

## When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 98

“Do you know why?” Ashton would not deliberately increase the workload for others for no apparent reason.

“It seems to be AC Credit had missed out on certain aspects during the audit. It wasn’t a serious issue. However, Mr. Fuller was angry,” Stacey muttered timidly.

I did not probe further. Since Ashton had requested it to be redone, it didn’t matter what I have to say. Besides, he would know what he was doing.

I hummed in response. While I was pouring the mineral water to the planters on the balcony, I suddenly recalled something. “Is there any problems in HiTech?”

“No, the market responded very well. However, there seems to be something wrong with OrbitTech.”

I was startled and looked at her. “What’s wrong?”

“There’s a technology company in A City that is preparing to acquire them lately. The matter is still being discussed as there were differing opinions.”

Stacey had been keeping an eye on OrbitTech. I nodded and uttered, “Look up information for the company in A City. Then quickly make an appointment for me to meet with the management at OrbitTech.”

Since Ashton had been paying attention to OrbitTech, it meant that he was planning to acquire them. It seemed that the other party was also anxious to acquire OrbitTech because of their technological expertise.

After our chat, Stacey went back and continued her work. I turned on the computer and did some research on OrbitTech. Even though the company was small but the market value was decent. Clearly, the boss was only good at technical knowledge. Otherwise, the finances of the company wouldn’t be in a mess.

While I was reading up on OrbitTech’s information, Ashton entered the office. He removed his coat and revealed his tall and slender figure. Without the usual seriousness, he looked stunning at that moment.

“What are you looking at?”

I turned off the computer and stood up. “OrbitTech. Are we leaving now? Did Dr. Ludwick give you the address?”

He nodded and pulled me into a hug. “Yes, let’s go. Are you hungry?”

“No!” Even though I didn’t remember eating that afternoon. I had not been hungry for a couple of days already.

Ashton’s car was parked in the garage. Due to my bad experience with the garage, he went to his car alone while I waited for him at the exit.

It was crowded in the lobby. I couldn’t bear standing for too long, hence I took a seat on a bench.

Everyone was rushing to leave the office after working hours and it was inevitable for me to see a few familiar faces. I saw Stacey who had changed into a light yellow dress with her makeup done. After exiting the building, she happily got into a black Cadillac which was stopped in front of the office.

For someone who was about to get married, her face was filled with happiness. I was curious to know what type of man could bring a smile to Stacey’s usually rigid expression.

The driver’s side window was wound down so I managed to get a look. The man looked like he was in his late twenties. He appeared well-groomed and intellectual.

Suddenly, a car honked and I returned to my senses. Turning my head around, I saw Ashton’s car.

I went into the car and glanced at the office entrance again but the Cadillac had already left.

“What are you looking at?” Ashton came closer to me and fastened my seat belt.

“A friend,” I replied while looking away.

He did not probe further and drove to the restaurant where Caleb had made a reservation.

After we arrived at the entrance of a high-end Chinese restaurant, Ashton stopped his car. Right after, he took me to the room which Caleb had reserved.

Caleb and his wife had already arrived. Standing beside them were two other people whom we had never met.

After seeing Ashton and I had arrived, everyone introduced themselves to one another. Other than Caleb and his wife, one of the strangers was a middle-aged woman who was a gynecologist, while the other was a young lady who was Caleb’s niece. She seemed very vibrant and adorable.

“Mrs. Fuller, I have ordered a salted chicken and their signature soup for you. It tastes pretty good. I hope you will like it.” As I was acquainted with Martha, we began to chit-chat once we were seated down.

She whispered to my ear, “You don’t know how much you have scared me. I thought you had really aborted the baby.”

I was remorseful and said embarrassingly, “I have no intention to hide it from you. I’m really sorry.”

She shook her head and smiled. “What are you apologizing for? Things are looking good now, aren’t they? Let’s not mention the past anymore.”

After Caleb and Ashton chatted for a while, he turned to me and said, “Mrs. Fuller, Dr. Linnard is a gynecologist at our hospital. Mr. Fuller requested for me to get a specialist to look after you during your pregnancy.”

