

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 898-902

Chapter 898

“Mrs. Fuller, you’re back from the trip,” Stella greeted me.

I was so mesmerized by her drastic change that I fell silent for a moment. After a while, I threw a smile at her and nodded. “Yeah. By the way, are you going out with someone? You look gorgeous.”

“You’re flattering me, Mrs. Fuller.” She blushed. We both laughed.

Suddenly, my phone rang. It was Sasha’s mother. I answered the call as I knew it was around the time that she would ask me for money for Renee’s chemotherapy.

Instead of the usual sobbing I was expecting, the woman sounded calm on the other end. Instead, she forced calmness into her voice and said, “Mrs. Fuller, are you free to come over? Renee wants to see you and thank you personally.”

She sounded rather unusual to me, so I asked in confusion, “Mrs. Brooks, what’s wrong?”

“Nothing. It’s just that Renee wants to express her gratitude for your generous support with her medical fees.”

I promised her I would stop by. I ended the call, bade Stella farewell, then headed to the hospital.

I hated the iodoform smell in the hospital, so I quickened my pace to Renee's room. Both her grandparents were in the ward with her. They had aged considerably when I last saw them two weeks ago. Now, their wrinkles were more prominent, and they looked haggard.

Mrs. Brooks stood up from her seat when she saw me entered the room. "Mrs. Fuller, thank you for coming."

I shook my head slightly. They informed me they hadn't eaten, so I agreed to stay and looked after Renee. Then, they excused themselves and went to the cafeteria. The emotion I felt when I looked at the child was unexplainable.

She lay asleep on the bed with a pale and gaunt face. It was heart-breaking to see such a lovely girl terribly emaciated because of cycles of chemotherapy treatments.

I took a seat beside her bed as I seriously pondered whether I should ask Ashton's help for her treatments. Renee deserved the best specialist out there who could cure her illness. It was just unbearable to see her suffer.

When I was about to message him, Renee woke up and was surprised to see me. "Ms. Stovall..." she called out my name with a quavering voice.

"Did I wake you up?"

She shook her head and looked at me. "Where are Grandma and Grandpa?" she asked.

"They went out for lunch. Renee, are you thirsty? I'll pour you a glass of water."

"It's fine. Thanks, Ms. Stovall."

I smiled faintly and held her bony hand. My heart ached for her. "Are you hungry?"

She just shook her head, perhaps still a little groggy from her sleep. I usually felt awkward around little kids, so we fell into silence. I noticed her gaze drifting from me to the ceiling several times.

“Ms. Stovall, am I dying?” She finally broke the silence.

Her question gripped my heart. The air surrounded us seemed too hard for me to breathe. I tried to suppress my tears and force a smile. “No. The doctor will cure you, and you will get well very soon. After that, you can run outside, play under the blue sky, or even go to the zoo with your grandparents.”

“Really?” Her eyes sparkled with excitement.

I tugged on her hand and nodded affirmatively. “Yeah. After you recover, I will bring you anywhere you want. How does that sound to you?”

Suddenly, she looked attentive, even hopeful. “I have not eaten cake and ice cream in a long time. Grandma said I can only eat after I get better.”

Her earnest response somehow touched me. “Okay. It’s a promise then!”

“Hooray!” she exclaimed. Then she took out a pocket-size notebook from behind her pillow. “Ms. Stovall, my grandma wants you to take this.” She passed it to me. “It’s my mom’s diary. And Grandma said I should thank you for your kind help.”

Confused, I reached out for the diary. “Your mom’s diary?”

She nodded. “Yes. I don’t know what she wrote because I can’t read. Grandma said it can help you. Now, keep it in your bag before some bad guys see it. Read it only when you reached home.” Thus, I shoved the notebook into my handbag.

We were having a nice talk when her grandparent returned from their lunch. “Mrs. Fuller, thank you so much,” Mrs. Brooks said gratefully.

“Don’t mention it. Don’t worry about her hospital bills. I’ll find another way.”

“Mrs. Fuller, my husband and I have tried our best. We have decided to give up on the treatment. Renee has gone through so much. We want her to enjoy her childhood to the fullest.” Despite the smile, she sounded despair.

