

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 738-742

Chapter 738

For a moment, I actually felt slightly uneasy. Fortunately, Laurel was here to chat with me.

“I remember we loved camping and hiking when I was still in university. Looking back, I really miss those good old days.” She sighed. “In just the blink of an eye, ten years have whizzed past.”

“You’re right. I can’t believe I’m going to be thirty soon!” Nora sighed. “I feel like I’m still young and free. How did I grow old so fast?”

Gazing at the night sky full of shimmering stars, I took a deep breath. “There’s no need to dwell on the past. People just have to do what they’re supposed to do in due courses like studying, getting married, and giving birth. Our ancestors had lived for thousands of years, yet they followed the same routine. It’s not that they hadn’t thought of living their ideal lives. Perhaps they had experienced the freedom which we all long for, but in the end, they found it even more unbearable than being married and having kids.”

Nodding her head, Nora turned to glance at Tessa. “Tessa, aren’t you into philosophy? What do you think about life?”

Pressing her lips together, the woman looked intently at the night sky for a few seconds before saying indifferently, “Life and death have been fated from the start. It’s an endless cycle of torment.”

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Nora mumbled and pouted her lips. She then turned to Armond and asked with a sweet smile, “Mr. Murphy, do you have anything to say?”

“No,” Armond replied. His icy gaze was fixed on the night sky.

“Ouch!” All of a sudden, Rachel jumped to her feet with her hands over her stomach, and her face contorted with agony. “My stomach hurts.”

Ashton furrowed his brows. “What’s wrong?”

“I don’t know. I’m having a stomach-ache. Maybe I ate something bad. Excuse me, I need to relieve myself.” Immediately, she scurried away while holding her tummy.

Watching the woman sprinting toward the end of the enormous field, everyone tried to stifle a laugh. There was no undergrowth or trees that could act as a cover across the field, so she had to run further away.

None of them had thought of this issue before camping.

Nora let out a half-suppressed giggle, moving closer to me. “I bet she’ll not be able to enjoy the stargazing tonight.”

“Why did you say so?” Staring at her enigmatic face, I couldn’t help but ask.

The woman flashed me a sly smile and said impishly, “That’s the consequence of acting all high and mighty when she knows nothing at all. I had no other way to vent my frustrations.”

Glancing at her sneaky expression, I made a wild guess. “Did you put something in her food?”

She shrugged noncommittally. “I only added a little chocolate in the glass of milk she drank just now.”

Bewildered, I asked, “Can milk and chocolate cause diarrhoea?”

She nodded her head. “Yes. Don’t worry, she won’t die. She’ll only have the runs.”

I see.

“Look! A shooting star!” someone screamed in delight. In an instant, everyone looked up at the sky.

Sure enough, a few dazzling shooting stars glided through the night sky.

“Hurry and make a wish!” Nora closed her eyes and clasped her hands together at once, wishing solemnly upon the star.

A smile spread across my face. Instinctively, I turned to the other side. I was stunned when I locked eyes with Ashton unexpectedly.

Never had I thought that he was looking at me at the same time. His dark, gleaming eyes appeared slightly distant and aloof.

In a split second, I swiftly averted my gaze. Like Nora, I closed my eyes and acted as though I was making a wish as well. Under his steady gaze, the rhythm of my heartbeat became frantic.

“What did you wish for?” After the shooting stars vanished, Nora asked enthusiastically, staring at me.

“I wish for peace, joy, and health,” I answered impassively.

She gave me a sniff of disapproval. “How boring. Why did you wish for those things? You might as well just wish that you’ll come to your senses.”

Afterward, she looked at Armond and asked curiously, “Mr. Murphy, what did you wish for?”

Glancing at her coldly, the man answered indifferently, “I don’t believe in this.”

Then, he closed his eyes to take a rest.

Finding the two of us lame and unexciting, she clambered over to Laurel and Tessa to ask them the same question.

Staring at the breath-taking starry night sky, I spaced out. I truly loved such an environment. It was so relaxing and soothing. My mind was clear of unwanted thoughts.

With my eyes closed, I drifted off and felt like I was no longer on earth but in heaven.

After a while, someone suddenly spoke. "Ms. Zimmer has been away for quite some time. Why isn't she back yet?"

Opening my eyes, I glanced around the campsite. Rachel was nowhere to be seen.

In the meantime, Nora was chatting with Laurel. "Don't worry, she's so good at playing innocent and pitiful. She'll be alright even if she runs into any wild animal."

It was already 11 p.m., and Rachel had been gone for an hour.

