

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 773-777

Chapter 773

I shrugged, my gaze sweeping over the many skincare products lined up on the dressing table. “I’m getting old. If it weren’t for these, I’d have turned into a hag a long time ago. You wouldn’t want to bang a wrinkly lady, right?”

He squinted at the products, raising a curious eyebrow. A charming smirk grew on his face as he slowly approached me.

Sensing his strange actions, I stared at him suspiciously out of the corner of my eye. “What are you doing?”

He picked up one of the bottles of lotion, skimmed over the instructions, and then glanced at me. “I’ll help you put this on.”

I...

That was the lotion that Nora had gifted me. Her old folks claimed that our relationship would improve with this. Despite the expensive price tag, she thought we had to catch up with the trend and try it.

He squeezed some lotion out onto his palm, pulling me into his arms once more. “You can leave these sorts of things up to me in the future, Mrs. Fuller.”

Panicking, I grabbed onto his wrist. “What are you doing, Ashton?”

“I’m helping you put lotion on.” His smile was disarmingly handsome, and one of his hands was already starting to slip under my negligee.

“Don’t rush your decision to withdraw from the Lavelian Village project, alright?” I frantically changed the topic. “Hopefully, this will all pass and everything will get better soon. Besides, hasn’t Fuller Corporation lost some of its AI technology recently? Even if you try to withdraw now and find another company to collaborate with, you’ll still face the same problems. The employees from both corporations are finally starting to get along and cooperate with each other well, too.”

My little rant didn’t distract him at all. I bit on my lower lip, suppressing the heat building within me as I asked, “Did something happen today?”

Ashton seemed stubborn in not talking about the subject anymore, but he finally replied, “Just the project.”

I knew it. The project’s condition was still unstable, after all. Pushing him away, I crawled back into bed and hid under the covers. “I’m sleeping!”

“You little vixen,” he laughed wryly. “It’s as if Mr. Murphy is your husband instead of me. You’re just trying to twist my arm at this point.”

“I get a large portion of the profits if I stay with Murphy Corporation,” I argued from under the covers. “I wouldn’t get anything if I worked at Fuller Corporation.”

He sighed, getting under the covers and wrapping me in his arms. “Can’t I just give you however much money you want?”

“It’s different! I want to earn my own income.” I squirmed in his embrace.

“I see that someone needs to be taught a lesson tonight,” he joked. After saying that, his hands started wandering all over my body.

More than an hour later, my body had reached its limit after several rounds of lovemaking, and I begged him, "Ashton, I can't... Ah! If you keep this up... I won't go back to K City with you..."

Ashton's hips finally halted their movements as he buried his face into the crook of my neck, chuckling in satisfaction. The grass is always greener on the other side. People often fail to realize the bliss and happiness they own when faced with challenges.

Just like how someone might be admiring the scenery, but someone else might be admiring the sight of them from afar.

I grew sleepy as the night dragged on, my eyes closing on their own will. I distantly registered the sensation of something being put onto my finger, whimpering quietly as I pulled my hand back. "What..."

"It's your wedding ring," I heard Ashton say before he placed a gentle kiss on my lips.

A little astonished, the fog cleared from my brain as my eyes flew open. Burrowing into his arms, I reached up and kissed him again, saying drowsily, "We're already an old, married couple, though."

When I ran away from K City, I'd left my wedding ring and all my credit cards at the villa. I'd never thought that he would be wearing it all this time.

The dim lighting of the bedside lamp cast a warm glow onto Ashton's gentle smile. His voice was husky as he replied, "Thirty isn't old at all. In fact, I think it's the best time of our lives."

He pushed himself up to hover over me, swiftly stealing my breath away with countless deep kisses.

The following days were inevitably boring due to the project Lavelian Village being put on hold.

As a result, I grew antsy and antsy with each passing day.

Nora eventually recovered and was discharged from the hospital. She wasted no time in going to the Murphy Corporation and inviting Linda and me for lunch.

“There’s no use in drowning in work to distract yourself. Even if the project gets back on track, we still need to take the higher-ups’ opinions into account. You might as well enjoy some delicious food and take your minds off of the whole situation for a while,” she chided us while in the car.

