

# When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 698-702

## Chapter 698

After some thought, I told her, "I think you can get to know Linda. She definitely knows more than I do."

"Linda?" she asked in confusion. "Is she a love rival too?"

As expected, intelligence really did go down the drain once someone was in love. After a pause, I said, "Linda has a child who's already in middle school. Don't overthink things. Before transferring under Armond, she was Robert Murphy's assistant, so she should know him quite well."

"Alright! Help me ask her out so we can meet over dinner!" she said before continuing, "Actually, how does tonight sound? Maybe you can ask her after work."

"Sure. You have to pick me up, though. Actually, you might as well come with dinner."

"Why should I make dinner? Aren't we going out to a restaurant?"

"Armond had gastric problems. I'm telling you – he's crazy. He doesn't eat anything that's not to his standard. And I have to help him manage all three meals, or I might lose my job!"

She looked envious. "What about you let me do that instead? I'm sure I'll take great care of him."

"Okay! You're in charge of his meals from now on." I was more than excited to hand that over to her. After all, I would be incredibly busy once the Fuller Corporation's project started.

After chatting for a while longer, the waiter served our food. At that moment, Nora was staring out the window in a daze.

“Quit daydreaming and eat up. I have to go back to the office soon,” I piped up.

She turned back and sighed, “You know, life really isn’t fair. How can there be so many good-looking people like you whereas I look like this? Would the world fall off its axis if I was pretty too? Was God particularly annoyed when he was making me?”

I smiled lightly. “You can ask him yourself. Besides, you’re not ugly. You just need a bit of dressing up, that’s all, so don’t be so harsh on yourself.”

She looked at me and replied, “Just look over there. That lady could probably rival Aphrodite. She even has a red Cayenne. With looks like that and a car that grand, she probably doesn’t need to worry about anything. I’m assuming she has tons of rich men lined up around the block.”

I looked toward where she was pointing and couldn’t help but be taken aback. Isn’t Rachel in K City? What’s she doing here?

“This is A City’s most prestigious neighborhood. Most of the residents are lowkey people from rich families, and they’re mostly local,” Nora explained as she looked at Rachel. “Someone as beautiful as that clearly isn’t from around here. She doesn’t seem like a sugar baby either, so she probably bought the house with her own money.”

Nora was so engrossed in her analysis that I couldn’t help but say, “She’s in charge of the Fuller Corporation’s AI projects. Ashton hired her from overseas. She really is both pretty and rich, which is what most women want for themselves.”

“Damn! Aren’t you afraid that Ashton will get snatched up by someone like that hanging around him?” She wasn’t even eating at that point but was simply staring at Rachel with eyes as round as dinner plates.

Meanwhile, Rachel looked like she was waiting for someone.

“If he actually ends up with her, I don’t think I’d be that mad about it. After all, I don’t think someone like Rachel will fall for anyone less.”

Nora looked at me a little wordlessly. “Wait, why do I feel like you’re willingly giving your man up? What’s with that?”

“Hey, your fish is getting soggy. Eat up before it gets too cold,” I said in an attempt to change the topic.

She pouted, clearly not finished speaking. Suddenly, she looked at me a little sheepishly and said, “I think I jinxed it.”

I stilled in shock before looking out the window again. A man had just come out of the mansion that Rachel was waiting next to, and that was no one else but Ashton himself.

He was dressed in dark grey casual wear as if he was going out for dinner.

That’s good. Ashton and Rachel are practically a match made in heaven.

I turned away and continued eating my fish.

Nora seemed restless as she looked at me. “What are you doing? Your man is with some gorgeous supermodel, and you’re fine with it? That’s your husband, for goodness’ sake!”

I just sighed and smiled at her. “Nora... Your fish is about to come back to life if you don’t eat it soon.”

She frowned, almost leaping off her seat as she got up and looked at me. “Scarlett, it doesn’t matter if your man is involved with an ugly hag or a pretty lady. You can’t accept anyone else butting into your relationship!”

With that, she jogged out before I could come to my senses. After a while, I heard her voice from outside the window call out, "Fancy meeting you here, Mr. Fuller!"

Since Nora had already run outside, I stayed in the restaurant and tried to ignore them.

Nora suddenly called out especially loudly, "Scarlett, it's your hubby!"

Hubby?

I couldn't believe my ears.

Since she had already exposed me, I couldn't just ignore them. I raised my hand by way of greeting.

