

When There Is Nothing Left But Love

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Chapter 253

I raised my brows and shrugged my shoulders, "How funny! That's exactly what I was thinking too!"

Unlike me, Rebecca did have a way with men. But I, too, had a knack for irritating the hell out of her.

Upon seeing how I treated her daughter, Cameron shot daggers at me. "It looks like Ms. Stovall has learned to carry an air of confidence like a true Stovall now."

I responded with a giggle. "I'm sure Ms. Larson is as confident as I am."

"Stop blowing your own horn. You're just a hillbilly who was lucky enough to be adopted by a prominent family. Do you really think you're qualified to take on the family name?"

Wow. That b*tch's mouth is really one of a kind.

I grinned and said nonchalantly. "You're right. I was born a hillbilly and will forever be one. Likewise, an undignified woman will also always be the same no matter how rich she becomes. Am I right, Ms. Anderson?"

Cameron's expression turned grim, and she could not take it anymore. "You better watch your mouth, Ms. Stovall."

I played along and nodded in agreement. At this moment, Sally, who had just left the café, appeared.

Seeing that Sally was here, I intentionally turned my attention to Rebecca's belly and raised my voice, "I heard that my husband, Ashton, is the father to your baby. Is that true, Ms. Larson?"

"It's none of your business." The awkwardness was written all over her face. "Of course, it's Ashton's child. Don't you dare do anything to my baby!"

"What else can I do?" What she said was so ridiculous that I could not stop smiling. Now that Sally had walked toward us, I continued, "Ashton told me he had never had physical

intimacy with you in the past. How did you exactly get pregnant? Did he shoot his baby gravy into your womb from afar?" I winked.

Rebecca's expression turned murderous. "What do you mean? Are you trying to say I don't even know who my baby's father is?"

"I'm sure you know who he is!" Seeing her panic reaction made me believe what John told me earlier. I smiled and continued, "This is why I hope you can leave Ashton alone and don't make him the scapegoat anymore. Shall we take the paternity test to find out who the father is?"

"I'm actually don't mind him having a child with someone else, but since the Fuller's and Stovall's reputation are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry."

As Sally approached us, I turned around and gave her a smile. "What do you think, Aunt Sally?"

Sally was dumbfounded, and her eyes instantly fell on Rebecca's tummy. To defuse the tension, she looked at Rebecca and said in a gentle voice, "Shall we make an appointment to do the test? We just need to find out if the baby belongs to the Fuller family. We have to protect our family reputation, after all."

Rebecca was taken aback as she did not expect I would make this move.

At that point, she was at a loss for words. "You have to trust me, Aunt Sally. Besides, doing the test during pregnancy may cause a miscarriage. Are you willing to risk the life of a member of the Fuller family? Moreover, it's obvious that Scarlett is trying to sow discord between us because she wants to take revenge against me."

I laughed. "Take revenge against you? For?"

"For killing your baby..." Rebecca accidentally blurted out.

Cameron instantly raised her voice and stopped her, "Rebecca!"

Sally must have heard what Rebecca said as she was obviously startled at her sudden confession. However, she decided to just keep mum.

To divert everyone's attention, Cameron looked at me and asked, "What made you think Rebecca's baby is not Ashton's? And why can't we do the paternity test after the child is born?"

She then turned to Sally and said, "If you insist on doing it, fine, we'll cooperate. But from then on, we'll cut ties with the Fullers and raise the baby on our own, even if the results prove that the baby is Ashton's child."

A line formed between Sally's brows, but she did not know how to react to that threat.

She plastered a smile on her face and said, "I think we should talk to Ashton first. Besides, Ashton is already married, so I'm not the best person to make any decision on his behalf."

Well played, Aunt Sally. By shoving the responsibility to Ashton, you don't have to worry about offending anyone anymore.

Cameron's expression changed. She grabbed Rebecca's wrist and left in frustration. On the other hand, Sally gave me a sullen glare that I had no clue what it was for.

Well, I was not bothered by it, anyway. Let's see what would happen in the future.

At about 6 p.m., I received a call from Ashton. "Yes?"

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"You haven't gotten off work yet?" His voice sounded calm and emotionless.

Not deliberating over the question, I merely grunted a response. I glanced at the clock casually and saw that it was already 6 p.m., which marked the end of the workday.

"I have to work overtime today. What's up?" As I had to go to J City tomorrow, I needed to confirm that everything was in order.

After tidying the files on my desk, I noted down some things that I needed to bring tomorrow. Since the phone was completely silent, I thought that he had already hung up.

When I tapped the screen, it showed that the call was still continuing. Hence, I could not help but say, "I might be quite late..."

Before I could finish my sentence, I saw a tall man standing at the entrance. Stunned, I asked, "Didn't the employees of White Corporation stop you?"