Linda’s fatigue and worry were clearly written all over her face. Even her makeup looked cakey in contrast to the perfect image that she usually upheld.

I was faring slightly better than her. Although Ashton was still busy at the office, he made sure to come home every night and keep me company, preventing me from burning the midnight oil and ensuring that I would actually get a good night’s sleep.

“It’s not like I want to be this stressed either,” Linda groaned. “But the longer this project stays on hold, the more our company will suffer losses that just keep piling on top of each other!”

She had a point. There were more than a hundred employees currently on-site at Lavelian Village whose salaries were at least five thousand per month. If the project was delayed for one month longer, we would be wasting a month’s worth of salaries. Murphy Corporation was a large company, but that didn’t mean that we could afford to burn through our financial assets recklessly.

Chapter 774

“Mr. Murphy’s the one who should be worrying about this, not you. Let’s just forget this nonsense and go grab some food,” Nora said.

Upon our arrival at Gastronomía, Linda exclaimed when she got off the car, “Ms. Oberick, is there really a need for us to eat here? One meal cost at least a month’s worth of my salary. We know you’re rich, but the both of us treasure our money.”

Nora handed her keys over to the valet. “Stop exaggerating. I know you’ve eaten at fancier restaurants back in the past. C’mon, it’s not like you’re treating. Let’s just enjoy our meal.”

Linda coughed awkwardly. “Can’t help it. I’m tight on cash recently.”

Although A City was only a second-tier city in the Xenhall region, it did not lose out to the other first-tier cities in terms of lavishness.

True to its name, Gastronomia was a fine-dining restaurant that served exquisite food. Instead of the private dining room, we opted to eat at the main hall. Nora headed over to the bar to greet a few familiar faces.

One of them led us to our seats. Right after, she took the liberty to order for us. “They sell mainly seafood here. So don’t worry about getting fat and eat your fill.”

Linda was in disbelief. “Is this really our main concern now?”

Despite the complaints from earlier, the relaxing ambiance and mouth-watering dishes had evidently improved all our moods. At the moment, Nora ordered some red wine. She managed to persuade Linda to drink with her.

After a few drinks, both of them started talking about Armond. Nora seemed a bit down. “Dating is such a dread. Which reminds me, Linda, have I ever mentioned how much I envy you? You have a family of your own. Being a single parent is tough, but it saves you from all those relationship issues.”

“Ms. Oberick, this is where you’re wrong. You’re the lucky one! Since you’re single, you can do whatever you want and not have to be accountable to anyone. How great is that!”

“How’s that great? Linda, let me ask you. Why do we date guys? Isn’t it so that they can protect us and fulfill our bodily desires?”

Linda nodded, completely oblivious to her hidden intention.

Nora continued, “See, you agree with me too! As a couple, we have to satisfy each other’s needs. But, what the hell. How did I find someone like Mr. Murphy? He doesn’t even come close to touching me.”

Feeling helpless, she pulled on Linda’s sleeves. “Do you think he has lost interest in me? Or, does he hate me so much that he doesn’t want to touch me?”

Regardless of whether this was an act, I got to hand it to Nora for her ways.

Linda replied honestly, “It’s not that Mr. Murphy doesn’t want to touch you. He probably hasn’t let go of his past. He hasn’t allowed any women to get close to him in all these years. I thought things were fine between the both of you. Maybe you should give him some time.”

Nora felt herself getting close to the truth. “What past?”

At that perfect moment, Linda blacked out. The conversation came to an abrupt halt. Nora turned towards me, looking unsatisfied.

I took this as our cue to leave. “All right, it’s getting late now! I’ll send the both of you home.” I went over to help Linda up.

My plans were interrupted when Armond came to pick Nora up. He turned towards me. “I’ll give both of you a lift.”

Since our houses were on their way back, I accepted his offer. I settled Linda in the backseat. Before I could make my way around to the opposite door, a black Bentley parked right in front of me.

There was no way I would not recognize this car. To confirm my suspicions, I peered through the tinted windows. The person inside winded down the side window.

Marcus!

Why's he here? Isn't he supposed to be in K City? Not knowing his purpose here, I nodded at him before attempting to flee. Marcus was one step ahead. He got off the car and approached me.