I thought she was just going to go out to say hi, but she ended up dragging them into the restaurant.

## **Chapter 699**

She even waved to a waiter and said, "Hi, can I have two more sets of cutleries, please? Thank you!"

Then, she led Rachel and Ashton to our table and invited them to take a seat.

The restaurant we were at had small stools instead of regular chairs, which made it a little awkward for anyone in a skirt.

Nora noticed this as well and said enthusiastically, "Oh no, I forgot that you're in a dress. I'll ask someone for a regular chair."

She hadn't even finished speaking before running off to get someone. When she returned, she was carrying a regular chair in one hand. The tables weren't very tall either to match the stools, and Rachel seemed rather out of place.

She was also dressed pretty stylishly in a dress that showed off both her smooth shoulders and fair back. By sitting in a taller chair, she almost seemed more like an art exhibit than a customer.

Apart from that, this restaurant wasn't particularly high-class. The people in here weren't used to seeing such beautiful, fashionable women that often.

It was inevitable that someone like Rachel would attract more stares. They didn't seem sleazy or uncouth, but simply curious and appraising.

Of course, the awkwardness was also inevitable in such a situation.

Nora seemed completely unfazed by this and asked Ashton, "Mr. Fuller, is Ms. Zimmer your secretary? She's so elegant! I haven't seen a woman this pretty since Scarlett!"

Is she trying to compliment me or dig me an even deeper hole? I thought to myself.

Ashton glanced at me nonchalantly before saying, "She's the representative of Fuller Corporation's AI projects." It was a simple introduction, free of any useless facts.

Nora nodded a little too enthusiastically. "That's so admirable! You're both pretty and smart? I bet you have a boyfriend, right?"

Rachel was clearly starting to get bothered by the stares and forced a smile. "No, I don't."

"What? But you're so pretty! Do you have someone you like, then? Ah, wait, I should be asking what your ideal type is!" Nora couldn't stop babbling.

Rachel glanced at Ashton almost instinctively before lowering her head and saying, "I haven't really thought about that."

"Is that so?" Nora said dramatically. "My mom always told me that girls needed to have certain standards for their future boyfriends. Someone as pretty and skilled as you should find someone like Mr. Fuller. That would be a good match. Just look at Scarlett and Mr. Fuller! They're a match made in heaven."

Yet for some reason, I felt like she meant something else.

Rachel nodded, looking extra uncomfortable.

After that, Nora decided to speak to Ashton instead since Rachel seemed a little awkward. "Mr. Fuller, I should introduce myself. I'm Scarlett's friend, Nora! We met before, but since we were in a rush, I didn't get to introduce myself."

She reached out and shook Ashton's hand.

Nora was always the talkative one, so she was chatting throughout the whole meal.

"Mr. Fuller, since Scarlett is here, and you're in K City, are you guys living apart for now?" Nora suddenly brought up.

Ashton's dark gaze fell on me, and he said, "No. I'll go wherever she goes."

"Aw! Now you're just flexing your relationship to the rest of us," Nora said with a shy squeal.

She turned to look at Rachel, who was starting to turn pale. "Ms. Zimmer, as Mr. Fuller's colleague, don't you get tired of seeing them act all lovey-dovey every day?"

Rachel smiled and replied, "I'm usually in K City and rarely get to see Ms. Stovall, so I wouldn't get the chance to."

Hearing that, Nora frowned slightly. "Oh, you guys don't call her Mrs. Fuller at the company? 'Ms. Stovall' seems a bit too standoffish."

"I rarely meet her after all, so it's a bit hard to suddenly get used to that," Rachel continued answering politely.

Nora pouted and glanced at me. I didn't understand what she meant and just stared back at her in confusion.

At the sight of my indifference, Nora suddenly leaned slightly toward Rachel. Her motion caused a glass of water in front of her to topple over, spilling the contents all over Rachel. There wasn't a lot of water left in the glass, but Rachel's dress was expensive, and it was obvious that Nora wanted to get a reaction.

As she wiped the water off Rachel's dress, Nora apologized, "I'm so sorry, Ms. Zimmer. Maybe you should go to the bathroom to clean that."

Rachel was frowning at that point. She was obviously ruffled, but she was good at controlling her emotions and remained calm.

Once Rachel left, Nora ignored Ashton's presence and said, "Ms. Stovall, can't you tell that that fine lady has her eyes on your man?"