Chapter 899

Her words stunned me. I was at a loss for words. “Why, Mrs. Brooks? I’ve sought advice from the doctor. He said there’s still hope. If you’re worried about the cost, please don’t be. Just leave it to me. Renee is still young. There are endless possibilities ahead of her...”

Before I could finish, she broke down in tears and shook his head helplessly. “Still, she can never break free from misery. My husband and I are old now. We will only become a burden for her in the future. Not to mention, she has a wicked uncle. We caused Sasha’s death. So we can’t let Renee go through the same faith as her mother. She should live the rest of her life with no regret. She deserves happiness in this life and the next life.”

I could feel Mrs. Brooks’ pain. Somehow, I agreed with her, because even if Renee pulled through this difficult period, there was no one she could turn to. Shane, that jerk alone, would definitely make her life a living hell. Also, she had to take care of her grandparents alone in the future.

No, I must not give up hope. Before I could muster enough reasons to persuade her, Mrs. Brooks looked at me and said, “Mrs. Fuller. I know you are being kind, and we really appreciate it. It’s getting late now. You should head home.”

I held my tongue and left the ward, utterly frustrated. I knew I have no right to decide on their family matters. Most of all, I couldn’t meddle in that little girl’s future.

Suddenly, I felt a vibration in my handbag and reached for my phone. It was a call from Nora. “Scarlett!” She was as loud as always. “Are you at K City? Have you seen Armond? He hasn’t called me for days! Why exactly did the police seize the Lavelian Village project? And you, when will you come and visit me?”

I sat on the chair as I watched people walked in and out of the entrance. I saw people with different emotions—anxiety, despair, joy, and sorrow. There was also a couple who were holding their newborn baby tenderly. I watched them closely and was fascinated to see the realities of life.

Nora waited for my response on another line, but I could not utter a word. The frustration still lingered in me. “I will not visit you for the time being,” I said after a moment of silence. “Just take care of yourself and don’t worry too much. Something must have happened to the Murphys, but I’m sure Armond will contact you once things have settled down.”

She sighed and pouted. “I am hoping for you to come because I am so bored here. You know what? Grandpa is arranging blind dates for me every day! I don’t know what has gotten into him. He’s suddenly opposing my relationship. He said Armond is not a good match for me. Geez, the old man is so fickle!”

I didn’t know how to respond to that, so I just said, “Stop complaining. Maybe Mr. Oberick thinks that’s what’s best for you.”

The sun had already set when we ended the call. I was not surprised because the days were always shorter in that area, especially during autumn, where the weather was unpredictable.

At the villa, I parked my car in the garage. The smell of food lured me to the kitchen. I leaned against the door frame and watched Ashton, who was busy with the dinner preparation. I couldn’t help but break into a big smile at the sight of him in an apron.

He noticed my presence and paused. With a startled gasp, he asked, “How long have you been standing there? You should tell me you’re home.”

“I’m home.” I smiled.

He broke into a helpless grin. "Wash your hands. Dinner's ready."

That night was the first time I saw him in a grey sweater. "You look much younger wearing other colors than black," I complimented him.

He arched an eyebrow and gave me a solemn look. "So you mean I look old all this while?"

I found his expression funny. "A little, like an old nerd. You looked intimidating and unapproachable. I prefer you like this. You look more amicable."

"Fine, I will start wearing more colors."

I was surprised that he would take my advice seriously. He had made changes to his bad habits, control his temper, and even took time to reflect on his life.

I could say it was a hundred and eighty-degree change in his image. The Ashton I knew was rather cold and hardly ever smiled. It was not a sudden change. The transition took ten years long. I didn't notice it until I saw him jealous, longed for attention, and broke the habits. Sometimes, he would even throw tantrums. Tonight, I saw the gentler side of him.

He might not express his love verbally, but he made a habit of caring.

Chapter 900

Noticing that I was staring blankly into space, he waved in front of me. "What are you thinking about?"

I recollected my thoughts and planted a kiss on his chin. "I'm thinking of how lucky I am to be able to meet someone like you."

He replied, "I'm lucky to meet you too, Ms. Stovall."

After spending some time alone with him, my troubles dissipated, and I felt better. I went back to my bedroom and received a call from Cameron. She asked me how I was doing and urged me to visit them.