Turning to glance at Ashton, I couldn't help but urge him. "Mr. Fuller, you should check on her. After all, she's a woman. It'll be dangerous if she runs into any problem."

"Yeah, Mr. Fuller. Hurry and look for her." Everyone followed suit. It was about time to sleep, since we had finished eating and been stargazing for a while.

Chapter 739

After all, Ashton was the one who brought Rachel here. Without a word, he stood up and headed in the direction which Rachel had left.

Standing behind me, Nora poked fun at me. "To be honest, you're the most magnanimous woman I've ever met, pushing your husband to another woman. You're really a genius!"

Meanwhile, Armond had sauntered toward the tent. I tilted my head and stared at her. "Shouldn't you go to bed now?"

Her brows drew together as she glanced at Armond. At the same time, the man was looking right back at us with a solemn gaze.

Nora's face flushed scarlet immediately. "How about sleeping in the same tent? I'm sure you won't be able to fall asleep alone. Let me keep you company, okay?"

I broke into a fit of giggles. Giving her a sideways glance, I said nothing.

Her cheeks turned beet red as I eyed her suspiciously. "Stop overthinking. We've never done it before. Our relationship is as pure as it can be," she explained hurriedly.

"I didn't say anything. Why are you in such a hurry to explain yourself? Besides, didn't Armond end up bleeding the last time?" I shrugged and said with a grin.

Pausing briefly, I raised my voice. "Could it be that Armond couldn't get it up?"

"Cut the nonsense and go to sleep." With that, she ran into a tent.

I chuckled at her reaction. Looking in the direction which Ashton left, I became a little worried.

If anything happened to Rachel out in the wild, Ashton had to be responsible for it.

After standing there in silence for a moment, I heaved a sigh and went back to my tent. Nora had already arranged the sleeping bags and hid herself under a blanket. "Hey pretty, spend the night with me."

Amused, I went speechless for a second. "In this state, you need Armond more than ever. It'll be romantic and thrilling under such a beautiful night sky."

The woman tried to hold back a laugh while looking at me. "Scarlett, you're so dirty-minded."

With an innocent look, I asked, "How am I dirty-minded? I did nothing at all."

The woman under the blanket stopped bantering with me and asked, "Honestly, aren't you worried about Ashton now?"

I froze for a second before asking, "Why should I be worried?"

Blinking her eyes a few times, she added, "Right now, Rachel and Ashton are alone in the wild. The man is dashing, while the woman looks charming. Aren't you worried that they might give in to the temptation?"

I laughed. "I think I should worry about their safety instead."

"Hmph!" She nestled in the sleeping bag to find a comfortable spot to sleep.

Just then, Armond's voice sounded outside the tent. "Scarlett! Nora!"

"What's the matter?" Hearing his voice, Nora sat up and unzipped the tent instantly.

Armond glanced at me and said with a stern face. "Ashton and Rachel have left for a very long time. They might be in trouble."

"How is that possible?" Nora's brows knitted together. "We're surrounded by grasslands. How dangerous could it be? There are no wild animals around."

"It's not because of the wild animals. Beyond this field, there's a tea farm. Landslides could happen during rainy season," Tabitha said.

"That's right. If they're unlucky and get caught in a landslide, they might lose their lives," Laurel added.

Appalled, I put on my jacket and scrambled out of the tent. "Let's go and look for them."

"Sure." Nora came out of the tent as well. "The two are quite troublesome."

All of us headed out to look for Ashton and Rachel. Just as Tabitha said, a tea farm came into view as we strode toward the end of the field.

Luckily, the moonlight was bright enough for us to see the way. After walking for some time, there were no signs of the two or a landslide.

"Could it be that they've left?" Nora asked.

"I don't think so," Laurel said.

I checked out the area once more, but I didn't see Rachel and Ashton. "Shall we split up?"

"What? I don't think that's a good idea." Nora's forehead creased. "There're only a few of us. What should we do if anyone of us lost the way? I've suffered once on a mountain in Venria. I don't want to go through the same thing again."

“Don’t worry. We won’t go too far. This hill isn’t that big. We have our phones with us, so call someone right away if you ever get lost. Is that okay?” Only then I thought of calling Ashton. However, the call didn’t get through even after a long while.

Staring at me, Armond said, “He left his phone in the tent.”

I froze at his words. “How do you know that?”

“I went to his tent just now.”

Fine.

Later, we split up and continued searching for them. Laurel and Tessa were with me, while the others went away together.

The search wasn’t as frightening as expected. It wasn’t difficult to move about when the moonlight was shining brightly on our path.