Dr. Linnard looked at me and smiled. “Mrs. Fuller, you are welcomed to visit me anytime if you have any problems.”

With a smile, I poured some juice into my wine glass and toasted with both of them. I looked at Caleb and said, “I might need to trouble Dr. Ludwick in the future. I would like to thank you in advance.”

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After some formal exchanges, the atmosphere in the room had gotten more vibrant.

In the meantime, the young lady next to Caleb seemed to be hinting at him about something. Caleb looked at us and said, “Actually, I have a favor to ask from you both. I hope you can agree to it.”

In response, I said with a smile, “Dr. Ludwick, we have been working together for many years. Let us know what do you need from us and we will do our best to help.”

Dr. Ludwick laughed and thanked us profusely. However, he was embarrassed to make his request.

Seeing as his husband was embarrassed, Martha uttered, “Well, the truth is, our niece has just graduated from university not long ago. Joining Fuller Corporation is her dream. She may be shy but she is really smart. Knowing that Fuller Corporation’s hiring requirement is extremely strict, we are hoping if you guys could assign a position for her in the company.”

I was stunned for a moment before looking towards Ashton. Fuller Corporation's recruitment had always been strict, and every employee was carefully selected by the Human Resources department.

The strict procedure was not without reason. Firstly, Fuller Corporation was a listed company and the remuneration was way higher than other companies.

Secondly, one could gain a lot of exposure to the industry in Fuller Corporation. After all, employees had to go through extensive training in the company. Hence, ex-employees of Fuller Corporation were highly sought-after by companies of the same industry.

I had to go through the selection process as well to join Fuller Corporation. With George's help, I was able to climb up the corporate ladder. Though, it was not without great effort on my part.

At that moment, the young lady was staring at Ashton with admiration clearly written all over her face.

After Ashton heard what Martha had said, he didn't say anything but serve me a bowl of soup. "Drink more soup, it will calm your nerves and help you sleep better."

I nodded and was curious about how he was going to deal with Caleb's request. He looked at Caleb then shifted his gaze to Martha. "It's an honor to be valued highly by the both of you. As you know, even my wife had to be assessed by Human Resources back then. Fuller Corporation will hold a job fair in June, maybe she could go for a tryout then."

I was speechless upon seeing how Ashton dealt with the matter, seeing as he was unconcerned about doing others a favor on goodwill.

In truth, he was telling the young lady to enter the company based on her own abilities.

After seeing Caleb turned slightly embarrassed and that young lady didn't look too pleased as well, I couldn't help but say, "Ms. Ludwick is a graduate of a top university. With her ability, I believe we'll be able to work together under the same roof."

The young lady seemed better after hearing that. She looked at Ashton timidly and asked, "Really?"

It's normal for young graduates to be hopeful about their future. Ashton was too direct with his approach. Hence, it would be better for him to stay silent in such a situation. Fortunately, he wasn't a man of many words. Seeing as he remained silent, the young lady interpreted his silence as agreement.

After a satisfying feast, the dinner came to an end.

Upon leaving the restaurant, Caleb and Martha were very polite. As I was feeling tired and cold from the night temperature, I spoke less as well.

Suddenly my shoulders felt warm. I lifted my head and saw Ashton covering me with a coat. I was stunned and said to him, "Thank you!"

A black Cadillac stopped in front of the restaurant and a well-groomed gentleman stepped out of the car. He looked at Caleb and Martha, then said, "Dad! Mom! Please inform me half an hour in advance next time."

Martha pulled his arm lovingly and said to Ashton and me, "This is my son, Felix. Initially, he was supposed to join us but he couldn't make it due to some matters. It's great that you bumped into him here. Now everyone can get to know one another."

After a few exchanges, I thought that Felix looked familiar, but I couldn't recall where I had seen him before.

According to Martha's introduction, he was working in AC Credit, and that caught my attention.

Since the dinner was over and there wasn't anything important left to discuss, we all bid our farewells and headed back to our own homes.

