

# When There Is Nothing Left But Love

## Chapter 175-178

### Chapter 175

With a sigh of relief, I lay down and got ready to sleep.

The next morning.

I woke up earlier than usual.

Ashton had not woken up yet and he was sleeping very soundly. Even then, his sleeping posture was very pleasant to the eyes. His neat and short black hair revealing his classic facial features which were well-defined.

It was the first time that I looked at his face so carefully.

His eyelashes were very long, his lips were tightly closed and the corners of his lips were turned down slightly!

This facial expression was an indication of constant alertness.

It had been said that people who slept with this posture were persistent and insistent on getting their way.

Indeed, Ashton fitted that description.

He had a broad chest, wide shoulders, and a narrow waist. Additionally, his legs were well-proportioned and slender!

His level of alertness was extremely high even when he was sound asleep.

He opened his pitch-black eyes suddenly with not the slightest bit of sleepiness and staring straight at me.

As our eyes met, I was taken aback for a moment but quickly returned to normalcy.

After a while, his tense body relaxed. His eyes narrowed and he stretched out his hand. "Come here?"

I looked away, without the slightest embarrassment of being caught looking at him in his sleep. "You get more sleep. I'm going downstairs."

Mrs. Eriksen must have gotten up early and gone to the market. The box of fruits that John brought earlier was still in the yard and it was too big for me to move it alone.

I decided I might as well just fill the fruits in a plate and brought some in. John was right. They were all fruits from R Province. The tomatoes were not very big but they tasted good.

The green mangoes were great too. When I was a kid, I always liked to eat that with chili. It tasted superb.

He sent a lot. Macy had always said that she craved for them, so I washed some and packed them for her. After checking the time, I sent her a message.

Since she was still in hospital, I would send them to her later.

Hearing some movement from the top of the stairs, I turned around to look and saw it was Ashton in grey pajamas. He was tall and slim and looked attractive even in pajamas.

"Why don't you sleep in?" It was still early and there was nothing for him to do.

"I can't sleep," Ashton's eyes seemed cold but there was a compelling air about him. Sure enough, he looked at me for a long time and said softly; "I am restless."

I could not help but remain still. I put down my mobile phone and told him plainly, "Later, I shall be going to the hospital to see Macy."

"Scarlett!" He embraced me from behind and his voice was raspy. "Cats tend to be irritable and cranky when they are feeling unsettled. Humans are the same and we haven't done it for a long time."

His voice was full of suppressed desire, "Shall we go to the bathroom? Huh?"

I said nothing.

Sure enough, no matter how proper and well-dressed a man might be; he would become a horny ba\*tard whenever he had sexual urges.

Since silence was consent, he held back no more. His hands moved around my waist and explored, sliding up and down.

"Ashton, this is the living room!" If he continued and if Mrs. Eriksen came home, we would be so embarrassed.

"We'll go to the bathroom!" As he spoke, he had already picked me up and stepped into the bathroom. Then, he turned on the shower before putting me on the edge of the bath. He put his arms around my waist as he lowered his head onto me.

I was not surprised, "Ashton, no..."

His voice was low and seductive as he caught my hands and our fingers intersected...

We did not speak.

After rolling in the tub for nearly an hour, I lay limp in his arms. He washed me and dressed me in some clothes he selected.

He carried me into the living room and placed me on the sofa before going back to bathe himself.

I have finally had a good understanding of the saying – A hungry wolf is an angry wolf.

John called me quite a few times. While Ashton was in the bathroom, I answered the call, feeling quite tired. "What's the matter?"

"Are you awake?" Hearing the tone of his voice, I realized that he had woken up too early and had nothing to do.

"Yes, I am. So, what is it?"

"I want to eat the pasta you cook. You bring it to me later!" His tone was really childish.

I frowned as I felt rather annoyed. "The nurse will do it for you. I have some errands to run later."