I explained to her my current situation and promised to visit them the next day. Suddenly, Summer called out to me from the other end of the phone and chatted with me for a while before hanging up.

Initially, I wanted to take a good sleep, but right after Ashton and I lay on the bed, his phone rang. Upon answering the call, his expression turned stern as he got up and changed his clothes.

Seeing his reaction, I couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong? What happened?"

"There are some problems with the investigation at Lavelian Village. I have to be there." Upon that, he packed his stuff, while I changed into some casual clothing and followed him.

He wanted me to stay, but knowing my temperament, he let me do as I pleased.

Then, we rushed to the airport and boarded the last flight. On the plane, we took a brief nap, and when we reached A City, the sky was still dark. Hence, we went back to the villa and slept for two hours before going to Lavelian Village.

It had been almost a month since I went to Lavelian Village. Scanning the surroundings, a lot of things had changed. The construction was completed, as a two-story building was erected from the ground. Not only that but the roads were also paved with cement to make walking easier and safer since it was almost winter.

The project was a collaboration between the Fuller Corporation and the Murphy Corporation. However, now that problems had surfaced one after another within the two companies, everything was put to a halt.

Ashton parked the car at the entrance of the base, and we scanned the scene. The police officers had the area barricaded to preserve the scene for further investigation. At the same time, Rachel was communicating with the police officers, while Armond was nowhere to be seen.

“Mr. Fuller, you’re here.” Upon detecting Ashton’s presence, Rachel came towards us and was in a good mood.

Ashton looked at her and asked, “What’s the current situation?”

“The place that Armond transferred the technology equipment was discovered, and the police officers had it sealed off. They are contacting the Murphys right now.” Rachel glanced at me as she reported to the man.

Soon after, Linda came to the scene and was rather agitated when she saw me. “Where did you go? Why is Mr. Murphy locked up in Moranta? What’s going on?”

Things were quite complicated, so I didn’t know how to tell her. After pondering for a while, I said, “It’s complicated. I’ll tell you everything in detail next time. Anyway, what’s going on here?”

The woman pursed her lips. “I don’t know. Do you remember the time when Fuller Corporation’s technology got stolen? They were all stored in the underground warehouse. To be honest, I never knew there was an underground warehouse here after working at the Murphy Corporation for ten years. Goodness gracious!”

Hearing her words, I glanced at Ashton. Back then, I noticed something was off with the structure of the base, so I asked Ashton to look into it.

After a while, Ashton said, “Let’s go in and have a look.”

We headed toward the base, and police officers were guarding the entrance. Rachel took the initiative to talk to them. "This is Mr. Fuller, the president of the Fuller Corporation. We're here to check on the technology equipment stolen from us."

The police officers took a glance at us and said, "To go in, the person in charge for both companies must be present."

I exchanged glances with Linda. "We are the Murphy Corporation's person in charge of this project. Sorry to trouble you." With that, Linda showed them her work pass.

After glancing at the work pass, the police officers let us in. The equipment on the first floor was the same as before. With Rachel guiding us, we went in and headed towards another door.

When I saw the door, I was shocked. It looked exactly the same as the wall. No one would notice it as it blended in with the wall perfectly.

"Why is there a door here? When was this designed?" Linda blurted out in shock as she furrowed her brows.

I was shocked as well. However, there was more to come. Following that, a long pathway could be seen. As we walked down the pathway, we reached the warehouse and saw the stolen technology equipment.

Rachel said, "It seems like I was right. The equipment couldn't be transported in such a short time since they were big and would attract unwanted attention. Even if they were meticulous about the operation, people would still notice it. So their only way of doing it was to move them here."

Then she turned to Linda and clapped her hands sarcastically. "My, my, what a brilliant plan by the Murphy Corporation. Who would've known that the equipment would be in a hidden warehouse within the building itself?"

Linda frowned at Rachel's words. She didn't know anything about the underground warehouse. Wanting to defend the Murphy Corporation, Linda opened her mouth, but she couldn't think of anything to say because she witnessed all these before her eyes.

On the other hand, I remained silent before saying, "These are all larger-sized equipment. Are those that launched overseas smaller ones?"

Rachel rolled her eyes and pursed her lips while speaking in a disdainful manner. "Well, duh!"

Even so, I thought little about it and turned to Ashton. "What should we do now?"