After getting into the car, I furrowed my eyebrows and stared blankly outside.

I felt something warm covering my hand. As I turned around, one of Ashton's hands was holding mine and the other was on the steering wheel. I uttered right away, "It's not safe like this!"

He glanced at me smilingly and said, "Are you concerned about me?"

Not at all!

"I'm in the car too, with the baby in my belly!"

His eyes darkened while he held my hand tightly and said, "Don't worry. Even if I die, I'll protect you and the baby."

I did not reply to him further. At that point, all I could think about was Felix. It was also a black Cadillac that had appeared at the office's entrance earlier today.

However, I was at a distance at that time and couldn't see that man's face clearly. I couldn't help but frown and a sense of uneasiness came over me.

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We did not speak throughout the journey and I was quite sleepy upon arriving at the villa.

Ashton carried me out of the car, and we headed straight into the bedroom. He laid me on the bed and said, "Don't fall asleep yet. Go and wash up first."

I was slightly groggy and couldn't help but laze on the bed. I pulled the blanket over and was planning to fall asleep then and there.

Ashton saw through what I was trying to do and he carried me from underneath the blanket. We went into the bathroom and he said softly, "Wash up first. Or else, you will suffer tomorrow."

I agreed and hung myself onto him groggily. As I was stretching my hand to grab the toothpaste, suddenly he took it away.

He applied the toothpaste onto my toothbrush then passed me a glass of water. "Brush your teeth properly." He sounded as if he was teaching a child.

With the toothbrush in my mouth, I murmured, "I'm not a child."

He laughed and said, "There's no difference."

After I forced myself to wash up, I seemed to be slightly more awake. I lay on the bed with Ashton next to me. He hugged me in his arms with his chin resting on my neck. "Let's have a good sleep tonight."

I raised one of my eyebrows. "Are you saying that to yourself?"

He starred at me and smiled. "I'm saying that to you. It's normal for it to have a reaction when it sees its owner."

He can be turned on anytime, anywhere!

I pursed my lips and pushed him away. "You stink so bad. Go wash up."

He smiled menacingly and asked, "Where does it stink?"

"Everywhere!" Just when I shut my eyes and was preparing to fall asleep, his voice traveled next to my ear. "Scarlett, let's live together in harmony from now on? Hm?"

My chest hurt as if my heart had sunk. I pursed my lips without saying a word. Can we really live a good life?

"Ashton, do you love me?" I knew that question was silly but I just had to ask.

He placed his hand on my face and touched my earlobe with his fingers. "What about you?"

Me?

I was a little apprehensive as it had been such a long time. It was love at first sight when I met Ashton. I relied on that feeling during the later days. However, much time had passed without him reciprocating my love. At that point, I realized I wasn't as persistent as before and even planned to leave him.

Maybe, I didn't love him as much as I thought.

Seeing that I was silent, his eyes darkened, and said, "It's alright, we'll take it slow. We will be madly in love with each other in the future!"

I didn't say anything and pushed him slightly. "Go shower. I'm tired."

I should have let go earlier, rather than dragging on for so long. It was eating away at me.

He landed a kiss on my forehead before going into the bathroom.

I stared blankly at the ceiling.

His phone that was on the bed started to vibrate. Initially, I wasn't planning to pick up the call but it kept vibrating. Hence, I answered it.

"Ash, can you come and accompany me? I'm scared to be alone." Rebecca's voice was weak and pitiful.

After taking a glance at the bathroom, I uttered, "He is in the shower. Call back later!"

"Scarlett!" She sounded very displeased. "Why did you pick up Ash's phone? What are you both doing?"

I was distressed by her voice. "He is in the shower! Call back later!"

"Scarlett, you're so shameless." Sometimes I felt that Rebecca had run out of tricks. Besides scheming, crying, and throwing tantrums, there was nothing else to her. If it weren't because of her good looks, a girl like her wouldn't pose as much of a threat.

