

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 743-757

Chapter 753

Joseph answered in the affirmative, "Yes. Since she is the director of the development team, she will need to verify the lost instruments. Rachel and the team have spent two years doing the research, and those instruments for the exhibition are their successful inventions. It is a pity that some of them are stolen."

I fell into silence. We could only have a clearer picture of the losses suffered when we arrive at the base.

Rachel was already there by the time we arrived. An air of despondency surrounded her as she looked at the damaged instruments.

Meanwhile, Armond was speaking with a policeman. Upon Ashton's arrival, he went over to him and apologized, "I'm sorry for the losses suffered by Fuller Corporation. We will get to the bottom of this incident and give you an explanation for this."

Hearing that, Ashton nodded. He cast his eyes over the crime scene before asking, "Have you verified the lost items?"

"Mm-hmm," Armond uttered a response. "Ms. Zimmer is currently verifying them."

Just then, Linda trotted toward us. Steeped in guilt, she apologized, "I'm sorry. This is all my fault. Actually, there are twelve security guards responsible for looking after the AI instruments. I came here last night and decided to stay a little longer since I found the AI instruments interesting, so I asked them to leave for their dinner. The head of the security guards has reminded me to lock the door when I leave, but I forgot about it."

There was a total of four lines of defence to access the technology museum. Apart from the main door, the remaining three doors were all equipped with password locks and infrared sensors. Linda turned off the infrared sensors yesterday before she entered the museum. Since prolonged infrared exposure was harmful to the human body, they would usually turn the sensors off when there were visitors. Even without the infrared sensors, the security was tight as there would always be security guards on guard.

Unfortunately, the instruments were stolen at night, so the thief had more than enough time to bring those instruments out of the museum.

Just then, Rachel stomped out of the base, her face purple with rage. "Do you know how much money and effort it costs us to invent the instruments? I have worked days and nights for this project. Your apology means nothing!"

Seething in anger, she turned to face Armond. "Mr. Murphy, you must give us an explanation for this and hold the negligent employees accountable. I hope you won't cover up for any of your employees. Please do not disappoint us."

Armond nodded firmly. "Ms. Zimmer, I will investigate this incident thoroughly and give the Fuller Corporation an explanation."

Then, Rachel shifted her fiery gaze to me. "Ms. Stovall, you are the person in charge of this project. Such a disaster has happened. Aren't you going to say or do anything about it?"

Hearing that, I couldn't help furrowing my brows. I knew Rachel had always disliked me. Yet, it was understandable that she was now in a bad mood after losing those inventions.

Thus, I softened my voice while reassuring her, "Don't worry, Ms. Zimmer. I will take responsibility, and I'm willing to receive any penalties from the company, but that's not the important thing now. What we need to do is to try to minimize the losses."

"Minimize the losses?" Rachel snorted, "Almost all instruments are damaged, and they are unusable. The project is officially launched, and the inauguration is scheduled a month from now. What are we going to show in the museum? How are the visitors going to think of the Fuller Corporation?"

Just then, Linda spoke up, "We all know about the consequences. Ms. Zimmer, you're too caught up with your emotions. Losing your temper won't help solve the problem; it will only make the matter worse. Fuller Corporation is not the only one that suffered losses, but Murphy Corporation as well. We are in the same boat, and you're not the only one who is worried about the project."

Rachel let out a snicker. "The two companies are now paying the prices for your negligence. How could you still behave in such a brazen manner? I am truly impressed by your brazenness. The Murphy Corporation is indeed full of talented people."

Linda was already eaten up by guilt for what happened. Hearing Rachel's sarcastic and spiteful remarks, her face turned as pale as a ghost.

"Ms. Zimmer, there is no need for you to keep rubbing salt in her wound. No one wanted this to happen. Linda has admitted her mistake, so why do you keep picking on her? Should she kill herself to show how remorseful she is? Is that what you wanted?"

"You..." Rachel was at a loss for words, glowering at me.

Ashton called out, "That's enough!" Facing Rachel, he asked, "Have you calculated the losses?"

Rachel nodded. "Yes."

"I need a detailed list of the losses. Also, get K City's AI Department to produce the next batch of templates. Get someone to communicate with the press not to publish anything about yesterday's incident. Make sure to keep everything that happened in the base confidential. We'll stick to our original plan." Then, he turned to face Joseph and instructed, "You'll need to communicate with the Murphy Corporation's Finance Department with regards to the exact number of losses."