Seeing his face, nostalgia hit me. It felt like an eternity since I last saw him.

I stood rooted, recalibrating his features again. Perhaps due to a period of not seeing each other, he stood further than usual.

Chapter 775

His handsome features seemed even more pronounced under the streetlights. But underneath it, I could see traces of fatigue.

"Mr. White, what a coincidence!" I greeted him.

With both his hands in his pocket, he looked right at me. "Not a coincidence. I was looking for you."

I felt neither surprised nor threatened. Instead, there was something amusing about this situation. "What an honor."

“Seems like you don’t miss me as much?”

I kept silent, hoping he would get the hint.

After a long, awkward pause, he continued, “I don’t have any motives. I just came here to check if you’re doing ok.”

“Thanks for your concern. I’m doing fine.”

My curt response seemed to have affected Marcus. He wore a forlorn smile. “I’ll wait for you, even if it means waiting for the rest of my life. If not this life, then the next. But next time around, let me be the one to meet you first.”

Right then, a black Maybach parked beside his car. The rear window came down, revealing a person who was looking placidly in our direction.

I forced my attention back to the conversation. “Mr. White, the same old words. Don’t waste your life waiting for me. I have a great career and family; I’m happy with what I have. Your advances would only trouble me, including those things you do for me without my knowledge. Besides Ashton, I really don’t want any other man to be thinking of me in this manner.”

Marcus let out a bitter laugh. “You didn’t even hesitate the slightest bit, huh? If you’re so loyal to him, why did you leave K City to come here? Scarlett, what exactly are you thinking?”

How do I explain this?

“Leaving K City was simply because that chapter of our lives was over. It wasn’t that I stopped loving him, or that I found someone else. In fact, it’s the opposite. I love him so much. But I need time to convince myself that I am worthy to stand beside such an outstanding man like him. Each time, I can’t help thinking that he deserves so much more than a person like me, so I’m trying to find the confidence to go back to him.”

Hearing my words, Marcus looked down. It did nothing to mask the hurt in his eyes. “No matter what you say, my words still hold true; I’ll wait for you. I pray that in our next life, I’ll be the one to meet you first. Whatever he can give you, I can too.”

I sighed in resignation. I should have known he was not one to give up this easily.

“Marcus, sometimes people focus so much on their desires that they overlook what they already have. I hope you give others and yourself a chance. I don’t want you to miss out on your happiness.

“Now that you know I’m doing fine here, I think it’s time for you to return to K City. I’ve made it very clear that it’s just a matter of time before I reconcile with Ashton. This time around, we’ll bounce back stronger. So stop wasting your time on me. It’s not possible between us.”

I lifted my ring finger, revealing the ring Ashton had put on me the previous night. Although the diamond lacked in size, its shine was very conspicuous.

Looking at the ring reminded me of the treacherous path it took for us to get here. Throughout our many years of marriage, Ashton and I had our fair share of trials, warmth, and love.

I smiled at the recollection. “I’ve worn this ring for over a decade. After going through so much, it’s still back on my finger. You know, I could’ve gotten rid of it, but the truth is, I couldn’t bear to. This is our wedding ring. Ashton loves me and treats me well. If possible, I will marry him again in my next life.”

That dealt the final blow. Marcus looked defeated. “G-Great. All that matters is he treats you well, and you’re happy.”

He retreated a few steps before turning to see Ashton sitting in the car beside his. Recovering his senses, Marcus said solemnly before heading swiftly back to his car. “I hope you’ll always be happy from now.”

With that, he drove off.

His words left no room to read between the lines; I decided to take it literally.

I let out a breath. Finally, it was over. Deep down, I was afraid Marcus would continue to haunt me. If that happened, it would have caused a bigger issue.

Chapter 776

Back in the Maybach, Armond noticed Ashton's presence and took it as his cue to leave. He drove off with Nora and Linda.

Then, Ashton got off his car and walked towards me. Against the headlights, it made his tall and lean built more prominent. This gave me butterflies in my stomach.

While wearing his signature smile, he pulled me into a deep embrace. "Scarlett, that was amazing. Your words just now must've really got through him."

I chuckled lightly while teasing, "It's not right to eavesdrop on conversations."

"Oh? Was that eavesdropping? Surely you must have noticed me."