I felt uncomfortable at her calling Ashton "my man" and looked at him instinctively. Despite that, he looked completely unfazed.

## **Chapter 700**

I pressed my lips together and said, "Don't be crazy. Ms. Zimmer is a very talented woman."

“What the h\*ll?” Nora burst out. “Scarlett, what’s gotten into you? What do you mean by that? Are you going to give your man up to her just because she’s a ‘very talented woman’?”

Ashton was still there, so I knew she was doing this on purpose. Thus, I decided to ignore her question.

She clucked her tongue at my silence and said, “Did you two have an argument or something?”

After a pause, she looked at Ashton and said without even blinking, “Did you cheat on Scarlett?”

Ashton’s gaze darkened, and he looked at me. I thought he would get angry, but he seemed to calm down instead and replied, “I don’t sh\*t where I eat.”

Simply put, he wouldn’t lay an eye on another woman.

Nora chuckled and nudged me with her elbow. “You better hang on tight to this guy. There aren’t many like him in this day and age.”

I was starting to feel awkward when the waiter jogged toward us and said, “Is the lady in the bathroom a friend of yours? She tripped and fell. It’s rather serious, so you should take a look.”

“She tripped?” Nora immediately went to the bathroom.

I fell silent since it was now just me and Ashton at the table. After a while, I looked at him and said, “You should go check on her.”



He frowned and looked at me. "Are you sure about that?"

I was taken aback by the sudden question before nodding. "Yeah. She might be in trouble."

He scoffed coldly before suddenly getting up and walking toward the bathroom.

I followed him and spotted Nora helping Rachel out of the bathroom. It really did look rather serious.

Nora saw us and said, "I think she may have twisted or fractured something. She'll probably need to go to the hospital."

Rachel's eyes looked red as if she were trying not to cry. I was surprised, but calmed down and said to Ashton, "You should send her to the hospital. Nora and I are busy, so we won't be able to make it."

Nora looked at me, obviously getting annoyed by my attitude. She then frowned and said, "It's fine. I'll send her to the hospital."

"It's okay. It's not that bad. I can go on my own," Rachel piped up. Her voice was quivering, and it sounded as if she were minutes away from sobbing.

Ashton looked at me, and I reached out to tug Nora's sleeve. "You have to go to the office with me later, remember? Let Mr. Fuller send her instead."

Nora's frown was slowly deepening. "Mr. Fuller?" she asked as she glanced at Ashton.

Ashton looked away from me and carried Rachel before walking away wordlessly.

"Sh\*t!" Nora cursed. She looked at me as if she were about to cry for my sake. "What's wrong with you? That's your husband! Why are you pushing him away?"

I didn't know how to reply and simply said, "We have nothing to do with each other anymore. Come on. Let's go to Murphy Corporation."

"What do you mean? Are you blind? Didn't you see how he looked at you? Why are you just pushing him away like that? If he did something wrong, just tell him! Stop doing this psychological cold-shoulder stuff. Scarlett, I'm disappointed in you."

After her angry rant, she walked off without even waiting for me.

I was surprised and finally realized that she was genuinely mad at me. Quickly, I caught up to her and tugged at her arm. "Nora, this is my own problem. You don't have to worry so much about it."

She stopped and turned to look at me. Her shiny eyes betrayed her disappointment. "Yes, it's your problem. But do you know why I'm so mad? Since the first time we met in Venria and ran away together, I could tell you were incredibly smart.

"After that, while we lived in the forest together and you saved me from Abe, I realized you were kind and chivalrous too. I felt like we had similar values and was determined to become good friends with you once we returned to the country. I'm angry now because you're so different from who I thought you were. I'm not even angry at you; I'm angry at myself. Have you ever treated me as a friend all this while?"

I shook my head. "That's not the case!"

She scoffed. "Not the case? Scarlett, you've never genuinely reached out to anyone. You've never loved Ashton, and you've never treated any of us as friends. To put it simply, you just treated us like minor characters in your journey of life."

I was stunned by her rant, and she continued, "You don't know what friendship means at all. To you, as long as you can hold a conversation with them, then they're your friend. You even put Tessa at the same level as me, even though she's despicable. As for Ashton, if you truly love him, there's no way you could miss the way he's always looking at you. It's like he's constantly tuned into you. Just now, he was silently declining to take responsibility for Rachel, but you forced him too anyway. He keeps stepping back to let you do whatever you want, yet you take it all for granted. Do you actually think what you're doing is right?"

