

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1753-1757

Chapter 1753 Joseph Vanishes

"Yes! Do it!" As I bantered with him, I sensed that something was amiss and wondered if he had just chosen to trust Ashton.

Having read my mind, Emma explained, "It was my decision. I thought it was worth betting on Ashton's character, so I convinced John to stop stressing you out. Unexpectedly, you came back with this pleasant news. Now that we are certain Ashton is on our side, we are free to plan our next move."

"Really?" I looked at her in surprise, and at once, all my worries disappeared.

Emma nodded to reassure me.

"Emma." I was so moved that I was lost for words. I simply extended my hands and hugged her to show my appreciation.

Emma patted me on my shoulders and quickly let go of me. "There, there, it's not the time to be sentimental. The Lyons family needs me now, so I'll have to head over with John."

I nodded in understanding but stopped her again after a second. "Would going to the office affect John's injury?"

Emma replied with a smile, "It's no big deal. He's just going to meet some of the shareholders. Even though John and I have been married for a few years, he has not shown himself to everyone associated with the Lyons family. Now that my family is in trouble, and the elders refuse to listen to my explanation, I have no choice but to bring John to see them. After all, he is the only one they trust to rescue them."

Suddenly, a sense of bitterness crept into me when I imagined how tough it had been for Emma over the years. She was a capable wife who had built a business empire worth billions together with John. And yet, she barely had any authority within her own family.

It was fortunate that I didn't insist on John keeping himself warded. Or else, I would have added to Emma's pile of problems.

I nodded in agreement and said in concern, "Since you're heading to see the Lyonses, it wouldn't be convenient for me to show up now. I suppose Nathaniel is attacking the Lyons family in an attempt to test whether I can truly forsake everything for Ashton's sake."

To win this psychological war, I needed to refrain from showing myself. In terms of the finances of the two families, we had to ensure that they were not tied together. After all, data was the best form of evidence. In the event Nathaniel discovered it, we would lose the best opportunity to gain his trust.

However, due to the fact that Ashton and I weren't powerful enough, we still needed John and Emma to lend us a hand. Thus, I added, "Although I can't prove that I am the Scarlett of old, my fingerprints and signature are still legally binding. I'll sign a document and send it to Emma's home. When the time comes, take the document to Fuller Corporation and ask for help. By pretending to sabotage Ashton, we can trick Nathaniel into thinking that there are some disagreements and lower his guard. That way, we will have more room to maneuver."

"That makes sense. It always pays to be careful." Emma let out a long sigh. Suddenly, as if something had hit her, she asked, "Why don't we make it even more convincing by having a fallout in public?"

John laughed heartily. "There's no need to overdo the drama. The lesser we do, the lesser the chance of making mistakes. Or else, we might simply attract too much attention."

John's words alleviated the tension in the atmosphere. In truth, I had always admired John for his ability to laugh regardless of the circumstances he faced.

After escorting them to the elevator, I did not go any further with them. John would be staying with the Lyons family going forward to create the impression that he had failed to stop me despite his injury. By doing so, we could create the illusion that we had fallen out with each other.

On my way home, I received a call from Joseph's nurse.

"Ms. Stovall, Mr. Campbell has disappeared!"

My heart sank at the news. I recollected myself and asked, "Calm down, and tell me what happened."

"It's really not my fault. Mr. Campbell complained that the food in the hospital was bad and instructed me to get him something from outside. By the time I returned, he was already gone. Ms. Stovall, please don't deduct my pay. I am really stretched with many mouths to feed at home."

Chapter 1754 Supporting The Lyons

“Forget it. No one can stop him from leaving. This isn’t your fault, and I will pay you for the month as we have agreed. You can go home now.”

After ending the call, I knitted my eyebrows and wondered what Joseph was up to.

Being warded in the hospital was a wonderful opportunity for him to recuperate and wean himself off the drug addiction before it got too serious. By avoiding me like a plague, he made it look as though I was the villain.

Anyway, I figured that they probably had plans of their own. What happened to the Lyons family had served as a lesson to me. Nathaniel would never react in the way an ordinary person would. Therefore, it wasn’t surprising that Ashton had to change his behavior in an effort to challenge him.

Since I was unable to guess what his plan was, I had no choice but to trust him.

Over the next three days, the attack on the Lyons family by an anonymous financier had been widely broadcasted across many financial news channels, causing an uproar within the community. Finally, John, as the representative of Stovall Corporation, had announced that they would invest in the company of the Lyons family. His decision had stabilized the company’s stock price and arrested the losses of the Lyons family in time.

