

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1713-1717

Chapter 1713 Time To Leave

He raised his hand to point at the screen behind him. "Look carefully. Besides his handsome face, Ashton is just like me. Can you still claim to love him?"

Do I need a reason to love someone? After all, love is a feeling that needs no reasoning.

Alas, I knew Nathaniel wouldn't get it.

Suddenly, I realized Nathaniel's intention. It wasn't enough for him to drag Ashton into hell, for he also wanted me to fall out of love with Ashton and make him lonely and desolate before ending up as a monster like him.

I wouldn't let him have his way. "So? Can't I love him for his looks?"

When Nathaniel's smile finally slipped a notch, I went all out in provoking him. "Why? Are you going to change your face to Ashton's and replace him to live with us? Oh, let me see. You claimed to be God, but in fact, you can't even bring yourself to look at your own face. Am I right?"

Nathaniel's expression darkened as an ominous black thundercloud of temper settled over him. "Do you think you're smart?"

"Did I say something wrong?" I persisted. "You can see through everyone, so I'm sure you know greed drives us to achieve more. You hate the fact that Ashton is being loved by someone, and living a better life. In fact, you think you are his savior and wanted to rid him of his feelings. Unfortunately, love will never die. The sad truth is you're driven by jealousy. You are jealous that Ashton has everything that you'll never have!"

Crash!

Nathaniel flung the wineglass before him out forcefully, and it landed on the ground with a crash. The red liquid flowed out like an exploded atom among the broken pieces of glass, red and dangerous, just like his expression.

I stuck my chin up but said nothing else. Going to the extreme might backfire on me, so I couldn't afford to provoke him any further.

The silence went on for thirty seconds, but Nathaniel refused to utter a word.

I knew it was time for me to leave.

Getting to my feet, I grabbed my bag and glanced at Nathaniel, who was deep in thought. "You might feel excited at the thought of wiping out the powerful love Ashton's loved ones have for him, but sorry to disappoint you today. So, I have to apologize in advance. If Ashton doesn't come back safely, I'll love him until the end of my life. Not only me but his family will be waiting for his return. You'll never get what you want!" I declared.

Having said my piece, I turned and strode to the door. When I pushed it open, Nathaniel's assistant stopped me.

"Mr. Hall?" he asked carefully.

I looked back, but Nathaniel didn't even spare us a glance. He made a gesture to order his assistant to let me leave.

His assistant immediately stood aside, and I strode out.

I only relaxed when the elevator doors closed before me.

Nathaniel must've understood the underlying meaning in my parting speech. The only way to destroy Ashton completely was to release him. As long as Ashton got to come back, everything can be solved.

Perhaps Nathaniel wouldn't do as told, but I had no other choice.

Come back, Ashton. I've done everything I could.

Things didn't go as smoothly as expected. I didn't receive any news about Ashton for two days in a row.

A day later, I received news from Holden that Ashton had appeared in a deal with some Venrians in Thymion three days ago. It should be the deal Nathaniel showed me live that day.

One would need to work hard his whole life to be a righteous person, but it would take a split second to become a bad person. I did not know when Ashton would give up on himself, so I had to do something before that happened.

John and Emery busied themselves to resolve this problem. It seemed that Holden didn't want to offend Nathaniel and the forces behind him, so the information he provided later was scarce. He was, after all, a businessperson who was used to being hypocritical. Nevertheless, his action reminded me not to depend on one source only.

Chapter 1714 Summer Is Back

As I couldn't get any more information from Holden, I thought of Rebecca. Perhaps I could probe her to get more clues. I had no other choice for now.

Outside the club, I hung around for a long time but couldn't bring myself to head in.

To be honest, after the truth was revealed, Ashton wasn't the only one who couldn't accept it after hiding the truth for years. As I had labeled myself as the victim for years, I had no idea how to face Rebecca.

I guess even the most hateful person deserved some pity. When I was the cause of her pitiful state, I couldn't really say that in a confident manner.

A small discrepancy could lead to a great difference. No one could be sure if Rebecca could lead a different life if she hadn't been sexually assaulted back then.

I was too deep into my thoughts that I only snapped back to reality when someone called my name a few times behind me.