I pouted childishly. "That's still eavesdropping!" While saying that, Ashton had draped his coat over my shoulders to shield me from the chilly September weather. Then, he led me to his car.

Seeing his familiar back lifted my spirits; I felt whole again.

Apparently in a good mood, he reminded chirpily, "Next time, inform me before you go anywhere. It's dangerous to be out alone."

I sat down in the passenger seat before replying, "I need my own space as well!"

"I only need you to inform me. I will not restrict your movement or anything."

"It's the same either way!" I shut my eyes without giving him a chance to reply.

Helpless, he blanketed his coat on me and pulled me into a tight embrace. He had clearly ignored Joseph's presence.

While pretending to be mad, I pushed him away. "Don't touch me."

"Why? What's wrong?"

"Can't I have some privacy?"

Ashton remained patient. "Scarlett, I'm not trying to restrict you or anything. I'm just concern for your safety."

"But it sounds like I have to report my every movement to you."

Feeling powerless against my tantrum, he gave in. "All right. It won't happen again. I'll work on my tone."

"Again?"

"My bad. No more next time. Whatever my dear wife says, goes. Just don't ever leave me. Is this better?"

I decided to push his buttons further. "Is this better? Why are you making it seem like I'm forcing you?"

Ashton still remained his cool. "How would you like me to speak?" Meanwhile, Joseph had started the vehicle.

"Will you do anything I say?"

Ashton raised his brows. His hands playing with the back of my palms. "No. Not anything."

"So those were just words to pacify me?"

He broke into a laugh. "As long as my dear wife's happy, I don't mind pacifying you all the way."

I glared at him. "I don't need your pacifying. I'm not a child." Our bickering continued throughout the rest of the car ride.

By the time we arrived back at the villa, it was dark outside. I headed straight to the bath while Ashton sat on his chaise lounge reading his book.

Around half an hour later, I came out of the bath and found him still sitting in the same position. Finding his focused expression endearing, I found myself walking towards him. I took the seat beside him. "How many times have you read this book?"

He raised his head, smelling the scent of wine on me. "Next time, don't drink so much."

I leaned against him before retorting, "I didn't! I was just accompanying Linda and Nora. They were the ones who got drunk. I'm sober as a judge."

"Drinking is prohibited unless you're with me." He raised a brow.

“You’re being a tyranny!”

He smiled while placing his book aside. Then, he took the towel from me to dry my hair. “Since you have admitted to being my wife, it’s only right I take good care of you.”

His drying technique was so soothing that it left me feeling drowsy. I closed my eyes while enjoying his treatment.

After some moments, I was reminded of work. “Are you really giving up on the Lavelian Village project?”

All this while, Ashton had not updated me on any progress. I knew that dragging this on would do nothing good for Murphy Corporation.

He replied calmly, “No hurry.”

“How long more will this last?”

“You’ve got to ask Armond about this.”

Oh right. In order for this project to start, Armond has to get the relevant connections.

He held on to my shoulders from the reminder. “Have you decided when you’re returning to K City with me?”

I pursed my lips, half-drowsy. “Haven’t I already said? We have to complete this project first. We can’t just give up halfway.”

“Is being stubborn your way of getting me to stay on this project?”

Still in his embrace, I laughed hysterically. “Mr. Fuller, it’s not wrong to interpret it this way. Lavelian Village project was once under my lead, so I really wish to see this through the end.”

Chapter 777

He lowered his head and looked at me. I blinked a couple of times. I could clearly see his sexy Adam's apple bobbing up and down.

He cupped my face in his hands and closed in for a kiss.

After these few days, I got used to his tendency of kissing me from time to time. I snaked my arms around the back of his neck. Involuntarily, I responded to his kiss.

I guess I somehow learned what I did next from him. I encircled his neck with one hand, and my other hand reached for his earlobe and pinched it lightly. This part of him seemed to be quite sensitive. After a few light rubs, it was all red.

I let go and teased him. "Ashton, your ears are so sensitive."

He didn't reply. Instead, he suddenly lowered his head and bit my lips as I spoke.

It hurt a little, but it was nothing too bad. I frowned at him and complained pitifully, "Ashton, are you a dog?"