Just when everyone thought that the matter had come to a close, the financier, who had been beaten back the day before, had resurfaced to attack the Lyons family’s newly listed company. Consequently, his actions had caused them significant losses again.

Meanwhile, I had been monitoring the situation closely. Looking at how the matter had escalated, I was worried that Nathaniel was mounting an all-out attack to wipe out the Lyons family. Hence, I quickly gave John a call.

To my surprise, John didn't sound anxious when he answered, "What's wrong, Letty?"

"Are you guys doing okay?" I was baffled. "I saw this expert on the news commenting that the Lyons family is being dragged through the mud by their powerful enemy."

"You should take what those 'experts' say on TV with a pinch of salt. Other than doing research, all they know is discuss matters from a theoretical perspective." John poured scorn on them before lowering his voice as he added, "Don't worry, the matter has been resolved. The unscrupulous attacks on the Lyons family stocks are nothing but schoolboy tactics. With the combined financial strength of Stovall Corporation and the power of attorney you have assigned to me over Fuller Corporation, the attacker is doomed to fail unless there is some form of political intervention or if it's an attempt to destabilize the nation."

It was just as Ashton had described. Fuller Corporation was highly integrated into the nation's economy and wasn't easily shaken. By buying a stake in the Lyons family company, John had directly taken it under his wing.

I sighed in relief, but I still couldn't fully understand the situation. "Isn't the stock market regulated all this while? By conducting such an attack, won't they attract the regulator's attention? Since you claimed that the Lyons family's company is safe, why is the attacker doing something that's detrimental to themselves?"

John broke into laughter. "What do you mean by detrimental? Hasn't Nathaniel already achieved his goal?"

Puzzled, I furrowed my brows until the answer dawned upon me. "Are you saying that this is the same as before? That Nathaniel is just trying to test me?"

"Isn't it obvious?" John replied with certainty. "Remember, you have to remain calm. After so many years, haven't you learned not to panic?"

Having been exposed so straightforwardly, I felt so awkward that I didn't know what to say.

Luckily, John didn't notice my embarrassment as he continued, "Anyway, it doesn't matter because I was planning to call you. I have invited Ashton for negotiations at The Jade tonight. Are you coming?"

"Negotiations? What for?" I asked.

"Of course it's about the stockholdings. Looks like you have forgotten that you own almost as many shares as Ashton does. After I took over, I've blocked many of his decisions. I figured Nathaniel must have ordered him to do something about it; that's why he has approached me to buy my shares."

I pursed my lips. "Creating conflict isn't a bad idea but will going against Ashton at every turn be detrimental to his plan?"

Chapter 1755 Drama

"Not necessarily. We have no idea what Nathaniel is thinking, or how far he is willing to go with this game. Coming from another perspective, he still wants to see how much you are willing to sacrifice for Ashton. Or else, we wouldn't be testing your threshold repeatedly."

According to John, Nathaniel still refused to believe that I was willing to give up everything for Ashton. As a consequence, he wanted me to feel that the Lyons family was still in danger despite being under John's protection.

Fortunately, my first reaction was to call John to understand what had happened instead of rushing off to question Ashton or Nathaniel. If I had done that, everything we did would have been for naught, as I would have exposed my own weakness.

Evidently, Ashton wasn't the only one Nathaniel understood well. Nathaniel easily saw through me too.

Since I had passed the test, I decided to continue with my act. "What time is the meeting tonight?"

"It's at seven."

"I'll see you at The Jade, then."

Since I would be heading to Emery's turf, I thought it would be appropriate to give her advance notice. Hence, I headed directly to her home upon ending the call.

After all, Audrey and Gregory were in school during the day, and John's family had moved in with Emma's family. The entire house felt empty and desolate.

When I reached Emery's house, the guard told me that she had gone out in the morning and didn't say when she would return.

Just when I was about to give her a call, Hunter, who was dressed in casual clothing and sandals, walked out the main door carrying a pair of garden shears.

"Are you here to see Emery?" Hunter's voice sounded more mature with the passage of time. Coupled with his gentle tone, he exuded a charm befitting men of his age.

Time seemed to be kinder to men. The scars of the past felt as if they had never happened before.

“Mm-hmm.” I nodded politely while scrutinizing him. From the way he looked, I wondered if he had moved in together with Emery.

Have they reconciled with each other? But it isn't like Emery to do so.

