

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 793-797

Chapter 793

Ashton rose to his feet without speaking. The doctor came in for a quick check-up. "Mrs. Fuller is completely fine. A few more days of rest and she'll be cleared for discharge."

Ashton nodded. Capitalizing on his attention being elsewhere, I pushed the half-eaten bowl of soup away from me.

After the doctor left, I rose to go to the bathroom. However, my legs were not in use for too long and I toppled over the moment I put some weight on them.

Ashton's reflexes were lightning quick. He reached out and caught hold of me. "What are you doing?" he asked sternly.

"I want to go to the washroom," I answered, trying not to laugh. That was embarrassing.

Ashton lifted me up in his arms and carried me into the bathroom. He then threw me over his shoulder and undid my pants for me.

"Ashton, I can do this on my own," I said hurriedly, pushing him away. "Please wait for me outside." I was hoping he would leave before he saw how red I was.

"What's the matter? I've seen every part of you before, haven't I?" he said with a frown.

How is that the same?

I pushed him again. "It's not the same. Please let me do this on my own. I think I can manage!"

Ashton threw my hands off bossily. "I have been changing your urine bags for the past two days," he said. "You are my wife, I should be taking care of you. I'm sure you would do the same when I'm old and grey. Stop overthinking."

I was speechless. He was right. After being married for so long, there wasn't anything left to hide from one another.

It was one thing when I was comatose, but a whole other thing when I'm completely conscious. I pushed him gently. "That was different but I'm awake now. I can do this on my own. I promise to call you when I'm done, okay?"

Ashton pouted at me. "Be careful then," he said.

I nodded.

I sighed with relief at the sight of his departing back. If not for his timeless good looks and graceful slender build, I would have assumed he was an old grumpy man.

When did he become so meticulous and fussy?

After two days of rest in the hospital, the doctor examined me one more time before declaring that I was fit to go home.

Ashton spent practically all of his time here at the hospital. He had even brought over all of my toiletries. Joseph was tasked with investigating my abduction, so the job of caring for my needs fell to Ashton.

I sat on the edge of the bed and watched him pack my clothes. "Ashton, when you're old and broke, you could apply for a housekeeping job."

"You think I'll go broke?" Ashton placed my folded clothes into the suitcase and asked.

“No,” I answered after a moment’s pause. With his abilities, he would never be as poor as that.

Ashton placed the toiletries into the basin we paid for during my stay at the hospital. It was used to hold the water to clean my face when I was rendered immobile in bed.

“Do we need to bring that home?” I asked. We didn’t need that at the villa.

Ashton did not reply. It was practically brand new, it would have gone to waste if it was left here at the hospital, but also stored away without use for it if we brought it back.

Besides, Ashton was the type of man who did not concern himself with the nitty gritty aspects of whether or not a basin would come in handy someday.

The janitor smiled at me as she entered to perform her daily cleaning duties.

I’ve come to befriend her during the past couple of days. She appeared to be a mute, as she had always greeted me with a smile and nothing else.

Ashton walked up to her and placed the basin on her tray of tools. In a few gestures, he had expressed his intentions.

The lady nodded vigorously in gratitude. I did not understand much and interrupt them.

We made our way downstairs to the parking lot. As I entered the car, I teased him. “Mr. Fuller, it appears that you are becoming increasingly humble.”

Ashton chuckled lightly as he fastened my seatbelt for me. “If I remained distant and aloof, I would be missing out on the joys of life being around my wife and my children. I want to be a part of that.”

He started the car but kept his grasp on me. “That’s dangerous, Ashton,” I protested.

“Do you not trust my driving skills?” Ashton teased.

I laughed but did not refute him.

As soon as I got better, I began to keep myself occupied again. Ashton took it upon himself to investigate my abduction quietly. As I did not have connections and resources, it was difficult for me to take up that task.

Since I was in charge of the project in Lavelian Village, I had to be there naturally.

After a day’s rest at the villa, I packed my belongings and headed for Lavelian Village.

Nora had nothing much to do too. She spent her time either tailing behind Armond or enjoying my company.

There was much to do when the project started. Even Nora lent a helping hand.

After we returned to the hotel at night, Nora climbed into bed and complained, “After working hard for the entire day, I don’t even get a room, not to mention not getting paid”

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“Would you like me to bring it up with Mr. Murphy tomorrow?” I teased. “You would enjoy some benefits if you were a member of Murphy Corporation.”