Swiveling around, I saw Rebecca before me. We cross paths again. Before I could figure out what to say, Summer got down from the car behind her and caught my attention.

“Mommy,” Summer greeted me calmly. Her tone was flat, and I could not decipher any emotions from it.

She didn’t inform me when she decided to leave the country, and now she was back with Rebecca in tow. I couldn’t help but think of the worst. Furrowing my brows, I demanded in an authoritative manner, “Why didn’t you go home now that you’re back in the country?”

“You’re not even her biological mother. Does her whereabouts concern you?” Rebecca was as sharp as usual.

I ignored her and waited for Summer’s answer patiently.

Summer glanced at Rebecca and looked down instead of replying to me.

Her silence proved she was on Rebecca’s side, creating an invisible wall between me and them. We were standing face to face, but it seemed like there was a bridge between us that we could never cross.

I didn’t want to force Summer or watch as she took the wrong path. Thus, I did my best to salvage things. “Things have been pretty rough lately. You should move back home as soon as possible. Greg and Audrey miss you a lot.”

After a pause, I added, “Moreover, I’m worried about leaving you alone, too.”

Summer remained unfazed. Her pretty eyes were as calm as a lake, and I couldn’t figure out what was on her mind.

She nodded as though she couldn’t get used to my kind words. After giving me a pursed smile, she walked into the club.

Rebecca burst out in giggles. "Oh, I've taken a liking to her. She's interesting."

That wasn't good news to me. I frowned at her gloating figure, at a loss for words.

Seeing my reaction, Rebecca stopped giggling and glared at me. Then, she wanted to leave too.

When she walked past me, I finally plucked up the courage to ask, "Where is Ashton?"

Her footsteps halted as she turned to look at her. Surprise and arrogance flashed across her face. "Did I hear it right? Aren't you stuck together like glue? Why are you asking me where he is?"

"Are you begging me for help?" Rebecca raised her voice, attracting the passers-by's attention. Her sense of competition was invoked, and she continued to raise her voice. "I said, are you begging for my help?"

Well, Rebecca was her usual self. Though she had a new face, her heart was still as black as tar. The only way for her to gain happiness was to trample on someone else's dignity.

I knew that giving in might make things worse, but I felt guilty. Words failed me. Just like Ashton's countless hesitations back then, when I had to face someone who took the blame for me, my previous presumptuous statements pricked at my heart and corroded my soul.

"Get on your knees." Rebecca's voice rang out clearly. "If you kneel down before me, I might consider telling you something about Ashton."

She crossed her arms arrogantly, enjoying the excitement of dominating me.

I had only one thought in my mind. If I kneel before Rebecca, does that mean that we're even now?

Chapter 1715 Are You All Right

Seconds later, I found my foolish thought ridiculous. As guilt had overwhelmed my heart, I didn't even think of fighting back and kept thinking of an excuse to get to my knees.

Perhaps I fell silent for too long, for Rebecca grew increasingly restless. "Will you get on your knees or not? I'm running out of patience. I won't bear responsibility if something happens to Ashton!" she declared.

Her words acted like a jab of adrenaline that boosted the energy within me before it could fade away. Nothing was more important than Ashton now. My fists balled up as I made up my mind to kneel before her.

Watching as I lowered my body slowly, Rebecca lashed out, "You should've done this a long while ago, Scarlett. Even if you kneel here forever, you can't make it up to what you and Ashton did to me! To be honest, kneeling before me and begging for my forgiveness isn't enough. That's nothing compared to what you took away from me. Soon, you'll find out what it feels like to be in hell!"

Suddenly, something tugged at my nerves. I snapped back to my senses after comprehending Rebecca's words. Does she mean she'll never stop taking revenge even if I get on my knees and offer an apology? Even if I discard my pride and dignity, Rebecca will never give in. She wants to see us die a horrible death. I bet she wants Ashton to remain missing forever so we won't reunite with each other. There's no way she'll be kind enough to tell me about his whereabouts.

Coming to my senses, I promptly straightened my back and returned her sharp glare with an equally sharp one. No debts were equal. Just because I had a bottom line, I should be submissive to her? What about my dead child? Who would make it up to me?