## Chapter 701

“Scarlett, are you aware that other people can get hurt too? You’re not the only person who bleeds or cries, you know.”

I stayed silent in shock as I processed what she said. It was the first time anyone had ever said anything like that to me.

“I-” I tried to explain but scoffed at myself. I nodded and said, “You’re right. I’m sorry. I didn’t realize how much I hurt other people.”

Since I couldn’t explain myself, I just hailed a taxi and went back to Murphy Corporation.

I felt like screaming. All this while, I had always been more of a cold person, and I didn’t know what to do now that someone had brought it up.

My bad mood continued even after I was back at the office. I looked through some of the documents that Armond wanted to be signed and felt even worse.

Linda saw that I was still in the office and knocked to come in. She frowned as she asked, “Are you okay?”

I noticed that everyone had left and replied mildly, “I’m fine. Might be PMS or something.”

She said a bit pitifully, “Oh, that’s too bad. The Magpie Festival is in two days. What a downer!”

The Magpie Festival?

I had almost forgotten about the Magpie Festival and sighed. "I'm too old to even celebrate the Magpie Festival anymore. There's no meaning to it now."

She rolled her eyes at me. "What do you mean you're 'too old'? Do you think people just start to wither and dry up after a certain age? That's so boring of you."

I chuckled and suddenly remembered Nora's request to ask Linda out for dinner that night.

I was about to ask when I suddenly remembered what happened. After today's incident, I didn't know if Nora would still want to have dinner.

"Linda, do you have any good friends? Maybe someone you really love?"

Linda nodded. Her heels seemed to be hurting her, so she sat down next to me. "Of course I do. I have a close friend who I've known for about fifteen years. As for someone I really love, I have my kid and my parents."

I hesitated before asking, "What about your husband?"

She paused in slight surprise before replying, "We got a divorce."

I was taken aback for a second and apologized hastily. "I'm sorry, I didn't know--"

"It's okay. It's normal after all. At my age, everyone's bound to come across an obstacle or two. Scarlett, you don't have to follow any particular recipe for life. Just do what you like," she said mildly as if she was simply asking about the weather. I nodded with a smile.

She smiled back. "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Since we had already started talking about this, I didn't feel the need to hide anything. With a nod, I said, "I don't really know how to treat those people who care about me. It seems like I'm always unknowingly pushing them away."

She looked at me with her hands folded under her chin. "Your friends and loved one, perhaps?"

I nodded again. "Yeah. It's not like we learn how to love other people in school. I think I might have missed a lesson or two."

She looked at me in surprise. "You have a child, don't you? Don't you love her? I don't know how other people would explain it, but to me, love simply means wishing the best for the other person from the very bottom of your heart. Just think about how you treat your daughter. You know what's best for her, so you always try to provide her with the best."

"What about friends?"

"It's the same idea but in moderation. After all, if you go overboard, you might achieve the opposite result."

I felt like giving up. "That's so complicated. I still don't think I understand how to solve my problems."

She raised an eyebrow. "What happened? Just tell me. I'm older than you after all, so hopefully, I can be of some help."

"What should I do if I argued with a friend?"

She looked surprised. "Have you never argued with a friend before?"

I shook my head. "Not exactly." Before this, when Macy and I argued, I usually stayed silent and didn't retaliate. She always came back to find me after she got over it anyway.

This time, my attitude toward both Nora and Ashton seemed to make this a much harder situation than before.

After some thought, I decided to just come out and ask, "Are you busy tonight? Let's have dinner."

She smiled in surprise. "What a coincidence. My parents offered to watch my kid for me today, and I was planning on having a nice night off. I'm glad to have a partner now."

After tidying up our things, we headed out of the office.

Linda and I walked around the mall for a while and had a light meal. Since she rarely got the chance to have a night out, we decided to go to a bar.

"You know, I haven't stepped foot in a bar since giving birth. I was starting to feel much older than I actually am! Looks like everyone really does need a night out once in a while to keep spry and energized," Linda quipped. She was in a pretty good mood and ordered another round of drinks, sipping from her glass as she chatted with me.

She drank rather quickly and suddenly approached me with slightly narrowed eyes. "Being young sure is nice. Just sitting down here already got you some stares."

## **Chapter 702**

I glanced around us and realized we were getting stares from other people. I did my best to ignore them as I turned to Linda, who was drinking like a fish. "You shouldn't drink so much. It's bad for your health."