Nora rolled her eyes at me. “What would I do with those benefits?” she retorted. “I would prefer to have the title of Mrs. Murphy. Plus, I don’t need to be paid as I have plenty of money.”

I shrugged without saying anything. "Armond would be done with work by this time, wouldn't he?" Nora asked after some thought.

"I suppose so," I replied.

She brought her clothes in with her to the bathroom. "Don't wait up for me," she said with a wink. "I won't be home tonight!"

We were all adults after all.

Ashton called me a little later. I realized with some horror that I had forgotten to inform him that morning that I would be heading out to Lavelian Village.

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"Honey, are you home?" I crooned sweetly when I picked up.

Ashton's mesmerizing laughter was rather pleasing to my ears. "I am almost home. Have you had your dinner?"

I told him that I did. "How about you?" I asked while thinking hard of a way to tell him that I was at Lavelian Village.

"Yes, I have!" he replied.

"It's good to know that you are taking care of yourself," I said. "Oh, by the way, I came to Lavelian Village this morning. It's been really busy, and I'm afraid that I would have to spend the night here."

He grunted, the joy in his voice diminishing considerably. "I have to spend the night alone, don't I?" he asked sorrowfully.

This man...

"I had to spend the day alone, too." I laughed. "Where did you go, by the way? Who were you with?"

I have to admit that this was not the most subtle way of changing the topic of a conversation.

"I was with Joe," he replied frankly. "Can you come back by tomorrow? We can have dinner together."

I gave it a thought but decided against it. There was simply too much to do.

"I don't think I can," I said apologetically. "Why? Do you have anything going on?"

"I have to return to K City," he said. "There is something that I have to deal with in the company."

Ashton was at A City for almost two months. I dreaded to think about what his desk in K City would look like by now. The losses would undoubtedly be heavy.

"When you would be departing?" I asked. It's a hectic period for both of us; we would have to fend for ourselves for the time being.

"Tomorrow!" he said glumly. "Joseph will remain here. You can ask him for help whenever you need to."

I nodded.

We spent a little more time flirting over the phone. At this moment, Nora emerged from the bathroom clad in a bathrobe. "Babe," she said to me. "Have you taken my feelings into consideration before dirty talking your man while I'm still in the room?"

I laughed and ended the call with Ashton. "Do you plan on going out dressed like that?"

It was September and Nora wore a black dress that went halfway up her thighs. She looked sexy and gorgeous, but it was probably too cold to be out in that.

She smiled broadly and did a twirl so I could admire her dress. "Don't worry about how cold I'll be. Tell me how hot I look!"

I nodded as she blew dry her hair into curls, applied a little light makeup, and procured a fur coat from her closet. It looked stylish and ravishing, with a hint of goth.

Nora carefully picked out a matching pair of heels to go with the rest of her outfit. "How do I look?" she asked as she watched my expression carefully.

I knew why she took the time into looking all dolled up. "Take care and play safe!" I said.

She giggled. "Don't you worry about me," she said. "At his age, Armond would want a child. If I get knocked up, I will have a legitimate reason to marry him!"

I rolled my eyes at her. "Love should be the primary reason for everything, especially for girls. You should be moving from dating to marriage to having a child one step at a time. You shouldn't rush into having a child under such uncertain circumstances. Actually, we don't even know much about the Murphys, don't we?"

She was taken aback by my seriousness. "I know now, Scarlett." she nodded slowly. "No matter what it is, I will always prioritize my own safety."

With Nora prepared to have a fun night out, I was prepared to put away my things and tuck in for the night.

The following day, Ashton was in a rush back to K City. He only managed to send me a message before boarding.

Nora returned earlier than expected. I opened the door to the sight of her standing unsteadily in front of me. "What's up? You're back early?"

She leaned against me and mumbled, "Armond went to the base, and I can't sleep alone. So I'm back here to sleep with you."

I buried my forehead in my hands exasperatedly. "I'm leaving soon. You should take the day off and rest here if you're tired. Just stay in the whole day, will you?"

I helped her over to the bed, grabbed my purse, and left.

At the AI base, the cops searched the premises for a couple of days and found nothing useful. Armond sent them away in disappointment.

Ashton had plans in place for the continuation of the Lavelian Village project. The available AI technology in K City that we required was transported over for our perusal.