"What about the child you killed in my womb? Did he plead for your mercy every night?" I calmed down and returned coolly. She was nothing but an ordinary person to me now.

Surprise flashed across her gaze. Rebecca had to gulp to steady herself. Trying to cover her guilt, she said, "Stop intimidating me with that child. If Ashton hadn't misled me back then and made me stay with him, I wouldn't have fallen in love with him and ended up becoming your scapegoat!"

"You want someone to die? Go take Ashton's life, then! He is the one who deserves to die!" Indeed, she was as unreasonable as usual. I was a fool to think that she'd learn to at least think in someone else's shoes. Clearly, I was too naïve.

Her pronounced guilt feelings were indicated by extremely exaggerated actions. It was useless to argue with her. Instead of wasting time with Rebecca, I decided to head back to think about my next step.

Shutting my eyes, I took a few deep breaths to cool down. I then turned to leave.

Refusing to give up, Rebecca stepped forward to grab my arm. I didn't expect that and slipped, falling onto my back.

Before I lose my balance, a pair of arms held my waist. My subconscious mind told me my hero should be Ashton, for I missed him dearly. However, after a brief dizzy spell, a pair of hypocritical eyes underneath glasses appeared in my line of sight.

Nathaniel's lips curled up into a smirk. "Are you all right?"

Instinctively, I stood up and moved aside to keep a distance between us.

The smile on Nathaniel's lips broadened. He looked like a sly fox who had abducted its prey but kept it alive just for the thrills.

After regaining my composure, I looked up to see an expressionless Ashton standing beside him.

They came at the same time, but it was Nathaniel who rescued me. Is he trying to avoid suspicion or hiding it from everyone?

Without waiting for my question, Nathaniel told me, "As you wish, I've brought him back. Are you satisfied now?"

With the pleasant smile hanging on his lips, he looked every inch the harmless man. His black-framed glasses seemed like a two-way mirror. He might look sincere and intelligent on the outside, but only those who had faced him off would know how horribly vicious and ambitious he was.

Chapter 1716 Picking A Fight

I refused to believe that he fulfilled my wish just to please me. He must have his own agenda.

We would get what we each wanted, so I didn't bother saying thank you. I walked to Ashton and tried to show him how upset I was. "Let's go home."

Ashton's icy gaze landed on me. Without saying a thing, he looked like he was taunting me for trying to warm a stone up.

We locked gazes, and I felt a distant feeling that I haven't felt in forever. A kite had broken free of its string, never looking back.

Disappointment and anger took over. Suddenly, I had the urge to act in a wicked manner, just like John. As Ashton was unfazed, I whipped out my phone and made a call to John's subordinate, a leader of the mercenaries in K City. "Bring a few men to Fuller Corporation's biggest club now."

After making the order, I hung up and glared at Ashton indignantly.

B*stard! I shall tie you up and force you to come home with me!

“What do you have in mind?” Finally, Ashton spoke up. His eyes narrowed as he tried to figure out my plan.

I was pissed off at his icy cool attitude.

Picking a fight, huh? I shall play along then!

“What do you think?” I stood on tiptoes until our cheeks nearly collided. “You’re the Stovall family’s live-in son-in-law, my husband, and my children’s father. I can do anything I like, right?”

Ashton shrunk away a little, trying to keep a distance from me, but he had no route of retreat and could only hold his head high.

The dappled sunlight landed on his face, and I could see every inch of his face clearly. His thick and long eyelashes were fluttering slowly. They were curled up like butterfly wings.

It only took one look to make me fall in love with him all over again. Why did he change so abruptly?

Behind us, Nathaniel’s persistent voice rang out. “Hmm, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Should I get you a room so you can spend more time together?”

“Of course.” “No need.” Ashton and I spoke at the same time.

After that, he strode into the club eagerly. "Women are annoying."

He went past Rebecca and disappeared from sight, leaving me alone. Rebecca promptly mocked, "Hear that, Scarlett? Ashton is dumping you. He no longer wants you! You're just a joke. No one wants you!"

Am I in his way?

Though I wasn't offended by her words, Ashton had invoked my wrath. I lashed it out at Rebecca without hesitation. "Oh? What about you, then? Even when Ashton got sick of me and ended up dumping me, he didn't even bother sparing you a glance!"