“Do you think that Ms. Zimmer did this on purpose? Why did she run so far away? It’s just a diarrhoea. Is she trying to get Mr. Fuller to spend time with her in the wild and seduce him?”

Chapter 740

Laurel made jokes while flashing the torch onto the ground. I chuckled without commenting on it. Judging from the landscape around us, Rachel couldn’t have found a secluded spot here, but I’m certain she wouldn’t go too far away. Did something happen to her?

Meanwhile, Tessa seemed to be in a foul mood tonight. “She has always been a loose woman. Why does she have to have a diarrhoea now? I’m sure she has an ulterior motive,” she said in a frigid tone.

Clueless about what Nora had done earlier, Laurel asked, "Tessa, I can tell that you dislike Ms. Zimmer too."

Tessa snorted coldly. "Only men love a woman like her. I bet any other woman will hate her too."

I stopped listening to their gossips. Afterward, I spotted a darker zone in the middle of the tea farm. Out of curiosity, I marched toward it.

"Ah!" Taking a few steps forward, I fell downward.

"Scarlett!" Laurel shouted in a panic.

I fell into a pit. Unable to judge my current situation, I said, "Laurel, call Nora now. This pit is quite deep."

"Okay, don't be afraid. I'm calling them now!" she consoled me.

Reaching into my pockets, I couldn't find my phone. Perhaps it dropped out of my pocket when I fell.

I squatted down and explored around, trying to look for my phone, but all I could touch was the soil. It was pitch-black all around me, so I could see nothing at all.

Fear grew in my heart. Afraid that I might accidentally touch a snake or an insect, I squatted on the ground and dared not do anything.

"Don't fret, Scarlett. Nora and the others are coming over. Hold on, I'll look for them. I'll be right back!" Laurel said from above. She then added, "Tessa, talk to Scarlett and keep her company. I'll get the others here."

Tessa remained silent for a while. "Let me look for them. My stamina is better than yours, so I can walk faster."

Nodding her head, Laurel stayed here after the woman left. Sprawling beside the pit, she turned on the flashlight of her phone and shone it downward. "Scarlett, can you hear me?"

I saw a glimpse of light over my head. "Yes, I can hear you. Don't worry, I'm fine. It's just that it's too dark down here."

The woman attempted to drop her phone to me, but I stopped her promptly. "Don't throw it down. What if I lose it too? I can't see anything here. Just chat with me."

Laurel nodded in agreement. Her voice sounded worried as she said, "My phone is running out of battery. Hopefully Tessa will be back soon. We're not familiar with this hill, so I'm afraid she might lose her way. That'll make things worse."

That was totally possible. Though I felt troubled, I reassured her. "We'll be fine. Don't think too much. This place is near to the city. If worse comes to worst, we'll have to wait till the next morning for someone to come to our rescue. Nothing bad is going to happen."

Despite my assurance, the woman was still anxious. "But didn't Tabitha say that landslide will probably happen? What if it rains?"

Exasperated, I have no choice but to comfort her. "No, no, that won't happen. Nora checked the weather forecast, and it's not going to rain today."

She hummed in response for several times. Overwhelmed with anxiety, she chatted with me unceasingly. "Scarlett, won't you regret giving up on an outstanding man like Ashton?"

Giving it some thoughts, I answered solemnly, "Yes, I'll regret it. But isn't it inevitable to have regrets in life?"

“You’re right.” The woman nodded her head in agreement, letting out a sigh. “Rachel is...”

Rumble, rumble. Unexpectedly, a low rumbling of a thunder sounded.

Laurel’s voice trailed off in mid-sentence. She sounded desolate when she asked in a quivering voice, “Is it going to rain?”

Trepidation shot through me at her words. Due to the darkness in the pit, I couldn’t see the situation outside. In case of raining, the water would flow into the pit. Once the rainwater accumulated to become deep enough, I would get drowned.

Lifting my head, I asked, “Laurel, take a look at the sky. Maybe it’s only a dry thunderstorm. It won’t rain as long as there’s no dark cloud.”

The woman was on the verge of crying. I could tell that she was trying to choke back her tears as she whimpered, “Yes, there are dark clouds in the sky now. They appear out of nowhere. It’s drizzling now. Why is Tessa taking so long? Where’s she now?”

Pressing my lips together tightly, I couldn’t deny that I was freaking out. Nevertheless, there was no way out other than trying to save myself now.

Otherwise, not only would I be drowned, but I might also be buried alive if the rain grew heavier and caused a landslide.

Glancing up, I asked, “Laurel, calm down. Try to look around for a thick and long vine or branches and throw them down.”