He raised his eyebrows and hung up the call. Walking towards my desk, he said, "Work has already ended, so I'm allowed to pick you up."

He's allowed to? I'm not so sure about that.

He glanced at the work I was handling at that moment. "You should eat first before continuing with it."

As I did not have much work left, I initially planned to finish them first before returning home. However, it seemed unnecessary now.

I kept my belongings and stood up. "I'll continue working at home. Let's go!"

There were a lot of people in the office, so it was inevitable for some to recognize Ashton. It was obvious what they were thinking about.

As expected, when Ashton and I left the office, there were a lot of people in the stairway glancing at him and muttering softly under their breaths.

"Isn't he the president of Fuller Corporation? I've seen him on the headlines a few months ago. It was when he announced that the headquarters of Fuller Corporation would be moving to K City for future development."

"Yeah, I saw it too. He's much hotter in person than on television!"

"He's such a mysterious and charming man. But why is he with Ms. Stovall?"

"I heard that he's here to pick her up!"

"Wasn't Ashton engaged with Rebecca two months ago? Why is he together with Ms. Stovall now?"

"Who knows? We can never know what kind of lifestyles the wealthy have. Furthermore, only the Moore family is still harping on Ashton's engagement with Ms. Larson. He has never responded to it at all. I think that the woman from the Moore family likes Mr. Fuller, but he doesn't reciprocate her feelings."

As we exited the White Corporation, Ashton and I overheard a lot of gossips.

It was finally silent again when we got into the car.

Ashton started the engine. Then, he glanced at me and instructed, "Buckle your seatbelt!"

As he drove, I took out my phone and sent a message to Marcus, asking him when the flight tomorrow was.

"Do the employees in the office bully you?" I was stunned by Ashton's sudden question.

I shook my head. "No. What's wrong?"

He pursed his lips and continued, "Do you often hear such gossips?"

"Yeah," I replied softly. Marcus had replied to my message and sent me the timing of the flight. He also reminded me to bring all the items necessary.

When I placed my phone down, I caught him staring at me with a frown. I had no choice but to explain, "Marcus appointed me as the Project Director of White Corporation right off the bat. It's not an extremely high-ranking position, but I have only worked in Fuller Corporation for a few years and even got fired. It's expected that people in the company would gossip about me."

When I first joined the company, I could often hear people saying that I was Marcus's mistress.

To be honest, it was true that I joined the company through Marcus. All I needed to do now was to fulfill my duties well and do a good job. Otherwise, others would deem me as someone who was only hired through connections.

Without another word from Ashton, he directly drove back to the villa. Although he made no further comments, a grim look crept into his eyes.

Instead, he mentioned Sally. "Did Aunt Sally talk to you about other things?"

I shook my head. "She only talked to me about Rebecca. She probably doesn't want a child of the Fullers to be left abandoned."

He scoffed coldly, "Do you believe that the child is mine?"

"Is the child not?" I raised my eyebrows and questioned back.

He paused for a while before staring at me seriously. "Will you believe me if I say no?"

I nodded. "There's no reason for me to doubt you."

Stunned momentarily, he laughed and said in relief, "The child's not mine, and I will never marry her. As for the engagement, I was never part of the discussion right from the start. The reason why I didn't deny it publicly and embarrass Rebecca is solely because of Parker."

I smiled. Pursing my lips, I peered out of the car window and remained silent.

When he saw me smiling without saying anything, he thought that I still did not believe him. He insisted, "Scarlett, I have never touched her at all."

Noticing his serious expression, I nodded and reassured him, "I know. You don't have to keep explaining."

The car screeched to a stop at the villa. He grabbed my arm solemnly and asked, "Did you join the White Corporation and take over the AI project because you wanted to oppose the Moore family using the White family?"

I nodded, not wanting to deny it. "What's wrong with that?"

He pursed his lips in frustration. "Why in the world would you rather seek help from Marcus over me?"

Glancing at him, I took a deep breath and asked, "Is the child mine alone?"

Stunned, he fell into a brief silence. He gazed at me and said, "With regards to the child, I'll make Cameron pay the price. Don't you dare take any risks."

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Knowing that he would say that, I nodded. "Okay, I understand."

Although I did not know what he planned to do, it had nothing to do with me. After all, I did not plan to rely on someone else to avenge me for all of my past sufferings. Except for myself, everyone else merely served as support.

As I had to go to J City tomorrow, I went to bed early that night. Yet, as expected, I was still plagued by insomnia.

When Ashton noticed that I could not fall asleep, he embraced me with his arms. "Why don't we do it for the night?"

I was speechless.

There's a huge difference between "do it for the night" and "do it once."