"Scarlett," he used a stronger tone, "if you don't bring it for me, I shall come to your place."

This is madness!

I calmed myself down and replied, "Okay. I'll make it for you."

Then, I hung up immediately.

Mrs. Eriksen came back from the market and looked surprised when she saw that I was already up. "Do you have something to do? Why are you up so early?"

"It's nothing. I slept early last night so I woke up early." Then, I got up and took the shopping bag from her hands. "Is there any minced beef in the kitchen?"

She nodded, "Yes, we do. I bought some more today. Why? What would you like to eat? I'll cook for you."

I smiled and said, "I'll eat anything you cook. Just leave some minced beef for me to cook some pasta which I'm bringing to the hospital."

She could not help but feel surprised and she gave me a puzzled look. "Is it for the gentleman who was here yesterday?"

As Ashton was coming downstairs, I smiled without replying to her. Then, I went back into the living room to sit down.

He had changed into a suit and sat down leaning next to me. He looked relaxed as he turned on the TV.

I frowned. "Don't you have any plans for today?" There was so much to do at the office. How could he find time to sit down and watch TV with me?

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He raised his eyebrows. "The tickets to K City for the evening have already been booked. Have you forgotten?"

If he had not brought this up, I definitely would have forgotten.

I was dumbfounded for a moment and then I asked, "What must I bring with me?"

"Nothing!" He put his arm around my waist. "Joseph has arranged everything. We'll be staying for a few days. I'll bring you to meet Aunt Sally!"

"Should we go for another check-up?" The baby is almost seven months old. It didn't develop so well in the early stages. Since we are not familiar with K City, would it not be better to do a check-up before we leave?

Perhaps he knew what bothered me as he said, "Dr. Ludwick has arranged for an obstetrician and gynecologist to come with us. I have also arranged for a doctor in K City, so don't worry."

I just nodded and thought for a while, "Macy and Dr. Crest are still in the hospital. When we go off, who will take care of them?"



"Jared has recuperated well. He just has to stay in the hospital for a few more days. The doctor for Macy said that she can be discharged. If you are worried about her, let her come with us." He had thought of everything so well that I was at a loss for words for a while.

After pondering over it, I asked, "Shall we not go to the family home and say goodbye to Uncle Charlie and Aunt Helen?"

He stopped talking and looked at me. His dark eyes gazed at me for a long time and then he asked, "Scarlett, you don't want to go to K City, do you?"

I was stunned and shook my head. "No, it's just that I'm used to staying here in J City. It's basically strange to go to K City. Besides, I don't sleep well now. I'm afraid it's going to get worse in K City."

I didn't like it and I didn't want to go. Rebecca's biological parents were both there and their power and authority were based there. I had a bad omen that I might get blown up in bits if I go there.

"I have contacted the doctor. This time I won't be there for a long time, at most one month. After seeing Aunt Sally and the doctor, we'll come back. We won't stay for long. You are not well and you need treatment, both for you and for the child. I know that Dr. Kane is with you but both of you are friends. A doctor's judgement may be affected by personal emotions!"

He said this in a very sincere tone so I didn't and couldn't deny it.

Looking down at the palm of my hand, I nodded, "Well, I'll go with your arrangements! What time is the flight tonight?" Later, I would go and see Macy and Jackson. We summoned Jackson back from afar so, I definitely couldn't go off to K City without seeing him.

"Six o'clock!"

I nodded and said plainly, "In a while, I shall go to see Macy."

"I'll go with you!"

I thought of refusing him. Then, I remembered that he needed to see Jared, so I didn't say anything.

After breakfast, I went into the kitchen and started cooking the pasta for John. Mrs. Eriksen refused to let me breathe in the oily fumes and forced me out. I did not protest but just asked her to cook three portions.

It was not far from our villa to the hospital and Ashton's driving was safe and fast so we reached our destination very quickly.