Joseph complied as he took the documents from Rachel and entered the base.

Just then, Armond said to me, "You will have to stay here and liaise with Mr. Fuller."

Then, he shifted his gaze to Linda. "Be more careful when you're handling the project. I don't want this to happen again."

Chapter 754

Both Linda and I nodded compliantly. As Armond and Ashton were busy discussing the countermeasures, we decided to go and have a look at the base.

"The company has suffered up to hundreds of millions of losses. I can't imagine how much I am going to pay for compensation," Linda spoke as we made our way to the base.

A negligent employee would have to bear a part of the losses caused by his or her negligence. According to the law, Linda would be assuming thirty percent of the losses while I, the project manager, would bear twenty percent. As for the remaining fifty percent of losses, that would be the company's responsibility.

Regardless, anyone who lacked a strong heart would've broken down in the face of such great losses.

I let out a sigh. "Let's check the base out. Perhaps the policemen can find the culprit soon and trace all those stolen AI instruments."

"I hope so," she muttered and then heaved a sigh of despondency.

Everyone busied themselves in the base until late at night. None of us had the time to take a break. When the losses assessment was completed, all of us gathered in the hotel's conference room to have a meeting.

Joseph handed each of us a document before he spoke, "This is the total amount of losses. Please have a look at it."

Linda quickly flipped open the document. She drew a sharp breath the moment her eyes met the figure. "Three hundred million?!" she cried out.

Joseph cast a glance at her and nodded. "Most of the stolen instruments are related to the company's core technologies. We can't rule out the possibility that our rival company is the one behind this incident. Hence, we need to include the possible risks as part of the losses. If any party lays their hands on Fuller Corporation's core technology, they might patent our invention."

Rachel added, "That means to say that all of our efforts over the past two years will go to waste. Ms. Linda, as a mere employee, it's normal that you have no idea how important our core technology is. Well, I guess now you'll know since you need to pay millions of compensations." Her words oozed with sarcasm.

Hearing that, Linda's face turned ashen. After finished reading the document, Armond uttered, "Since the losses have been ascertained, I'll inform my lawyer as soon as possible so that we can get this over with."

"Mr. Murphy, you're very decisive, unlike your employees." Rachel cast her eyes at me as she spoke.

It was not the time to bother about Rachel's sarcastic remark. After the meeting, I went after Ashton as he left the room.

Yet, when I walked past Rachel, I almost tripped over her foot and fell.

Fortunately, as I lurched at Ashton, I grabbed hold of his shirt and steadied myself.

After I regained balance, I hurriedly apologized to him.

The man's eyes darkened as he glanced coldly at Rachel. Being caught in the act, the latter lowered her head and soon left.

Soon after, Ashton asked, "Is there anything else?"

"Do you have time? We need to talk," I said while still catching my breath.

"Sure." With that, Ashton turned and left the conference room.

I followed suit. When there was no one around, I spoke up, "The incident is still under investigation, and the policemen are still trying to trace the lost AI instruments. Could we only talk about the compensation after the investigation comes to an end?"

I couldn't see Ashton's expression. The man continued walking forward while not giving me any response.

Abruptly, he came to a halt, causing me to bump into his back and hurting my nose.

He turned around, his brows knotted. "Are you trying to seduce me?"

What's wrong with him? I couldn't understand how this man's mind worked.

I backed off to maintain a safe distance between us. Disregarding his bizarre remark, I said seriously, "Ashton, give my words some thought. We can deal with this matter fairly."

He didn't say anything but took out his room card from his pocket. That was when I realized that I had followed him to his room.

He opened the door and entered the room while not bothering to answer me.

Without a second thought, I followed suit and closed the door behind me.

Gazing at him, I continued by saying, "I know our negligence has caused Fuller Corporation to suffer great losses... Arghh-"

I never thought he would take off his shirt after removing his suit. The man was now half-naked, showing his rock-hard abs.

My face flushed a scarlet, and my heart fluttered. I turned my back at him and grumbled, "Ashton Fuller, why did you take off your shirt?"

"To take my shower and then go to bed," was his reply.

I pursed my lips. The next moment, the sound of the man unbuckling and removing his belt rang out. Uncontrollably, my mind ran wild, and I could feel my cheeks burning. "Ashton Fuller, are you a flasher? How could you take off your clothes whenever you want, especially in front of a lady? You..."

"This is my room. Why can't I take off my clothes?" he retorted, his voice deep and low. "Do you have anything else to say? If not, you should leave because I'd like to rest now."