The woman nodded and hummed in response before she went away.

Chapter 741

Now that no one was around to talk to me, the pin-drop silence in the pit intensified the crippling terror within me.

The boggy soil reminded me of the night I had the miscarriage. My body couldn't help trembling like a leaf.

I couldn't afford to let fear overtake me, or else I would probably kick the bucket here. There were so many things left undone. I had yet to raise Summer up and achieve my dreams.

"Scarlett, can you hear me? I found some branches. Be careful, I'm dropping them now." Laurel's voice came from the opening of the pit.

"Okay, do it," I replied.

In the next second, some branches fell from above, and she asked, "Scarlett, why did you ask for the branches?"

I felt for the branches on the ground. Holding it in my hand, I knocked against the ground and found that soil around me was pretty solid.

I took a few steps forward hesitantly. "I'm using them to check my surrounding, because I'm afraid that I might fall into another deeper pit."

"I see, you're really smart. Hold on, I'm going to find a vine now."

Then, I could no longer hear her voice. I continued to scan my surrounding with the branch in my hand. After a few steps, I noticed that something was wrong. The soil beneath my feet was too marshy. To my dismay, I found myself sinking gradually.

My heart grew heavy, and I broke out in a cold sweat. At once, I knew that I had stepped into a swamp in the pit.

I raised my head and shouted, "Laurel, are you there?"

Fortunately, she was nearby and rushed over when she heard me. "I'm here."

"I'm in trouble." Deep down, I felt a little despondent. "I think I accidentally stepped into a swamp."

"Ah!" she shrieked all of a sudden. "What should we do now?"

Feeling hopeless, my body sank gradually into the bottomless swamp.

"Don't sweat it, Laurel. Quickly look for a vine or seek help. I can still hang on for a little longer. Don't panic!" Trying my very best to keep calm, I racked my brain for a solution, recalling that before the ground I was standing at earlier was solid.

Grateful that I'm still holding the branch, I poked the ground around the swamp. Sure enough, the soil was much harder. Breathing a sigh of relief, I got on my hands and knees to reduce the weight on my feet.

As a result, I would sink at a slower speed.

Boom! Boom! A clap of deafening thunder roared, following by the sound of raindrops pitter-pattered on the ground.

I felt disheartened. Even if I got out of the swamp, I would never be able to climb out of here. Once the rain became heavier, water would accumulate in the pit, and I would get injured or even killed. To make the matter worse, a landslide might happen, and Laurel would be in trouble too.

“Scarlett, are you okay? It’s raining already. What should we do now? Why is Tessa taking so long?”

Outside the pit, Laurel paced up and down in distress. Yet, she had no idea what to do.

The rainwater fell and slowly flowed into the swamp, making it even soggy.

My heart sank. I could only take a gamble now. It would be just my luck if the ground in front of me was still swampy. If it wasn’t, I might pull through this.

Taking a deep breath, I clenched my fists. With all my might, I leaped out of the swamp.

Before I knew it, my feet landed on the area ahead of the swamp. Still, I felt like a cat on a hot tin roof. The moment I noticed I was no longer sinking, but standing on solid ground, my anxiety ceased.

The thunder was ear-splitting that I could barely hear Laurel’s voice. Listening to the sound of rainwater gushing in, I guess that the swamp formed over time due to the stagnant water in the pit.

The marshy ground was originally a flatland. The huge pit came about because the ground was hollow.

A City was in the southwest, where it was mainly covered by forests. After tens of thousands of years of plate motion, there were many coal mines in this area.

Over the past few years, there was no regulation, so the locals were free to do coal mining, leaving behind quite a number of underground mines. Even though the professionals came over for maintenance, the existence of these mines made the ground boggy and unstable.

The prevalence of landslides was caused by the cave-ins of the mines. Rainfall sped up the soil erosion. Hence, with this ten-meter-deep underground pit, the surrounding land could collapse anytime.

I would've seen it if I had come during the day, but that wasn't the case at night when I was as blind as a bat. Once I fell inside, I could only ask for help to get out of it.

"Scarlett, can you hear me? Are you still alright? Don't be afraid, someone's coming down to get you." Laurel's voice sounded from above.

I lifted my head and answered, "Okay, be careful!"

I was worried about that the person who was coming down might fall into the swamp, so I warned, "Bring a torch when you come down. There's a swamp down here. Be careful!"

Chapter 742

"Got it!" came the voice from above.

Soon, the dark pit was lit up by a beam of light. I remained still, not daring to move a muscle. I squinted against the brightness to see a figure looking down from above, seemingly belonging to a man.