"Don't worry. I can hold my liquor well!" she said with a faint smile.

I sipped from my glass of juice and found myself gradually zoning out. Even in my daze, I was still checking my phone periodically.

My actions bothered Linda so much that she decided to set me straight. "Scarlett, do you know what's the scariest thing in the world?"

I shook my head. Linda clinked glasses with me before replying, "It's indecisiveness. The longer you procrastinate, the easier it is to lose the most important things in your life."

The next thing I knew, she had taken my phone to make the call I had been so reluctant to make.

I was about to grab my phone back when a voice rang out from behind us. "Ms. Stovall?"

I was taken aback by the sudden intrusion and couldn't help but frown when I turned to look. A familiar face came into sight, and only then did my frown turn into a smile. "Hi, Mr. Watson!"

"Ms. Stovall, this is the third time we've run into each other this month. I guess this is what they call fate, wouldn't you agree?"

I smiled back politely as I got up from my seat. "I'm sure you have work to attend to, Mr. Watson. I shall leave you to it."

Just as I was leaving with Linda in tow, Derek and his subordinates circled us and stopped us dead in our tracks.

I furrowed my brows as I turned to Derek. "Mr. Watson, what's the meaning of this?"

Derek was still smiling, though he now had a lecherous look to him. "How are you still so full of yourself, Ms. Stovall? Do you not know the situation you're in?"

"What do you mean by that, Mr. Watson? I'm sure I haven't offended you in any way, so there's no reason for you to threaten us like this," I replied as calmly I could.

He chuckled before shifting his gaze to Linda. "You look like you've been doing well. You're still as beautiful as ever."

I was stunned, but before I could react, Linda had jumped in. "If you're here for me, leave Scarlett out of it."

"Then you'd be glad to hear that I'm here for the both of you!" Derek exclaimed.

He then looked back at me, lips curled in a sinister smile. "Scarlett, even after everything you've done for Ashton, he still dumped you? I can see why, though. I saw the lady he was with today, and she was stunning! If I had to choose between you and her, I'd pick her too. That said, I'm still rather fond of you, so what do you think about getting together with me?"

"Derek, you disgusting pig!" Linda yelled, shielding me from him. "You know why you had to escape to A City, or do you want to be back in Dellmoor?"

Linda must have pushed all the right buttons because that immediately riled Derek up. "Is that a f\*cking threat?"

Linda remained composed as she continued, "You know very well if it's a threat. Don't forget how you ended up in A City. If I can destroy you once, I can do it again."

A slap came down fast and hard on Linda. It was so sudden that no one saw it coming.

Linda held her face in shock as blood trickled down the side. "I have been f\*cking nice to you, haven't I?" Derek growled. "You have done me dirty once, but I won't let it happen again. Don't assume I can't do anything to you just because you have the Murphys to protect you."

Derek looked around him and gestured to his subordinates. "Take these two women to the room upstairs."

"Go to h\*ll!"



Linda had only just gotten her words out when she got another tight slap.

“Shut the f\*ck up! If the Murphys are really that capable, I invite them to bring it on!”

A group of onlookers had gathered round to see what the commotion was all about. However, Derek remained unfazed by the attention he was attracting and merely got his subordinates to send them away.

We were just two women up against a group of burly men. Unable to fight against them, we were soon brought upstairs and thrown into a hotel room with Derek.

He leered at us as he paraded around with a devilish grin, his beer belly now even more protruding. “It’s been a while since I’ve had so much fun. I’m going to enjoy myself to the fullest today.”

Linda got flustered and started flinging items at him, all of which he successfully ducked.

Not wanting to take the risk of either of us acting up again, Derek called for his subordinates to tie us to our chairs.

“Ms. Stovall, look what you’ve done to yourself. If you had cooperated with me right from the start, I’d have gladly taken you in after Ashton dumped you. You could have avoided all this.”

The smug look on Derek’s face as he spoke to me made me feel sick to my core, so much so that I didn’t even feel like replying.

He dragged a chair in front of me and sat on it, locking eyes with me. “It’s still not too late now. If you get together with me, I can provide you with a comfortable life. What do you think?”

“Will you stop being so gross?” I shouted. If my hands weren’t tied up, I’d have slapped this pathetic excuse of a man.

Instead of being offended, Derek howled with laughter. “What a character! No wonder Ashton fell for you.”