Sensing what was going through my mind, Hunter waved his shears and explained, “Xavier hasn't been feeling well lately, and Emery is bogged down at work, so I came over for a few days to take care of him. I'm staying in the guest room by the way.”

Hunter's short explanation bordered between drawing a line and indirectly showing off. He sounded as if he would always be a part of Emery's world as long as Xavier was around.

As for me, I had a stubborn attitude toward such matters. Even though it had happened a long time ago, I still didn't know how I should interact with him. In the end, I replied with a smile, “That's between you and her. There's no need to explain yourself to me. Since Emery isn't around, I'll be taking my leave.”

“Do you want me to pass a message?” Hunter was considerate in the way he did things. He would have made a good friend if not for his relationship problems.

“It's fine. I'll just give her a call. Bye.”

With that, I returned to my car. Right after Hunter's figure disappeared from the rearview mirror, I gave Emery a call.

Since I was calling her personal line, she answered at once.

“What's up?” Emery asked directly.

She had grown used to speaking in a forthright manner due to her outspoken character. Although she seemed domineering to outsiders, those close to her knew how comfortable it was to be in her company.

“Wanna watch a drama together tonight?” I asked jokingly.

“Drama?” Emery had no idea what I was talking about. After giving it some thought, she asked, “Are you talking about stage dramas? Since when are you into such arty-farty stuff? What drama and where is it? I’ll see if I can get us some VIP tickets.”

Giggling at how serious she was, I continued toying with her, “The Jade Theatre. And it’s titled ‘The Falling Out of the Siblings.’”

“The Jade Theatre...” Emery repeated cluelessly before she finally got it. She raised her pitch dramatically and questioned me, “What’s going on? Scarlett, are you making a fool of me to kill time?”

Chapter 1756 Make Use Of My Connections

The threat between best friends was the least lethal, especially since I knew how soft-hearted Emery was. I burst out laughing. “No, I’m just kidding.”

“It’s not funny. I was planning to work hard today. If you’re trying to fool around, come again another time,” uttered Emery resignedly yet dotingly. I was sure that even if I pestered her and said a lot of nonsense, she would not get mad at me.

Empathy should be mutual, so I did not take it too far. “Okay. Time to get serious. The Jade will be very lively tonight. Since you’re the owner, I’m here to make use of my connections.”

“That’s more like it. Get straight to the point. What’s going on?” Instantaneously, Emery became good-tempered again. Her employees would probably be wondering which one was her true nature.

I explained the entire situation to her and finally concluded, “So, this is really important. Someone like Nathaniel will definitely make a reservation. I need to know whether he’ll be there or not. Only then can I think of a countermeasure.”

“I see. But this is a matter between Ashton and John. Nathaniel might not turn up,” Emery analyzed.

“No,” I immediately refuted her. “You’re wrong. Nathaniel won’t miss any opportunity to trample on Ashton.”

Destroying Ashton’s happiness was Nathaniel’s greatest joy. It was a morbid obsession. What he could not get, he would not allow Ashton to have it as well. In fact, he would even go to extremes to ruin everyone’s happiness. Therefore, he would definitely show up.

“Wait a minute. I’ll have someone check the guestlist for tonight.”

“Okay.”

After two minutes, Emery’s voice sounded again. “You seem to have guessed wrongly this time.”

“What do you mean? There’s no reservation from Nathaniel?”

“Mm-hmm,” she affirmed. “However, it’s also possible that he might show up without a reservation. VIPs always have the priority no matter what time they turn up.”

I had seen too many unusual behaviors of Nathaniel, so it was not so surprising. Now that I was not sure whether he would appear or not, it was difficult to determine how far I should take the act.

At that moment, I seemed to understand why Ashton had been so indifferent toward me because Nathaniel was like a ghost. It was impossible to know when he would appear and deal a heavy blow. Therefore, it was important to be vigilant at all times.

In that case, I could only give it a shot. "All right. Send me Ashton's room number later so that I don't run around like a headless chicken."

"Don't worry. Look for the manager on duty when you arrive, and he'll lead you there," responded Emery matter-of-factly.

"Things are different now, and rumors are spreading like wildfire. Ashton announced publicly in the company that day that he has taken all my shares. And every entertainment headline these few days is about Rebecca and me. Not to mention that John has moved out of the Fuller residence. The whole world knows that I'm being detested by my own family. Who else will treat me with respect?"