"Ashton, I need to go to J City tomorrow. I don't have the energy for that!" I chided before turning around. With my back facing him, I closed my eyes and prepared to sleep.

He hugged me from behind. Although he did not do anything, I...

After a while, I frowned and said, "Ashton, I can't sleep like this."

"We're a couple. Why can't we do this?" He sounded so righteous.

I pursed my lips and inched towards the edge of the bed, trying to distance myself from him.

However, he quickly pressed his body against my back again. Left with no choice, I closed my eyes again and tried to fall asleep.

However, the more I wanted to sleep, the more I failed to do so. Just like that, I was kept awake for the entire night.

The next morning at 6 a.m., I woke up and got out of bed. As I had not slept at all, my body was weak, and I could hear ringing in my ears. It felt extremely uncomfortable.

Ashton got up too. He probably had not gotten a restful sleep either. "I'll send you to the airport later."

"It's alright. It's still early, so you should sleep for a while longer!" I replied while heading into the bathroom to wash up.

He changed out of his pajamas and pinched his nose bridge. "I'm fine. I can rest in the afternoon."

Frowning, I suppressed my urge to refuse him and entered the bathroom. By the time I came out, he had already changed his clothes.

Soon, we arrived at the airport.

Ashton parked the car outside the airport terminal and asked, "When will you be returning?"

Quickly rushing out of the car, I replied hastily, "I'll return after the matter's settled."

When he saw how eager I was to get out of the car, he pulled me back and narrowed his eyes. "Why don't I accompany you there?"

I frowned. As it was almost time for boarding, I could not help but feel anxious. "It's fine. It's not like I'll never come back, right?"

He moved closer to me and smirked. Narrowing his eyes, he said, "I'm afraid that you'll be reluctant to return after you go there and meet someone."

His words made me so uneasy.

When I saw that he was staring out of the car windows, I could not help but follow his gaze. Stunned, I saw that Marcus had already arrived and was waiting at the entrance of the terminal.

No wonder Ashton's suddenly acting so weird. Sighing, I looked at him and asserted, "Ashton, I'm there to work!"

He pursed his lips and nodded. "I know. I'll give you three days. If you don't return after three days, I won't let you go on business trips alone anymore."

Although he said it casually, his tone was very firm.

I nodded and got out of the car, lamenting silently in my mind. He's nosing into my business.

Marcus passed the boarding ticket to me. Glancing in Ashton's direction, he narrowed his eyes and remarked, "He seems to be really worried that you'll elope with me."

I shrugged and did not comment on that. Instead, I reminded calmly, "It's getting late, so let's board the plane now!"

The plane ride from K City to J City took four hours. When we reached J City, it was just in time for lunch.

Marcus then brought me to a restaurant in which he had already reserved seats. Initially, I planned to return to Peakville Estate first. As the meeting with the president of OrbitTech was in the afternoon, I could still return to the villa for a short rest.

However, as I could not argue against Marcus, I went to the restaurant with him.

Right then, Ashton's call arrived just in time. The moment I sat in the car headed to the restaurant, he called.

I picked it up. As I was a little tired, I did not really want to speak. Hence, I waited for him to say the first word.

His voice was deep and emotionless. "Have you reached yet?"

"Yeah," I mumbled softly. When I noticed Marcus staring at me, I continued, "I just reached the airport and will be eating at a restaurant later."

"Okay. I hired a maid to take care of the house. After finishing the business meeting at night, go home earlier. Don't stay outside for too long." For some reason, he seemed a little naggy.

I nodded and muttered an acknowledgment. As he had something else to attend to, he hung up afterward.

Marcus looked at me with his lips pursed. "He seems worried about me."

I shrugged. Isn't it obvious?

When he saw my reaction, he smiled and stopped mulling over it. "After the meeting, you can rest at J City for a few days before going back. Since you're used to this place, it's probably going to be a comfortable stay for you."

I nodded. When the car arrived at the restaurant, I got out of the car and entered with him.

As I did not have a good night's sleep, I felt quite drowsy. After taking a few bites, I did not have much of an appetite anymore.

Hence, I propped my chin up with my hand while waiting for Marcus to finish his meal.

"You b*tch! Who are you to control what I do?" The voice was extremely loud, especially in the quiet restaurant, thus causing the rest to glance over.

Marcus and I peered in the direction of the voice too. A man had just thrown a plate of roasted vegetables at a woman.

As there were waiters surrounding them, we could not see their faces clearly. However, it could vaguely be seen that the woman had been badly beaten up by the man.

When I saw that, I could not help but frown. Isn't this domestic abuse? He's beating her up in public. Is no one going to stop him?

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As they caused quite a commotion, Marcus lost his appetite after taking a few more bites. He looked at me and suggested, "Let's go and rest for a while. We'll go to OrbitTech at two in the afternoon."