Still having my back at him, I continued to persuade him, "Ashton, about what I said just now, please give it some consideration. The police are still investigating the incident. It is unfair for the Murphy Corporation to pay the compensation if, in the end, the police manage to find the lost instruments."

I waited for a while, yet I heard nothing but silence.

Chapter 755

As I turned around, my eyes widened the moment they met Ashton's naked body. The man was now wearing nothing but a black boxer.

Once again, I turned my back at him, saying helplessly, “Mr. Fuller, could you wear your clothes and put your shower off for later?”

“It seems like you’re unhappy with the outcome of our meeting just now. Well, if you’re here talking to me as the secretary of the Murphy Corporation’s president, I can tell you that your words carry no weight. I will only talk directly with Armond. So, Scarlett, are you here talking to me as my wife or Armond’s secretary?”

I was at a loss for words. After hesitating for a while, I answered, “As your wife.”

Hearing that, the man smiled, his expression softened. “There are clothes for you in the wardrobe. It’s late now. Take your shower and have an early night.”

Before I could say anything, the man had made his way toward the washroom.

We were all adults; I knew what my answer meant and what would happen that night.

Back in the conference room just now, I saw Linda’s terrible expression when Joseph told her of the amount of compensation. Although she earned good money in Murphy Corporation over the past few years, still, she would have to drain her savings and even be indebted to pay the compensation.

As for me, I couldn’t even pay a million, let alone a few million. Besides, I had transferred ownership of the bank card with HiTech’s annual revenues to Ashton after he found out that I had lent money to Marcus without his knowledge.

Apart from the properties in J City and R Province, I had no other assets.

Thus, my only way out was to persuade Ashton to change his mind. Since the incident was still under investigation, perhaps things might take a different turn. Besides, my gut feeling told me that this was not an ordinary burglary.

I sat quietly on the couch, zoning out. After some time, I walked toward the wardrobe and opened it to see some branded nightwear inside. Ashton has them prepared beforehand. It is as if he knew I would eventually give in.

Just then, the washroom door opened, and out came Ashton with a towel wrapped around his waist. The man looked singularly sexy under the dim light as water droplets trickled down his torso.

I reacted swiftly in looking away. "I'll go take my shower."

Wiping his hair dry, the man replied nonchalantly, "Okay."

Since we're married for years, we had had intimacy countless times. Yet, this time, it felt different.

Actually, I didn't really feel lowly or pathetic staying for the night. I knew if I wanted to leave, Ashton wouldn't force me to stay.

It was just that this time, it felt like we were not doing it out of love.

When I finished my shower, Ashton had dried his hair and was now leaning against the headboard. He had the silk blanket covering his lower abdomen while exposing his chest.

He cast his indifferent gaze at me. Then, he straightened up and patted the bedside. "Come here."

Pursing my lips, I went to sit on the bed, my heart filled with conflicted emotions. The next moment, the man took the towel from me and helped me wipe my hair dry. "Scarlet, we have a long future ahead of us. Let's take things slowly."

I felt complicated hearing that.

After that, none of us said a word as he wiped my hair.

It was a comfortable silence instead of an awkward one.

Soon, Ashton tossed the towel aside and said, "Let's sleep now."

Instantly, I tensed up, knowing very well what was going to happen next.

I turned my head to find that the man had lain down on the bed.

After some hesitation, I decided to go all out and climbed onto him. For the first time, although a little clumsy, I took the initiative to kiss him.

Startled, he opened his eyes, looking at me in shock.

Although I was married for many years, I still hadn't learned how to tease a man.

"Scarlett!" the man called out in a hoarse voice.

"Mm," I murmured as my lips lingered on his cheeks. The man had just shaved his beard. His stubbles sent a tingling sensation, yet it was tolerable.

"What are you doing?" His voice was hoarse and trembling as he tried to suppress his desire. Even though I was not a good kisser, still, I could easily turn him on.

I didn't bother to answer him. Slowly, I traced my lips down his torso all the way to his groin.

The man groaned.

He furrowed his brows, and the emotions in his dark gaze were inscrutable.

“Don’t you like it?” I asked.

Instead of answering me, he asked, “What are we after tonight?”

I was at a loss, unconsciously loosening my grip on his manhood.

Ashton sneered at my abrupt movement. He shoved me aside and then pulled the blanket over his lower abdomen.

“If you’re doing this because of the compensation, you don’t need to do so,” he said with suppressed emotions.