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The employees were busy setting everything up. Rachel was at the base directing and making arrangements. At the sight of me, she merely glared distastefully but did not say anything disparaging.

I was not very familiar with the technology, so the best I could do was to handle the miscellaneous items on the side. The damage done to the base was repaired with such skill that I could not tell the difference.

With Armond and Rachel delegating, I watched in amazement as the employees ferried over and set up all sorts of sophisticated machinery.

Two of them brought a sort of excavation machine in. It wasn't large, but it was fully automated. They left the machine and departed.

I was curious and couldn't help myself from getting a closer look. It wasn't turned on, so it just looked like a pile of scrap metal.

I couldn't understand why children were so fascinated with these things.

"These are used to assist in the development phase," came Joseph's voice from behind.

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I was nonplussed. "Assist the development?"

Joseph nodded. "There aren't many laborers here in Lavelian Village. The robots basically handle all of the follow-up work."

"Were the stolen goods similar to this?"

"Yes, they were," said Joseph. "That was why the projects had to be postponed. However, it was a good thing that we have backups on hand. The commencement of the project wasn't a problem. Our worry is that if the technology is leaked, it would be a hassle to haggle and fight for copyright."

"Coming through!" a voice came suddenly from behind. Instinctively, I stepped back to make way.

I tried to avoid touching the machine behind me, but I lost my footing and gave it a shove instead.

In an instant, the machine came to life and raced backward, smashing into everything in its path. It had happened so suddenly that everybody was caught off guard.

The six-foot-tall machine fell over. Thankfully its progress was halted by the wall and the damage was not as bad as it could have been.

Joseph held me steadily. "Are you alright?" he asked.

I shook my head and looked behind me at the damaged machine.

"It..."

"Scarlett, it's you again. You're a troublemaker, aren't you? Things will always go wrong whenever you show up." Rachel strode over and signaled for men to clean up the wreckage.

"Do you know how expensive these things are?" she chastised. "It's difficult to fix them, you know. Don't you feel bad for the people who have to suffer because of you?"

I did not do it on purpose. "I am sorry," I hung my head and apologized. "It was not done on purpose. I would be happy to bear the cost of the damages."

"Of course, you would bear the costs, it's not even your money, to begin with," she said scathingly. "How nice it must be to spend your man's money like that." Rachel was clearly savoring the moment of my mistake.

Joseph felt the need to interject. "Ms. Zimmer, I think you should concern yourself with the repair works. Let me handle everything else."

"You..." Rachel's temper flared but decided not to pursue it as she caught sight of the look in Joseph's eyes.

She spun around and started describing the extent of the damage in great volume and detail.

I was aware that she directed the sarcastic comments to me on purpose.

The mark on the wall left by the machine caught my interest. It had scraped off some of the white paint and revealed bare rock underneath.

“Mrs. Fuller,” Joseph said when he caught me examining the wall. “It’s crowded and chaotic here. Let’s head into the office.”

“Who was it that built this base? Murphy Corporation or Fuller Corporation?” I asked him.

“Why, Murphy Corporation, of course,” Joseph said, puzzled. “Murphy Corporation built this entire enterprise. Why do you ask?”

I shook my head in confusion. Turning back to the wall, I knocked on it for no particular reason only to discover to my surprise that some spots were hollow.

But it did not look any different from the solid parts.

“Ms. Stovall, could you verify these data?” Leedon came over with his hands full with a large stack of documents.

I nodded and tore my eyes away from the wall. “Are these not dealt with?” I asked, taking over the documents from him.

Leedon nodded. “It’s nearing the end of the month. These things have to be sorted out earlier and sent as reports to the headquarters. I’m old and illiterate, so I’m afraid I would have to depend on you.”

I nodded after studying the information. “Leedon, were the walls constructed according to temporary structural specifications?”

“No,” he said with a shake of his head. “They were built according to strict residential specifications. To keep this project quiet, the foundation is exactly double its original width. The walls are thick too!”

I was startled and shot another glance toward the damaged wall. Leedon appeared to be panicking over the deadline of the reports, so I grabbed the stack of documents and brought it into the office.

It was another long and hectic day. After I got off work, Ashton sent me another text to inform me that he had arrived at K City.

I was incredibly tired, so I headed back to the hotel even before I had dinner. The phone rang just as I came out of the shower.