"Yes, I'm shameless. Why not you, Ms. Larson, as his mistress can call him all you like later? So I don't have to fulfill his sexual desires while I'm pregnant." I wasn't disgusted by her, but the clingy behavior that was displayed. It was too tiring.

Before Rebecca was able to scream her head off, I hung up the phone.

I threw the cell phone to one side and pinched my eyebrows. When I looked up, I saw Ashton standing at the bathroom door, his expression gloomy.

I didn't shy away but instead, I said, "Your phone kept vibrating, so I answered it. Rebecca wants you to go over and keep her company."

It was already midsummer but somehow, I felt cold lying in bed. I couldn't help but snug under the blanket.

"Oh, what did you reply?" he asked. Sporting a casual look, his voice was devoid of emotion. It seemed as if he was genuinely asking without any further intention.

"I told her to call you back later." I hid under the blanket and indeed, I felt warmer like that. Shutting my eyes, I was ready to sleep.

He let out a soft chuckle. Lying next to me, he brushed the hair that was on my forehead to one side.

I opened my eyes and stared at him.

He said with a smile, "Scarlett, I'm your husband. Another woman called in the middle of the night to ask me to keep her company. Shouldn't you be arguing with me?"

Stunned, I got up from the bed, looked at him, and uttered, "Then don't stay here tonight. Go stay somewhere else."

He was taken aback. Then rubbed my forehead, and said helplessly, "You're my wife. Even if we are arguing, we should still remain in the same house."

I knew I wasn't able to banter with him any further. Hence, I hummed in acknowledgement and lay down on the bed again.

## **When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 101**

He wrapped his arms around me and trapped me in an embrace. Eyebrows raised, he asked, "You're falling asleep just like that?"

I was becoming really annoyed by his antics. I turned to face him and said, "My arms are sore. Why don't you go settle it yourself in the bathroom?" Seriously, how could you expect anyone to do it every day? Especially a pregnant woman.

His eyes darkened as he grinned from ear to ear, "It's an honor to let you know how tough I am."

Me? You call this tough?

I ignored him, shut my eyes, and begged for sleep to come.

His voice softened. "Come on, don't sleep yet. You don't like it wet, right? Help me dry up. Then, we can sleep."

I grimaced. "Do it yourself."

Ashton rested his chin on my shoulder, but his hands stayed put. "There are some things that couples do together."

Fine. I won't be getting any sleep anyway if this goes on.

I broke off from his embrace, sat up, picked up the towel he had thrown aside a moment ago, knelt on the bed, and began to wipe his hair.

His upper body was still wet, with water droplets trickling down. I pursed my lips. Doesn't he know he should dry himself before coming to bed?

"You're getting water on the bed!" I exclaimed in annoyance, eyes on the damp patch under him. "The next time you do something like this, you're not sleeping here."

He chuckled. "Fine. Next time you should help me dry up in the bathroom."

I pressed my lips together, opting to ignore him.

After I was finished with him, I laid down to sleep. I was unsure what he was up to, but he went out shortly and came back with several ointments.

I was tired, and had no intention to ask.

His cell phone began to ring in that arrogant tone again. He answered in a chilly voice, "Rebecca, what is it?"

I did not expect him to answer his phone hands-free, playing the call on loudspeaker. On the other end, Rebecca spoke in a low voice, "Ash, come stay with me, please? I can't stand being alone."

Hasn't she gone back to Pear Garden with Cameron? Why is she still broadcasting her loneliness here?

"Call Joe, will you? I have to give Scarlett a massage later. She's pregnant. Her calves and feet have gotten swollen, so she needs to be massaged every day."

He said it very calmly and soon hung up the phone, not waiting for Rebecca to say more.

I glowered at him. "What do you mean my feet have gotten swollen? I'm barely four months along. Why do you say that?"

He smiled faintly, already placing my thigh on his. Next, he began applying essential oils gently on my skin. "Alright, you're not swollen. You're just fat!"

I really wanted to punch him.

My temper would rise if I kept this up.

So, I opted to close my eyes and went to sleep, ignoring the idiot.

I had been lethargic recently. I could sleep all day long and still be able to sleep through the night.