Chapter 756

I knew he got mad.

Lying beside him, I was at a loss looking at his back. “Ashton, then what do you want?” I asked.

He uttered coldly, “Scarlett, you know clearly what I wanted, but you’ve always acted like a fool with me. You don’t need to please me to make me agree to your request. Just tell me what you want, and I’ll do whatever you say. You know I can’t say no to you.”

At that instant, my heart was overwhelmed with mixed emotions.

I moved closer to him and rested my head on his back, wrapping my arms around him.

Upon that, the man's cold aura subsided. Yet, he still had his back at me.

After a while, I spoke up, "I'm not doing it because of what happened today."

The man remained silent. I let out a sigh and coaxed, "Ashton, don't turn your back to me. You know I can't sleep like this."

The man's body stiffened. "Then what do you want me to do?" he asked.

It seemed like his anger had dissipated, so I pushed my luck. "I want you to cuddle me."

Slowly, Ashton turned around to face me. He was indeed good-looking. Whenever I saw his handsome face, I felt lucky to be his wife.

As our eyes met, I found no trace of anger in his. Feeling encouraged, I buried my face in his chest.

"Hug me tight, or I can't sleep," I cooed in a muffled voice.

In fact, after all these years, it was the first time I acted so lovey-dovey with him.

Yet, it seemed like Ashton was pleased. He hugged me tight and let my head rest on his arm. His eyes lit up while looking at me affectionately.

With my cheeks flushed, I shifted in his arms and protested, "I can't sleep when you keep looking at me."

He lifted my chin and suddenly asked, "Have you ever imagined our wedding?"

I was slightly bewildered. Why is he suddenly talking about a wedding? His question threw me off balance.

Nevertheless, I answered, "Um... Maybe like Emery's Chinese-style wedding? At a place where the flowers blossom. I prefer holding a wedding on a sunny day instead of a winter day. If possible, I wish to wear a red wedding dress with silver and gold embroidery. Ah, and also, a red veil and a phoenix coronet. It will be wonderful!"

Since it wouldn't cost to imagine a wedding, I let my imagination run wild. Besides, it seemed like Ashton was interested to know.

He looked happy after listening to my answer. With mirth in his eyes, he whispered in my ears, "I will give you everything you want. The wedding will be held following strictly to the traditions."

After a short pause, he said in a hoarse voice, "But now, let's have our wedding night first!"

Before I had even realized it, the man mashed his lips against mine.

"Ash... Mmph..."

My mind was jumbled up, but I know I should say something to stop him. "Ashton, I... I don't want to do it."

The man muttered a response. Fixing his eyes on me, he asked, "Are you afraid that you might lose your heart to me?"

Ashton indeed knew me well.

For a brief moment, I was at a loss when that man spoke my mind. Thinking I had nothing to lose, I narrowed my eyes and flashed him a smile. "Ashton, you know what you're going to lose if we continue, and we're talking about billions here."

He curled his lips into an alluring smile. "Is that important?"

Well, perhaps not. To you, a few billion are just the tip of the iceberg. With that in mind, I wrapped my arms around his neck and pressed my lips against his.

Whatever! Why should I stress myself over this? Instead, I should enjoy this moment.

The next moment, Ashton hugged me tighter in his arms.

Once we were in bed, be it men or women, we would abandon all our pretense of being calm and gentlemanlike while revealing our deepest desire.

Ashton and I were now stark naked. Before he entered me, I requested, "Ashton, can we turn off the lights?"

The man narrowed his eyes, and his mind was all muddy. "What, are you feeling shy?"

Nevertheless, he did as I said. In the darkness, the two of us were drowned by passion and ecstasy. In fact, we had never felt so sexually compatible before.

In the end, the two of us were being drained of all energy.

The morning in Lavelian Village was full of life. The air was fresh, and the sun was shining bright. It was already September, yet the trees and flowers still looked lively as they were in summer.

In the morning, I woke up with Ashton nibbling on my lips.

I grumbled, "Ashton, can you be gentler?" Then, I pushed him away from me. If we continued, I was afraid I might have to spend the rest of the day lying in bed, exhausted.

I tilted my head, whining in a pitiful voice, "Ashton, I'm tired."

The man let out a chuckle; the hoarseness in his voice sounded singularly sexy in the morning.

Chapter 757

"Mm, I know." Then, he praised, "Scarlett, you are beautiful."