The man scanned the items in the underground warehouse and made a decision. "Contact the reporters and lawyers. We'll have to file a lawsuit against the Murphy Corporation." Giving a cold look, he was emotionless when he said that.

Upon hearing his words, Linda started panicking. She stopped Ashton and tried to reason with him. "Mr. Fuller, aren't you burning the bridge? Mr. Murphy is still locked up in Moranta. Shouldn't you at least give him a chance to explain? This is way too sudden, and I believe Mr. Murphy doesn't know about this. The architects and engineers were in charge of the construction, while he never took part. Maybe he was in the dark all along."

I pursed my lips. If I didn't go through the life-and-death situation in Moranta, I wouldn't even know that Armond was a two-faced person or suspect that he was behind this. However, now that I knew what kind of person he was, I believed he had planned this for a long time.

At that moment, I was wondering if he was also behind my participation in the Fuller Corporation's bidding. It would make sense if he had probably planned everything from the start. After all, the Murphy Corporation had been dominating the AI technology field, and it wasn't a desirable outcome for them if Fuller Corporation's AI technology rose to fame.

The man wanted to use this chance to gain benefit from the Fuller Corporation's downfall. He was playing the long game.

Recalling the time I almost got into trouble in A City, my trust toward Armond was broken. To delay time, he even laid his hands on me and set Nora up. This man was way more scheming than we thought.

I said, "Linda, let's leave that to the police, okay?" Everything that happened after I met Armond surfaced in my mind, and instantly, I felt the temperature dropped a few degrees.

The woman looked at me and stayed silent for a while. "Let me call old Mr. Murphy. This matter involves the entire Murphy family, so I have to inform him about this. I'm sorry, Scarlett, but the Murphys mean a lot to me."

I nodded. "Alright. Go ahead."

At the same time, the Murphys were in a frenzy at the moment. Hence, when Robert picked up the call, he directly asked Linda to handle the situation on-site. "I'll leave it to you. Just try to minimize Murphy Corporation's loss."

Upon hearing his commands, Linda was stunned. Then, she nodded and said, "Okay."

After hanging up, Linda looked miserable. She then glanced at me with a troubled expression. "Scarlett, tell me. What happened to the Murphys?"

I figured she didn't know about the incident in Moranta. It was a lot, so I collected my thoughts before telling her. "The gas released from the chemical factory under the Murphy family in Moranta was carcinogenic, and Armond was involved in a murder case. That was why he couldn't return to A City to take care of these matters. Furthermore, the police officers were now investigating the Murphys' property, so old Mr. Murphy had his hands full with that, and he could only leave this to you."

Linda was rather intelligent, so she knew someone was behind this. "Is the Fuller Corporation involved with the incident in Moranta?"

I didn't intend to hide it. "The Murphy family wanted the import and export trading rights, but the Taylor family had passed the rights to Ashton. Armond then kidnapped Ashton and forced him to give it up. However, he failed, and the police officers are running an investigation on him."

Upon hearing my words, Linda's face was as pale as a sheet. Knitting her brows, she was at a loss for words.

Rachel glanced at Ashton with concern and turned to Linda. "It seems the Murphy Corporation doesn't have boundaries as long as it makes them money."

Hearing that, Linda stayed silent. After a long while, she looked at Ashton and said, "Mr. Fuller, I know I can't hinder your decision, but I'll do my best to protect Murphy Corporation's project in A City."

Ashton glanced at her before turning to Rachel. "Contact the reporters and lawyers."

With that, he led me out of the base, and we walked all the way to his car.

In the car, I kept quiet for a long time. However, I failed to suppress my curiosity and blurted out, "Ashton, did you know there was an underground warehouse before?"

Although Rachel said that the back wall was damaged by accident because of the malfunction of the machines. However, Armond had made the area behind the base off-limits to anyone else. No one would drive the excavator to the back unless someone actually planned to enter from the back.

The man continued driving and kept his eyes on the road as he smiled. "I knew it ever since you told me there was something wrong with the structure."

I pursed my lips. "Then why did you only expose it now?"

Upon that, he glanced sideways at me and explained, "If I expose him back then, he'll only change his plans to oppose me. I needed time to find his flaws, so I went along with it. With this, I'll know what he was going for."