He got a phone call while we were in the lift. We were supposed to visit Macy's ward first but it was improper for him to talk while visiting so he remained at the staircase while I went ahead.

As I entered the ward, Macy looked at me with eyes full of expectation and she said pitifully, "You're here finally. I'm afraid I'll become a permanent part of the hospital. Please help me with the discharge procedures later. I don't want to stay in the hospital anymore. I'm going to suffocate and die here."

She was too funny for words. I handed her the pasta and said, "It's freshly cooked so eat it now. It will turn soggy after a while. Just enjoy it and I will send the other two portions now."

"Two portions? Whom are they for?" She looked at me with a face full of curiosity.

"John and Jared!"

She gaped. "I know Jared is hospitalized. What happened to John?"

This was giving me a headache as it was not easy to explain so I replied, "Ashton beat him up. I'll come back later and tell you about it."

Coming out of the ward, I bumped into Joe and Rebecca. She cast me a glance that was both calm and nonchalant. I always felt that she had changed a lot, seemingly more at peace with herself.

Passing the lunch boxed into Joe's hand, I said, "Mr. Quinn, you don't mind bringing these to Dr. Crest's room, do you?"

Joe raised his eyebrows. "You made them?"

"It was Ashton!" With that, he took the food containers. I did not say much but went to the surgical ward.

John seemed especially good at berating people. At the door of the ward, I could hear him telling the nurse to get out in a very cold tone.

The nurse came out of the ward looking ashen. When she saw me, she pulled my hand and said, "Ms. Stovall, something urgent has come up at home so, I am unable to continue working here. Please will you contact another nurse quickly?"

"Letty, are you here?" From inside the bedroom came John's voice.

The nurse left without saying much.

Entering the ward, I saw John on the hospital bed with a mobile phone in his hand. Seeing me, his gloomy face started smiling "You've got the pasta ready?"

I nodded as I passed the pasta to him, "Don't make things difficult for the nurses. Tonight I'm leaving for K City with Ashton. We'll be there for some time. You'd better get someone to come and take care of you."

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He was taken aback. "What are you and Ashton doing in K City?"

I didn't explain much to him. Besides, he was not seriously injured. Staying in the hospital was just a ploy to get my sympathy. I looked at him and said plainly, "Some business to deal with!"

As I turned around to leave, he raised his voice, with a bit of coldness, "You'd better leave Ashton soon."

I frowned, not wanting to engage in further conversation with him.

When I returned to Macy's ward, she had finished eating the pasta. She had been medicated and was up by herself, peeling the green mangoes I had brought for her.

Seeing me back in her ward, she acted really silly. "Babe, where did you get these green mangoes? They taste exactly like those from the tree in the garden back in R Province.

I sat down beside her and watched her eat quite a few at one go. I couldn't help but feel worried. "You're eating too many. Are you okay?"

She shook her head. "I can finish all that you brought!"

I was speechless. John had brought quite a lot and I almost took all the green mangoes here.

The main reason was that she ate a portion of pasta and then so many green mangoes. Will this affect the baby she is carrying?

"Darn it, you're eating like a horse!" Jackson walked in and exclaimed when he saw the way Macy was eating.

Seeing Nick coming together with him, I felt surprised. "Mr. Harrison, are you with Jackson most of the time?"

Macy was a busybody. With her hands full of green mangoes and looking at the two men, she put on an evil smile. "Are you two doing it?"

"Doing what?" Jackson looked at her and asked, "You'd better stop eating or else you'll die of overeating. Eat less but more frequently. Be careful of your eating habits, Macy."

She sneered and ignored him but turned her attention on Nick. "Mr. Harrison, are you here to visit me?"

Nick looked at me and smiled gently. "Yeah!" It was obviously perfunctory.

Macy curled her lips and kept quiet.

Nick looked at me and asked, "Are you going to K City?"

I glanced at Jackson. This guy told him everything. Nodding my head, I replied, "I'll be there for a few days and will be back soon."