Assuming that it was Armond, I called out in warning, "Armond, be careful. There's a swamp here and the ground is soft. I'm worried that this area might sink at any moment. Please be careful!"

He didn't respond, but tied a rope around his waist instead. With the flashlight in one hand, he used the light to find his footing while the other hand groped the soft walls of the pit as he walked in my direction.

The flashlight's beam was aimed directly at me, so I couldn't make out Armond's features. Casting my gaze around, I spotted two slightly deeper pits a short distance away, probably left by my feet earlier.

There was also some muddied undergrowth all around the area, all of which were tea trees, which proved that my guess was right—the ground here had given way not too long ago.

The rain was getting heavier and my clothes were completely soaked by then. I wasn't sure if the ground beneath my feet could hold my weight, but I had to try making my way forward. When Armond closed in on me, I called out again, "Be careful. Some of the areas are sinkholes!"

"Mm," he responded just when he reached my side and I was taken aback to hear the familiar voice.

My head whipped up in surprise. "Ashton? What are you doing here?" For some reason, my nerves instantly loosened the moment I saw him and I breathed out an inaudible sigh of relief.

With his lips pressed into a straight line, he raised his brows in provocation. "What? Are you disappointed that it's me?"

I froze for a split second, but ignored his sarcastic remark and urged, "Let's get out of here now. This place could sink at any time!"

Needing no further explanation, he grabbed my hand and looked up at the entrance of the pit. "I've found her. Tie the rope to a tree and make a dead knot."

Laurel answered from above, "Okay, got it. Be careful, guys!"

Then, Ashton tied the other end of the rope on his body around mine and instructed, "Follow me closely."

I nodded and he reached out to hold my hand, but I instinctively drew away from him and protested, "It's fine. I'll follow behind you."

He glanced back at me with unreadable eyes, then withdrew his gaze and reminded, "Be careful."

I nodded and walked carefully behind him. The pit's entrance was seven to eight meters above us and with the heavy downpour, climbing up would be challenging.

To prevent the entrance from collapsing, the people above had to stand a distance away from it and could only assist by holding the rope steady.

I wanted to pull myself up the rope, but my arms weren't strong enough. When I slipped down after a few tries, getting out of here started to feel impossible.

With my whole body covered with mud, I felt miserable. Ashton had a good physique, so he could have easily climbed up on his own, but it was much more difficult with my added weight, not to mention, I could very well drag him down with me.

His clothes were completely drenched with rainwater and a layer of mud coated his skin. Even his usually neat and proper hair was stained with mud and rain.

Feeling slightly discouraged, I slumped onto the muddy ground and said, "You go up first. If this goes on, neither of us is getting out of here. The rain's too heavy. This place may collapse at any second. It's just too dangerous!"

He frowned and pinned me a hard stare. "Would you give up so easily if it was Armond?"

I was stunned by his question. Realizing that he had misunderstood, I sighed softly. "It's not what you think it is. Our priority right now is to minimize the loss. We're both going to end up getting injured if we stay down here."

"That's fine by me!" he retorted. Disregarding my struggles, he pulled me up and continued climbing the rope.

As expected, it was no easy feat and I fell down once again.

"How are you guys doing? Can you climb up?" A voice came from the pit's entrance.

“The earth is too soft here. Throw down some tree branches!” Ashton ordered before shifting his gaze to me. “Don’t worry. I won’t leave you here.”

While I was momentarily dazed by him, he had already broken all of the branches Laurel dropped down just now into shorter pieces.

I watched dumbly as he stuck the broken branches into the pit’s wall. Soon, more branches were dropped into the pit.

Rock climbing!

Right then, I understood what Ashton was trying to do, so I began snapping the branches with him. He found a rock on the ground and used it to knock the short branches into the wall, making sure they held firm.

This was a difficult and tiring job, but Ashton did not once complain as he scaled the wall and knocked in more stake-like branches as he went.

The distance between us increased to the point where I could no longer pass more stakes to him. Hence, I could only hand him whole branches and let him break them off piece by piece before knocking them into the wall.

The people at the pit’s entrance also caught onto Ashton’s idea. Hence, instead of throwing whole branches down, they broke them off and put them in a bag before lowering it down to Ashton on a rope.

With everyone working together, a large section of the pit’s wall was impaled with stakes. Ashton looked down at me and called out, “Try to climb up now!”

I nodded, naturally feeling more secure with the stakes to support my weight. Even though I had never learned rock climbing, my survival instincts had kicked in and I wasted no time in scaling the wall.