Chapter 902

Seeing how he was looking at me while driving, I yelled, "Eyes on the road!"

After pausing for a bit, I continued, "You knew that Armond was going to set you up in Moranta. That was why you wanted to come back as soon as possible when you heard that he was heading there."

The man nodded. "But I never expect him to take action so quickly."

No wonder Armond was completely unbothered when he was making a bet with Abe in the casino. He knew the latter wasn't his opponent. Thinking about Abe, I couldn't help but ask, "Do you think that Abe's really dead?"

The man pursed his lips. "According to the police report in Moranta, the corpse's DNA matches with Abe's."

I was stunned by his words. "Armond actually killed Abe?"

It was way too sudden. I initially thought that Armond faked Abe's death with a corpse to confuse us. However, I was too naïve. He actually killed his partner.

Ashton parked the car as soon as we reached the villa. Since we hadn't been there for some time, Ashton hired a helper to clean the house. Right when we got off the car, the helper was done with the chores and was about to leave.

When she saw us, she looked at Ashton and reported, "Mr. Fuller, a tall and muscular man came and looked for a woman called Scarlett. He asked me to relay this message to you guys: Be careful."

He's looking for me?

I stopped the helper from leaving and asked her about the man's features. After a series of questioning, I couldn't think of a person I knew who matched her description, so I let her leave.

Then, I went to the living room and sat on the couch, thinking of the man the helper described earlier. Ashton looked at me and said, "Now that Abe's subordinates know that he's dead, they might be misguided by Armond and come looking for trouble. So from now on, you'll have to report to me whenever you leave the house."

I nodded, as I knew how dangerous it would be.

Suddenly, a man's name came to my mind after I heard him mentioning Abe's subordinates. My body trembled in shock as I sat upright and looked at Ashton. "I know who that man is now. He's Danny, one of Abe's subordinates. I helped him in Venria before. When he followed Abe back to the country, I gave him my contact number and address in case he needed my help. However, I forgot about this after I returned to K City."

With these thoughts in my mind, I immediately called Nora. She answered after a while, and her voice was hoarse. "What's wrong, Scarlett?"

Hearing her voice, I was concerned. "Where are you? Why is your voice so hoarse?"

She answered weakly, "I'm in Moranta at the moment. For some reason, I couldn't get hold of Armond, and you guys were already back in K City. I miss him so much, so I came to see him. I'd just arrived and didn't have any sleep last night, so I'm at the hotel trying to catch some sleep. What's wrong?"

I froze for a while as I was shocked at what the woman told me. "You're saying that you go there by yourself without knowing where he is staying? Do you know how dangerous it is?"

Realization dawned on her, and she was stunned for a while. "Oh yeah, I was just about to ask you. You guys stayed in Moranta for such a long time, so you know where he's staying, right? Can you send me the address later?"

I pursed my lips as I didn't know how to tell her about the incident in Moranta. "Do you believe me if I tell you we don't?"

She replied, "Hmm... Yeah, but it's so frustrating, knowing that I have to look for a needle in a haystack."

After pondering for a while, I said, "Nora, just think of it as going on a vacation in Moranta. Maybe Armond didn't contact you because he was busy. There are a lot of things going on with Murphy Corporation recently, so I think he doesn't have time to meet you. Anyway, you should return as soon as possible. It's dangerous to be alone over there."

However, the woman was stubborn. "I know he's busy, so I'm here to see him. Just for a bit, and I'll go back. Oh, right! Why did you call?"

I replied, "Oh, I wanted to ask if a tall and muscular man come to find you these days." Before I left A City, I reminded her to help Danny if he came to look for her.

She said, "Nope. No one came to see me recently."

I figured Danny had followed Abe to Moranta, so I nodded and reminded her, "Don't stay in Moranta for too long. I'll give you a number, and just in case you need help, you can call this number. Don't wander around there and always be careful."

Nora hummed in reply and hung up after that. After a while, I sent her Holden's number and texted Holden, asking him to take care of her.

Moranta's security wasn't that good, so at least Holden could help her if she got into trouble.

After that, Ashton went to the study on the second floor, while I went to my bedroom. It was at this moment when I realized that Renee had given me Sasha's journal when I was at the hospital.