He nodded, "That's good. I have to go over to run an errand. What time are you leaving?"

"My flight is at six in the evening."

"F\*\*\*\*!" Jackson cursed, "Why didn't you mention it earlier?"

I was stunned. "What business do you have there?"

"I could go with you!" When Macy gave him a contemptuous look, he rubbed his nose. "If I had known that you were going to K City, I would have returned to M Country to work."

"Too many things happened in the past few days so I forgot all about it." Then, I looked at Nick and asked, "When are you going to K City?"

"I'll go tomorrow!" He raised his eyebrows. "Perhaps, we'll meet again in a few days' time."

Seeing that we were all leaving, Macy complained, "None of you will be in J City so what am I supposed to do here? That's it. I'm going back to the village and staying there."

Jackson found a seat and sat down. Looking at me, he asked, "Did Ashton plan to take you to a doctor in K City?"

I nodded, "That's part of the plan but not the only reason."

After we had chatted for a while, Ashton came over and asked us to have lunch together.

Macy was well enough to move around but not Jared.



Naturally, I asked, "Is Dr. Crest well enough to move around freely?"

"He's a doctor so he knows better!"

Having said that, I did not have much to say. It was just that when both our friends got together for lunch, the atmosphere might get odd.

Ashton booked a restaurant and we had a big private room in which Nick and Jackson seemed to have an unending list of topics to discuss.

Macy was all focused on the food while Joe was busy looking after Rebecca.

Rebecca tried hard to serve Ashton with some dishes while I took a few mouthfuls of food that he got for me.

It was extremely boring.

Everyone at the table knew each other but didn't meet often. The only stranger was Jackson.

Sitting between Macy and me, Jared looked pale as he still needed to be hospitalized.

He did not speak much and spoke even less now. His gaze fixed on Macy most of the time. Seeing that she was eating without any control, he frowned and said, "Eating too much is bad for your digestive system."

Macy lifted her eyes and glanced at him. She replied with an indifferent expression in a plain voice, "Alright!"

And then, she continued to eat.

That was her character. Seeing that she paid no heed, Jared did not say anymore and just frowned.

Rebecca looked at me, and with a well-controlled and pleasant expression, she spoke gracefully, "Ms. Stovall, would you like to introduce your friend to us?"

She meant Jackson!

Jackson was always babbling and he might even seem to be too carefree. However, he was even more protective of his friends than Macy.

He knew about what happened between Rebecca and Ashton.

From the time we sat down till now, he has been talking to Nick, but his eyes had been looking towards Rebecca, waiting to find a chance to blast her.

At this opportunity, Jackson said, "You must be the legendary Rebecca, right? The one who snatches someone's man by crying, and got accepted into a family by lying?"

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Given the size of the table, he had to raise his voice so everyone could hear.

All eyes were on Rebecca for a while. It was awkward, and nobody spoke, but she took it all in stride. Her face was frozen in an elegant smile, yet she did not seem angered.

"You're surrounded by such upstanding and cultured people, Ms. Stovall," said Joe. "I've barely said a few words, and they're already engaging with me ad hominem.

"Oh, spare us the fancy accusations! Ad hominem indeed!" sneered Jackson. "You're Joe Quinn, I assume. Look, if you want to protect her so badly, then just marry her! Stop her from moping around and pining for someone else's husband like a lovesick puppy."

"Ah, that's human nature, isn't it?" responded Macy. "The grass is always greener on the other side. Forbidden fruit will always taste sweeter if you can't have it for yourself."

I was taken aback by the resentment in her eyes when she looked at Jared. Whatever their history was, it seemed to run quite deep.

Ashton's face sank. "Well, I think pregnant women shouldn't tarry in such hectic places," he said mildly. "Let's all just resume eating."

Rebecca looked aggrievedly at me, but said nothing.