It was Ashton. I picked up the phone and sprawled on the bed. "Good evening, Mr. Fuller!" I greeted as I rested my eyes.

"Have you had your dinner?" I could picture his smile just from the way he spoke. "What're you doing?"

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If I said that I did not want to eat, he would just continue to nag. Thus, I could only reply, "I've already eaten. Have you?"

"Yep, I'm eating now!" The sound of glasses clinking together could be heard from his end.

"Are you eating outside?"

"Yep!" he replied.

My hair was still wet, and when I leaned back against it, my back was drenched. I turned and asked, "Who are you with?"

He chuckled lightly and said, "A... girl!"

I pursed my lips. "Is she younger or older?"

"Younger!"

My eyes narrowed as I asked, "Is she pretty?"

"Yep!" he quipped.

My lips twitched. "Is she prettier than me?"

He grinned and said, "Both of you are pretty!"

I inhaled deeply and snapped, "Ashton, be serious. Otherwise, I'm going to hang up on you."

He laughed loudly and clearly had no qualms about hiding his exuberant mood.

The laughter was pleasing to the ears. I had initially assumed that he was eating with some woman. But from the way he laughed, I could tell that I knew the person he was with!

A childish voice sounded out from the phone, "Mr. Fuller, are you talking to Mommy?"

My heart skipped a beat. It had been so long since I last heard Summer's voice and held her in my arms.

Tears welled up in my eyes that instant.

Ashton handed the phone to Summer. "Mommy? Is that you? I'm Summer."

My heart ached, and the lump in my throat prevented me from speaking for some time. A weight pressed down on my chest as I struggled to draw breath.

Due to my silence, Summer became anxious and said, "Can you hear me, Mommy?"

Tears started to flow down my face. Each beaded droplet of water seemed to sting me on its way down. I took in a shaky breath and replied, "I'm here, Summer. I... can hear you!"

Speaking to her brought on another tide of tears.

Summer was elated to hear my voice. She could not contain her excitement as she proceeded to fire off words, "Have you eaten, Mommy? When are you coming home? Mr. Fuller and I have been waiting for forever. Let me tell you a secret – I've planted many sweet potatoes in the yard. Grandma says that when they sprout, you'll be back. They've already started growing. Are you going to be home soon, Mommy?"

I choked, and for a moment, I could not breathe. Tears cascaded down my cheeks endlessly as I nodded and said, "I'm going to be home soon. Once I'm done working, I'll go home to you. Eat well, do your best in school, and listen to what Mr. Fuller says, okay?"

"Okay!" I could almost see Summer nodding earnestly. "I'm a very good girl, Mommy. I can recite many poems now, and I even know how to write and count. Mr. Fuller let me take piano lessons, and I've learned how to play 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.' I'll play it for you when you're back. I know how to draw too. I drew a beautiful picture for you, so please come home soon, Mommy. My birthday is almost here. Mr. Jackson says he'll invite Michael and Mr. Johnson to my birthday. It's going to be fun. So, you have to come home quickly!"

I nodded and tried to fight back the tears. "Okay. I'll definitely be back before your birthday. I promise to spend your birthday with you."

Ashton seemed to be talking to Summer at that moment. "Alright, that's enough for now, Summer. Let me talk to Mommy, okay?"

Summer was reluctant, so she said, "Can I ask you for a favor, Mommy?"

I nodded as my whole body trembled with the force of my suppressed sobs. “What birthday present do you want?”

“No. I want to ask if I can talk to you every day until you come home. I want to hear your voice. Grandma and Grandpa do too. Grandma cried a while ago because she misses you as much as I do!”

Her voice was full of innocence – pure and naive. I made a sound of agreement to hide the guilt that was gnawing away at me.

I left because I knew that I would not be able to provide Summer with the best quality of life. She would have a much better life with Ashton. However, I forgot that she was just a child. To her, I was the only family she had, and she was frightened that I would leave her.

After a while, Ashton took over the call. He must have known that I was crying. Thus, he lowered his voice and said, “She’s doing well here and is very obedient. Jackson and the rest will come to see her.”

I nodded and choked out, “Thank you, Ashton.”

“You’re my wife, and Summer is my daughter. There’s no need to thank me!”

I could not help but laugh and let out a breath of relief. “When the Lavelian Village project is done, I’ll return and spend Summer’s birthday with the two of you!”