Nodding, I stood up with him and subconsciously shot a glance at the woman, who was shrieking in pain as the man hit her.

I could not help but frown. Why is no one stopping them when things are looking so bad?

When the man was about to smash a glass on the woman, she cowered and desperately shielded her head. It seemed like she was used to being beaten up.

Instinctively, I yelled, "Stop it!"

When I regained my senses immediately after, I could not help but feel frustrated at myself. After all, it was not quite appropriate for an outsider to interfere in one's family affairs. Even if I could help this time, I would not be able to help them forever.

However, since I had already yelled at him, it was impossible for me to leave just like that.

When the man heard my voice, he paused mid-action and turned around to look in our direction.

When I saw his face, I was stunned. Felix?

Why is he here?

My gaze then turned to the woman cowering in front of him. She timidly raised her head and glanced at me.

I was once again astonished. As expected, the woman was Stacey. It had been some time since I last saw her, but her mature beauty had already disappeared and was replaced instead by a sunken and depressed look.

Only half a year had passed, but she had changed so drastically.

Both of them were stunned to see me. Felix was the first to scoff in disdain, "I was wondering who it was! So it's Mrs. Fuller, huh? Didn't you go to K City with Mr. Fuller? Have you returned?"

When he glanced at Marcus, he raised his eyebrows and remarked frivolously, "Tsk-tsk! You're still as pretty as before. Looks like you've found another man for yourself."

Frowning, I ignored his comment and gazed at Stacey instead. For a moment, I was at a loss for words.

How did she become like this?

After a slight pause, I unhesitatingly whipped out my phone and called the cops. After the call went through, I said, "Hello. I'd like to report a case of domestic abuse here, and it seems to be quite serious."

I told them about the address before hanging up. At the same time, Felix glared at me viciously, almost flying into a rage. "Why are you nosing into my business? Do you think that I won't dare to hit you?"

This was not how a rational person was supposed to react.

I glanced at Stacey. After a moment of shock, she became calm again. It looked like she was used to Felix's attitude.

Walking toward her, I stretched out my hand and offered, "It's been ages since I saw you. Do you need me to send you to the hospital?"

She shot a timid glance at Felix before shaking her head fearfully. Forcing a smile out on her face, she insisted, "It's fine. I'm alright. Thank you!"

Felix smirked coldly and shoved his hands into his pocket. Albeit being reported, he showed no signs of fear at all. Instead, he looked extremely reassured, as if nothing would happen to him.

The cops arrived soon. After understanding the situation, they brought Felix away.

As they needed evidence of what had happened, I told Marcus to look for the restaurant's owner and get the surveillance tapes.

Meanwhile, Stacey was brought to the police station to give a statement. As I was the one who reported the incident, I had to head there too.

After all that, it was already 1 p.m., and there was no time to rest anymore.

Meanwhile, Felix had been detained for intentional assault.

Outside the station, Stacey kept remaining silent. As she did not say anything, I was at a loss for what to ask her either.

Yet, I knew I couldn't leave her just like that. Hence, I walked towards her and assured her, "Although I don't know what you've experienced over the past six months, please note down my number. If the need arises, just call me, and I'll help you to the best of my abilities!"

As we had worked together for two years, I would feel guilty if I left her in that state.

Stunned, she stared at me sorrowfully as tears streamed down her cheeks. "Ms. Stovall, I... I'm sorry!"

I sighed. "It's alright. Let bygones be bygones. Call me if anything happens!"

Since I had changed my number previously, I left her my new number.

Then, I hailed a cab for her and sent her off.

Marcus stared at me with his lips pursed. "She'll probably look for you soon."

Looking at the cab that left, I replied sadly, "She wasn't like this in the past!" What has marriage done to her?

As it was already quite late, Richard, the president of OrbitTech, was already waiting for us when we arrived at the office building.

When he spotted Marcus and me, he approached us with a smile. "It must've been tiring for both of you. Have you had lunch?"

Marcus nodded and had a polite chat with him while we walked into the meeting room.

Seeing that the upper management of OrbitTech had all arrived, Marcus glanced at me and instructed, "Describe our project briefly later. We'll negotiate the scope of OrbitTech's conditions afterward."

I nodded, having prepared all those beforehand.

There were not a lot of shareholders in OrbitTech, with a total of only six. The person with the greatest shares was the president, Richard. He was in his mid-forties and was a huge techie.

As he was obsessed with developing new products, he founded OrbitTech at the start. For the past few years, OrbitTech's products had always been top-notch.

However, as he was not so skilled in management, OrbitTech had been incurring losses. As a result, many investors decided to invest in OrbitTech and participate in its management.