I massaged my temples. That remark was obviously directed at me. Few knew about Macy's pregnancy, but my belly was bulging.

"What a bold display of favoritism!" retorted Jackson smugly.

Nick glanced at me with a mild expression. Having also noticed that Jackson had passed over a dish to him, he frowned with some displeasure. "You know that I don't like fish."

"You will once you eat it!" Jackson seemed to be in relatively decent spirits. He was constantly pestering Nick to try new things, but his actions seemed ambiguous.

It was odd, considering how it was only a meal.

Jared had initially required to remain in hospital, but he refused to stay there since he was already nearing a complete recovery. To compensate for this, he employed a personal doctor to see to his needs. Macy was much better now so she insisted on being discharged.

Jackson turned around and tossed the car keys at me. "I'm also getting ready to depart for M Country. Please call me any time, should you have any problems."

Ashton and I had a plane to catch so we went straight back to the villa to pack.

It was ten o'clock at night by the time we reached K City. Someone had been assigned to pick us up from the airport in a black limousine.

Ashton was juggling with the luggage and me when suddenly, a middle-aged man exited the car. In a very respectful tone, he gave Ashton a heartfelt greeting.

Ashton nodded at him and handed our luggage to him before helping me into the car. I was drowsy but still managed to catch the introduction Ashton provided. The man was Croyden, his aunt's butler.

I gave him a slight nod to greet him but soon dozed off on Ashton's shoulder. It might have been the long flight, coupled with the running around all day. In no time, I fell into a deep slumber.

I didn't even wake up when Ashton brought me to our room.

When I woke up the next day, I was dumbstruck. The furnishings in the room seemed oddly familiar. I was sure that we were already in K City, so what was all this?

While I noticed the similarities between the furnishings in the bedroom and what we had in the J City villa, these items seemed to be newer and more up-to-date. It was likely that the designs were a bit less popular due to how new they were.

I lay down for a while longer to get rid of the drowsiness before finally getting up. The layout of the bedroom was the same as that of the villa we lived in. Even the toiletries were brands that I used frequently, arranged per Ashton's instructions.

When I stepped out of the bathroom, I saw Ashton standing there in a full suit. He smiled and asked, "Did you sleep well last night?"

I nodded and gave him the once-over. He was dressed in his usual all-black, custom-designed suit, just like everything else he owned. "Have you considered wearing other colors?"

I had bought him clothing in other colors before, but they were all hanging in the closet, untouched.

He arched a brow and walked towards me. "I can try!" With that, he proceeded to tug my arm towards the exit.

I froze for a moment. "At least let me get dressed!"

"Go have breakfast first. You can change after eating!"

I frowned. "Aren't we at your aunt's place?"

He shook his head and took my hand. "It's too hectic over there and crowded to boot. For that reason, I bought this place. I was concerned that you wouldn't be able to sleep well. The bedroom has been designed according to the villa in J City, but it is much larger. It'll also be easier to cater to the arrival of the baby."

His thoughtful consideration surprised me. Immediately, I felt warmth bloom in my heart. Smiling at him, I asked, "Is Mrs. Eriksen here too?"

"No." Pulling me out of the bedroom, he said, "Someone needs to manage things in J City. However, I've hired some part-time staff, a personal doctor, and housekeepers to tend to your needs. They live in the next block."

I didn't understand what he meant initially but learnt later that it had to do with the layout of the grounds itself. It was a large, elegant Oriental-style building divided into three main blocks. The main building, where Ashton and I lived, was two-story high. The other two buildings housed the doctor, the housekeepers, and a few bodyguards.

The whole place was also beautifully landscaped. A rockery and water feature adorned the main house and garden, but it was also filled with seasonal fruits and vegetables. The backyard was mostly filled with fruit trees. Extra care was taken to include flowers and plants that were in season to decorate both areas.

It was a large place. After breakfast, Ashton led me on a tour of the place and told me to get dressed. We were going to visit his aunt.