"Hey!" Rebecca pointed at me angrily. She clenched her jaw before calming down. "I forgot. I don't care whether Ashton loves me or cares for me. Most importantly, he's on the same side as me. I'll keep him company as he commits all sorts of crimes. I shall watch as he becomes someone he used to despise. Now, you can't do anything to stop him. Isn't that exciting?"

"Dream on," I managed between gritted teeth. My voice was low but frosty.

Rebecca's lips twitched. "Let's see about that."

With that, she sauntered into the club happily.

I turned and stared at the club's glorious signage. It wasn't open for business yet, so the entrance was dark as though it was an entrance to hell.

"Your men will take some time to arrive. If you're bold enough, come in and take a seat."

Nathaniel's invitation seemed like a challenge. He was telling me that he had set up a stage to see if I was bold enough to accept the challenge—no matter what Ashton became, I'd still love him.

Chapter 1717 An Unfazed Summer

I didn't take the bait, but I also refused to leave. Standing by the road, I waited for John's men to arrive and drag Ashton back home.

Two minutes later, the sound of tables and chairs smashing sounded inside the club, and some staff began pleading for mercy.

"Mr. Fuller, please spare Wilson's life. He knows his mistake!"

"Stop it! He'll die if this goes on. Please..."

"We prepared two accounts to protect Ms. Summer's club. She's your daughter! How could you..."

Oh, no!

Dread rose in my heart as I scurried in frantically.

In the dim hall, the only light was shining on the couch that Nathaniel and Rebecca had occupied. On the other side, Wilson Lipward and another male employee had collapsed on the ground, their faces swollen and bruised. Ashton's shiny leather shoes right beside them caught my attention.

Hearing the noise at the entrance, Ashton turned to glance at me briefly before he gave Wilson another kick.

As his kick landed on Wilson's jaw, the latter rolled over and hit the bar counter behind him. He immediately lost consciousness.

"Ashton, what are you doing?" I demanded.

Alas, Ashton showed no signs of stopping. He grabbed an empty wine bottle and headed for the other male employee.

"No, Mr. Fuller. Please, don't do this to me!"

"Stop it!"

Crash!

The wine bottle smashes into pieces upon contact with the employee's head. He immediately covered his head in pain and rolled about.

As though he was nothing but a bystander, Ashton tossed the remains of the bottle aside and stuck his hands in his pockets before disappearing into a side door.

It was an emergency, so I instinctively went up to hold the wound on the employee's head and waited for help to arrive.

Silence ensued. There were two sides. One was a bunch of vicious men in black led by Rebecca, and the other was the employees who remained here in the club to repay Summer's favor. They were huddled in

a corner, anxiousness evident in their gaze. It was obvious that they were afraid of ending up as the next target.

As a business owner, the earnings didn't matter. Once Summer lost the trust of her employees, the business would not grow or even go on for long.

At the sight of the unbothered Summer standing aside, I felt extremely disappointed. My heart ached for her. Perhaps anger had clouded her mind. Alas, she had no idea she was putting her dream at risk.

I couldn't help but express my disappointment, for Summer was my daughter. "Summer Stovall, are you going to do nothing as your loyal employees get bullied?"

Summer glanced at me. "They deserve to be punished for their deeds. Father did a great job." Her voice was steady.

"Do you know what you're talking about, Summer?" I couldn't believe my ears. Is beating someone up a form of punishment?

This was the first time I've ever glared at her sharply. I saw a flash of discomfort in her eyes. She then looked down, refusing to talk to me.

Perhaps she was afraid I'd continue questioning her, for she stood up and left after a brief silence. Her footsteps came to a halt before me. "Mommy, you should go home and take care of Audrey and Greg instead of interfering in someone else's business."

With that, she left through the side door that Ashton had entered earlier without looking back.

What was that? A kind reminder, or a blatant threat?

No, that's impossible. I consoled myself. Macy and I didn't teach Summer to be a ruthless person who disregards life. There was no way she meant something horrible.

I couldn't help but wonder why Ashton and Summer had changed abruptly.

I was temporarily befuddled by their unforeseen change.