last alphabet before saying confidently, "It's 'Audrey'."

"Wrong again, Letty. I've been tracing the same word I did before." Ashton's reply didn't surprise me in the slightest as I was kind of expecting it at that point.

"What are you playing at, Ashton? I don't get it at all!" I exclaimed with a frown.

Ashton simply chuckled before looking up at me as he said seriously, "The wrong answer isn't always wrong. Remember the answers today, Letty. It's going to be our secret."

Sensing that he was trying to hint at something, I took a moment to process his words and eventually understood what he meant.

That would be a great way for him to identify if someone with my appearance is the real Scarlett! Ashton had come up with a perfect counter to Nathaniel's strategy, so we'd be able to handle them should they make a move! There really is no need to let a bunch of clowns like them affect our mood.

With that in mind, the tension in my chest seemed to have disappeared completely, and I smiled at Ashton as our gazes met.

Ashton had managed to relieve my anxiety and concerns in just thirty minutes simply through his understanding of my emotions. This man was still continuously giving me surprises even at his age.

I was gradually succumbing to his gentleness and slowly discarding my armor in this silent battle for dominance between us. At some point, I would surrender completely and be unable to leave him anymore.

Despite being well aware of that fact, I would still let it happen willingly because he was worth it.

The pain and suffering in the past had rid Ashton of his hot temper and changed him from a violent monster into a gentle husband who prioritized me over everything else.

Chapter 1612

Ashton and I continued to stare into each other's eyes for quite a while until he suddenly stole a kiss from me and said with a smirk, "I don't know if I can hold myself back until we get home if you keep looking at me like that."

I could tell he wasn't kidding as he was breathing heavily, but I was in such a good mood that I wasn't afraid to tease him. "So what? It's not like you're going to do it here in the..."

Before I could even finish my sentence, Ashton had lunged forward and placed both hands on my seat's armrest, trapping me within his arms in an instant.

I didn't think he was seriously going to do it and began to panic when I saw him moving closer with a mischievous grin on his face. "Hey, calm down! We're in a parking lot!"

However, Ashton showed no intentions of stopping and simply pushed my seat all the way back so I was lying flat on my back, putting us both in a much more intimate position.

I could clearly hear the passers-by egging us on, but that only seemed to make him even bolder.

With the press from all over the city here at the cultural festival, I was really afraid of them catching our intimate action on camera.

"Stop it! There are journalists around!" I protested while pushing at Ashton's shoulders.

"I'll try to keep it inconspicuous." The tone of his voice had changed, and I could clearly feel his burning lust even with my hands between us.

Oh, sh*t... This is bad... Ashton didn't get enough action in the bedroom earlier and is serious about doing it right here in the car! I don't know how I'd face my kids if those journalists catch us on camera! I have to figure something out fast because he knows all of my weak spots and will quickly have me under his control...

Eventually, I decided to compromise and said, "Let's head back to our bedroom. It won't take long."

Seeing no response from Ashton, I wrapped my arms around his neck and gave him a kiss on the cheek as I added, "You can do anything you want to me once we get back to the bedroom."

With a gleeful smirk on his face, Ashton immediately let go of me and got out of the car.

I tidied up my clothes before following suit.

It was a ten-minute walk back to the mansion, but we arrived in less than five. Ashton then had his way with me throughout the night and only let go of me at dawn.

Although Ashton and I had been very cautious and spent less than half an hour in the parking lot, the paparazzi was surprisingly able to catch us on camera and published our intimate photos in the entertainment magazines.

Stars of the grand wedding spotted in the parking lot on their wedding night!

Every second is precious on the wedding night, and yet they spend half an hour in the parking lot?

John and Emma were grinning while reading the entertainment magazine when Ashton brought me home.

Their smiles widened the moment they saw us return, sending a little shiver down my spine. "What happened? What's so funny?"

"Oh, it's nothing!" John regained his composure and cleared his throat before teasing us with a straight face, "Looks like some people have been rather wild on their wedding night."

Emma tried her best to maintain a poker face, but the slight smile on her lips was a dead giveaway, and the mischievous glint in her eyes made it all the more obvious.

Unable to suppress my curiosity any longer, I let go of Ashton's hand and stepped forward to snatch the magazine over from John.

After taking a good look at the photos of us in the van and the suggestive headlines, I felt so embarrassed that I wished the ground would just open up and swallow me whole.

In order to make it sound even more convincing, the articles even mentioned a previous incident where an idol had sex with his fan in a van.

"W-Which press company is responsible for this? How could they invade our privacy like this?" I stamped my feet in anger and frustration.

"So it is true, then? Wow, I didn't expect you guys to do such a thing at your age!" John's words simply added fuel to the flame.

I couldn't even tell if my face was red from anger or embarrassment, and I found myself unable to argue with him at all.