"That's their problem. If any of my subordinates dare to add insult to injury, I'll make sure they can no longer survive in K City." Emery felt indignant on my behalf. Shortly afterward, she smiled. "Why do I sound so serious? It's not like you've really suffered a downfall. All of these are just an act. Anyway, I'll inform all my employees that they'll have to give you special treatment no matter when you come over. Don't worry and go ahead."

"Thank you, then, Ms. Moore," I quipped.

"Yeah, right. Is that all? I'm busy with the accounting reports, so I have to go now. See you tonight."

"Okay, bye."

The car stopped at the intersection of the commercial district when I hung up the phone. I inadvertently glanced out the window and happened to see a giant poster of Rebecca on the exterior of a supermarket building.

She was wearing bold and bright-colored clothes with exaggerated makeup. That kind of fashion style might be acceptable to foreigners, but the natives might think that it was too much. I bet everyone who saw the poster would wonder if she had offended the makeup artist.

Chapter 1757 Obsessive Stalkers

However, Rebecca did not seem to care about that. Half of the advertising spots in the commercial district were full of her posters, and every single one of them looked horrible.

Everyone in K City knew that Ashton was her sponsor, but he had become an embarrassment because of her. It was as if she wanted the whole world to know that Ashton had abandoned his wife and children to be with a woman with such awful aesthetic judgment.

They were like a young couple who was madly in love, wanting the whole world to know that they were quarreling so that everyone could be entertained by the drama.

While the car slowly made its way down the street, I fell into deep thoughts. If it were me, would I still have trust in this world after knowing that everything that went wrong in my life was closely related to the person I loved?

I did not have an answer to the question. No one could really empathize with another person. Even a trivial matter would cause a series of chain reactions. My life is still a mess, so I don't have the leisure to worry about others.

In just a few seconds, Rebecca's face was out of my sight.

Shaking my head, I shrugged off those thoughts and took a deep breath. This isn't the time to think about them.

Later that day, I sent the children to Zachary and Cameron's so that they could look after the children for me. It was already six in the evening when I left the Moore Residence.

Setting off for The Jade, I took out my phone and texted Millie: Millie, are you there?

She replied almost instantaneously: I only work for you. Ms. Stovall, you can give the orders directly.

Seeing that, I continued typing on the phone and went straight to the point: Can you contact the mercenaries hired by John?

Millie: I've lost contact with several of them. The remaining mercenaries can reach your location in twenty minutes.

Startled, I wrote: My location? But I'm still on the move.

Millie: Our people are scattered all over the city to ensure that they can reach the target location within half an hour.

After reading her message, I replied: Okay then. I didn't know that John was such a thorough person. Please deploy all the people you can contact to the vicinity of The Jade. It's always better to be prepared.

Millie: Noted.

Staring at the phone, I mused to myself. As expected of Millie... What a concise reply. She's always calm and proactive, giving me a sense of security.

At that thought, I sent her another text: Since you're working for me, I hope you'll remember this. In the crisis of life and death, please save my family first. Thank you.

The car stopped in front of The Jade after I sent the text. Putting the phone into my bag, I alighted from the car and walked inside.

Thanks to Emery, a waiter was already waiting at the entrance. Once he saw me, he greeted me warmly and showed me in.

Emery had arrived and was explaining something to the manager in the lobby. When she saw me, she hurriedly ended the conversation and approached me. "How is it? Are you satisfied with the special treatment?"

She was being so considerate. How could I have any complaints? Hence, I hurriedly responded with a smile, "Thank you."

"Stop it." Emery could not stand such a cringeworthy situation. She quickly dismissed the waiter and brought me inside. "Follow me. This way."

Since it was peak hours, many customers were going up and down. Consequently, we spent a lot of time in the elevator. Just as we got off the elevator, we ran into Nathaniel and Nora, who came out of the next elevator.

As expected, he would not miss out on any opportunity to be entertained by Ashton's drama.

In fact, other than Rebecca, Nathaniel could also be considered as one of Ashton's obsessive stalkers.

"You're here as well." Nora held Nathaniel's arm, looking noble and elegant. Obviously, my appearance was out of her expectation.

On the contrary, Nathaniel kept an indifferent expression. He was probably immune to my sudden appearance.

He probably did not want to see me. I bet he was afraid to witness my scorching love for Ashton, which would hurt his self-esteem and remind him that despite sharing the same gene, Ashton was cherished by others while he was alone in this world. Even if he died, no one would shed a single tear for him.