He chuckled and spoke in a low voice. "Your lips were too tempting. I couldn't help myself."

I glared at him. "You..."

He lifted me bridal style and turned around. The next moment, I was pressed against him on the huge bed.

“Ashton, switch off the lights!” I ordered in a panic.

“Mm...” he moaned and reached for the remote control on the bedside table. With a light click, the whole room was shrouded in darkness.

In the dark, only the sounds of our amorous breathing remained.

After our intimate session, I lay in his arms. One of his slender legs pressed on me, and he made no move to shift it.

I rested my head on his arm and faced him as we lay in bed. Our bodies were intertwined so closely that it felt a little awkward.

His large hand repeatedly caressed my back as if he was putting me to sleep. Since it was late and this posture was very comfortable, my eyelids started to feel heavy.

I gave up trying to keep them open and let my weariness wash over me. Soon, I drifted into my deep sleep.

I slept really well that night. When I awoke the next morning, it was already eight o'clock. Ashton was lying right next to me.

Out of habit, I stretched out my arm to hug him and snuggled into him. He pulled me closer and asked, “You’re awake?” His voice was raspy.

“Yes.” I nodded.

He chuckled, and then...

Noticing that there was something not quite right, I woke with a start. I lifted my eyes to look at him.

He smiled seductively. "There, there. I'll take care of it myself."

I wanted to say something, but he was like this all of a sudden. I was not prepared at all.

One hour later.

Seated at the dining table, I was in good spirits after a fresh shower. Ashton was frying some bacon in the kitchen.

I didn't feel like moving. Hence, I rested my chin on my palms and waited to eat.

He came out of the kitchen with our breakfast on two plates. Noticing that I was ogling him, he raised a brow. "What are you thinking about?"

I quickly answered, "I was just thinking. How am I so lucky to have met a perfect man like you?"

He sat down at the dining table. His obsidian eyes locked with mine, and he remarked with a smile. "You seem to be very satisfied today!"

He seemed to be hinting at something else.

I pursed my lips, and proceeded to eat my breakfast.

Ashton was poised as always. He lifted a piece of bacon into his mouth, chewed slowly, and swallowed it. "What are your plans for today?"

“Work,” I responded automatically.

After a while, I remembered that it was Saturday. Thus, there was no need to head to the office.

I paused for a bit, then said, “I guess I will just stay home and sleep.”

He grinned ambiguously. “I see. That’s quite suitable. The weather doesn’t look too good for an outing. It’s a good day for sleeping in.”

I stared at him plainly. Once again, his words seemed to be insinuating something.

Not knowing how to continue, I switched the topic. “How about you? What do you plan to do today?”

“Sleep with you!” He was looking straight at me, his voice low and sultry.

I coughed and sputtered at his answer. This man, he is getting more and more...

Seeing my violent response, he asked innocently, “What’s wrong?”

My face reddened. I put down my cutlery and stood up. “Nothing! Enjoy your breakfast!”

He frowned and ordered, “Finish yours!”

I froze for a moment. He then said, “You only took two bites out of your breakfast. What are you? A sparrow?”

I pouted at him and replied, “If you keep quiet, then I will finish the rest of it.”

Now it was his turn to freeze. His brows furrowed, and he asked, “You want me to stop talking?”

I nodded, looking at him seriously.

He conceded and nodded, then motioned for me to finish my food.

After sitting down, I continued eating. However, after a few minutes, I wanted to get out of my chair.

It was because he kept staring at me. His intense gaze made me feel uncomfortable.

With much difficulty, I finished the last bite and looked up at him. "I am done!"

He put down his fork and knife. "Is my presence that distracting?" He asked in all seriousness.

"Ashton, stop teasing me!" I retorted with discomfit.

He burst out laughing and walked over to me. His gaze was full of adoration. "Was I teasing you?"

This man!

I refused to answer him. Conveniently, his phone started ringing.

"You should take the call," I said and went upstairs.

Recently, Ashton had become unruly. He didn't bother to control himself anymore.

I had intended to spend the weekend relaxing at home. This plan was axed due to Nora's call.

Her usual energetic voice was heard over the phone. "Scarlett, let's go visit my grandpa in Lavelian Village. We said we would go last time, but we didn't manage to."