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He hummed a response, and his magnetic voice drawled, “I’ll be waiting!”

I grinned. The memory of what happened at the base today surfaced, and I paused before saying, “Ashton, have you heard anything from your investigation into the stolen machines?”

He was stunned by my sudden change in topic and replied, “There hasn’t been much news for now. What’s wrong? Did you find anything?”

I nodded. “It’s one of the walls at the base. A normal cement wall won’t produce an echo when knocked – only fake walls will. However, the back wall of the base has an echo. I studied it today and noticed that the outer part was about three feet wide. Normal walls aren’t that wide.”

He was silent for a moment before replying, “You stay out of this matter from now on. Let Joseph handle it. You should just focus on the project in Lavelian Village since the Fuller Corporation will finish it soon and arrange for a conference as soon as possible.”

I knew he was worried about my safety, so I did not say anything else. At this moment, someone knocked on my door; it was probably Nora.

I hung up the call and went to open the door. Nora was carrying several bags in her hand. When she saw me, she said, ‘I knew you would be at the hotel. I just came from exploring the food street and bought a bunch of tasty snacks. You’ll be sure to love them!’”

I lowered my head and glanced at the bags. I reached out to receive them and said with a smile, “You went all on your own?”

She nodded and placed the items down. She noticed that something was off about me and asked with a frown, “Have you been crying?”

I was stunned. I flashed her a smile and said, “I called home and realized how much I miss my daughter.”

She hesitated for a moment before exclaiming dramatically, “You and Ashton have a daughter?”

I grinned and replied, “She’s five years old!”

Hearing that, she spluttered and cursed, “Holy s**t, you even have a daughter. Why did you argue with Ashton? Is something wrong with you?”

I smiled in response. It was a long story, and it was better for me to change the topic. “I didn’t think Lavelian Village would have this type of seafood mix. I’ve been craving it for some time.”

She had bought about ten different variations of it. Looking at me, she said, “My grandfather always forbade me from eating it, so I became obsessed. Now that I’m out alone, I want to try everything. I’ll call Armond over to join us. The two of us probably can’t finish all of it, and I don’t like wasting food.”

I raised an eyebrow. “Does Armond eat these?”

“Even if he doesn’t want to, he’ll have to. I carried these a long way. It’ll be a waste of my effort if he doesn’t eat them.”

I pursed my lips and kept silent. Sometimes, the dynamic between a couple could not be explained through logic and science.

After that, she turned and walked out of the room. I took the food out of the bags. There were about ten items, and they all came from the same food street.

Everything smelled so good, and steam could be seen rising from them. Soon, she came back with a sullen look on her face.

I noticed that Armond was not with her and asked, “What’s wrong? Where’s Armond?”

“I don’t know. He’s not in the room. I called for him multiple times, but he was engaged on another line. He’s probably busy working!” She plopped down on the seat and was visibly dispirited.

I smiled and looked at the warm food on the table. “Then, should we wait for him?”

She shook her head. It did not make sense for us to let the food go cold anyway.

Following that, she gestured for me to start eating. She ate a few mouthfuls of grilled scallops from one of the takeaway boxes and said contentedly, "I finally know what this tastes like. It's so delicious. I bet that Grandpa has never tried something this yummy. What a shame!"

I smiled and ate a few pieces of roasted meat. It was extremely fresh and flavorful. Immediately, I could not help but exclaim, "This roasted meat is great. Here, have a taste!"

She nodded and placed a pan-seared chili scallop in front of me. "Try this. I'm sure it tastes better than those you had in the restaurant."

I nodded and tried one. The spiciness and salty freshness were delectable.

After feasting on all ten dishes, our stomachs were bulging.

Nora collapsed on the bed and massaged her round tummy. "I'm so happy. It was so delicious, and I've never had so much food in my life. All my efforts to lose weight have gone down the drain."

After resting for a bit, I cleaned up the remnants of our meal. My stomach was uncomfortably full too. I saw it was only 9 p.m. and realized there was still time for a light evening stroll.

"Let's take a walk around the area. I haven't had the chance to admire the night scenery. A walk will definitely help with the digestion," I suggested to Nora.

She quickly nodded and said, "Sounds good. We can take pictures of the night scenery too. I have a neon skirt that I haven't worn out yet. This would be a great opportunity to take some insta-worthy pictures!"