I believed no woman could resist a man giving her such compliments, especially after spending a lovely night together.

I took a deep breath to compose myself. In my coarse voice, I complained, "Ashton, you're a b*stard! I said I don't want it anymore, but you still..."

I thought it was the end, yet it was only the beginning. My soul rose and fell as the intense pressure pushed me beyond all previously known limits. Throughout our lovemaking, I was at the man's mercy, like a cloud having lost all its direction.

When the wave of ecstasy subsided, I was lying on top of him with my eyes closed, panting.

The man's seductive voice was heard, "Want to take a bath together?"

Feeling exhausted, I shook my head, unwilling to move my body. The man chuckled.

Disregarding my reluctance, he carried me in bridal style all the way to the washroom.

Coincidentally, the bathtub in the hotel room was huge enough to fit a lovely pair.

“I don’t want to take a bath,” I said in my hoarse voice.

The man smiled faintly. “I’ll keep you company.”

“Ashton Fuller, get out!”

Instead of leaving, Ashton lit up his cigarette and started smoking.

I frowned at the smell of the cigarette. “Are you still smoking?”

I remembered that he had quit smoking a while ago. Why is he smoking again?

Seeing my furrowed brows, he stubbed out his cigarette before explaining, “Well, I don’t usually smoke.”

I leaned myself against the bathtub and relaxed. After I regained some energy, my phone in the room rang.

That was when I remembered I still needed to hurry to work. Yet, I couldn’t bring myself to clean myself up when the man was around. “Ashton, could you please leave?”

Hearing my request, he raised his brow. “We’re married!”

“I know we’re married, but even a husband and wife need some privacy.”

“But I’ve seen your naked body a hundred times over!”

Ugh! It’s hard to communicate with him! I stood up and wrapped my body with a towel. “Then I’ll leave the washroom to you. I’ll use it later.”

Seeing my resoluteness, the man eventually gave in. “Fine, I’ll leave.”

I heaved a sigh of relief. In no time, I managed to take my shower and apply makeup.

After coming out of the washroom, I got myself changed into the clothes in the wardrobe that Ashton prepared for me.

As if something had hit me, I suddenly turned around to ask the man, who was looking at me with his arms crossed, “You’ve even prepared my clothes! How are you so sure that I will come to your room?”

Without any hesitation, he answered confidently, “Because I know you.”

Well, that seemed to be the only explanation.

Soon after, I grabbed my phone to find that there were a few missed calls from Linda.

I returned the call, and it went through in no time. Linda asked over the phone, “Scarlett, where were you last night? You didn’t even come back to sleep.”

“I’m with Ashton now.” I sighed internally. It seems like it’s impossible to stay away from that man.

Linda was shocked as she cried out, “Have you guys gotten back together? Or did you compromise because of what happened at the base?”

I shrugged my shoulders and gave an ambiguous answer, "Both, I guess. Anyway, you don't need to worry too much about the compensation. We'll find a way out."

"Hmm... okay." After a short pause, she said earnestly, "Scarlett, thank you."

I smiled faintly. "Well, you don't need to thank me for that. I can't pay the few millions of compensations either. I guess there are times when we need to compromise in life."

Just then, Ashton loomed over me. I ended the call and looked up to see him staring at me. "Compromise in life, huh? Are you planning to sell yourself to me?"

I admitted frankly, "After bribing you last night, I can no longer act righteous if we argue in the future. Isn't it a huge sacrifice?"

Hearing that, Ashton chuckled. He wanted to hug me, yet I shunned away. "Mr. Fuller, you should take your shower. It's already noon, and I suppose as the president, you wouldn't want to be late."

Eventually, the man gave me a big smooch before he walked toward the washroom.

I was amused by his childish act. It was indeed true that inside every man, there was a child.

It was late when we finally left the room, so we decided to have a meal at the hotel's restaurant.

Since there were only a few places to eat in the hotel, it was normal to bump into someone we knew.

Linda saw us the moment we entered the restaurant. She scrutinized me with her teasing gaze before coming up to me. "You must be hungry. I see you have had a passionate night."

For a brief moment, I was slightly bewildered. When finally I understood what she meant, feeling embarrassed, I changed the topic, "Did you go to the base just now?"

Linda nodded. "I'll leave you guys then. See you later."

With that, she left and soon found herself a seat at another table.

Annoyed, I shot daggers at Ashton. "Look what you've done!" I couldn't possibly cover up the hickeys on my neck as there were just too many of them.