I did not know when exactly Ashton fell asleep, but he was no longer in the room by the time I woke up. I knew he would be busy these days, so I did not give it much thought.

I washed up, went downstairs, grabbed something simple to eat, and then left the house.

I was surprised that Cameron and Zachary wanted to meet me, but I knew it would come to this eventually. We had arranged to meet in a coffee shop in the city center.

When I entered the shop, Zachary was gazing at Cameron affectionately as he put a fine gold-rimmed watch on her wrist.

I could tell they were very much in love.

"It looks like I'm late," I walked to the table and announced my presence with a smile on my face.

When Cameron saw me, she kindly led me to the seat next to her. "What would you like to drink?" she offered.

I put up a faint smile, "Anything, really."

"I hear their Blue Mountain coffee is great. Care to try one?" Cameron suggested. It would not feel right to refuse, so I nodded, "Thank you!"

After we placed our orders, Zachary's gloomy eyes fell on me. He sighed, "Ms. Stovall, you certainly look like Cam in her prime."

For a moment, I did not know how to respond to that, so I got straight to the point, "Is there something you'd like to discuss with me?"

Since I brought it up, Cameron smiled too and said, "My dear, I haven't even asked how you've been."

Zachary, on the other hand, spoke up, "It's like this. You know Cam and I liked you very much from the first time we saw you. We may have gotten our daughter back, but fate had already bound us together. If you don't mind, Ms. Stovall, we'd like to have you join our family."

I knitted my brows. I had a hunch that one would not simply seek out someone else without having an agenda. Thus, I replied, "Meeting you two has been a great blessing. Please, do tell."

Cameron's expression shifted, and it was not in a good way. She paused before saying, "Ms. Stovall, it should be clear to you what kind of relationship there is between Rebecca and Mr. Fuller, am I right?"

Is she here to speak on behalf of her daughter?

I grinned and nodded casually, "Yes. Crystal clear, in fact. You want to persuade me to divorce Ashton so that your daughter can marry the one she likes, am I right?"

The two seemed awkward right then, but they were people who practiced self-restraint. Cameron looked a little guilty. "I can understand how you feel, Ms. Stovall. Zachary and I had not considered this thoroughly, but please think of this as a mother's fondness for her daughter."

I nodded. I felt indifferent, actually. "Ashton and I are husband and wife in the eyes of the law, no matter how you put it. It's certainly inconsiderate of you to try to talk me into getting a divorce. Besides, even if I were willing to let Ms. Larson take my place, Ashton would have to agree to that as well. Furthermore, I'm three months pregnant. As parents yourselves, what choice do you think I should make for my child?"

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Zachary was a businessman, and profits always came first in his world. After he heard what I said, he placed a gold card in front of me. "Ms. Stovall, you don't have to worry about your child's future. The money I have here is enough for you to purchase a suite in K City. Whatever you need down the road, name it, and I'll help you."

I smiled faintly. Wow, they're certainly all in on this!

I grinned as I examined the gold card on the table. The whole thing was rather absurd. "How terrible it must have been to suffer the loss of a daughter for twenty years. I suppose it must be painful for Ms. Larson as well, spending her early years without her parents. You two have gone through this, and it's certainly not what I want my child to

experience. I believe my child would prefer staying with his parents over swimming in luxury.”

After a pause, I went on, “In addition, the Fuller Corporation’s current financial entitlements may be insufficient compared to what you have, but this doesn’t mean that it will stay that way. You admire Ashton, so you must know that his future is quite promising. If that’s the case, I don’t have to seek farther for what I want.”

Cameron and Zachary exchanged glances, feeling rather embarrassed.

I shrugged as the coffee was served. “I admire the love you have for your children. And perhaps I’m envious too. But that’s all there is. Ms. Larson is lucky to have such supportive parents, but I want to secure a better future for my child as well.”

Cameron let out a loose sigh and said, “Zachary and I haven’t thought this through. Please, Ms. Stovall, don’t take this to heart. As parents, it’s easy to lose our sense of propriety for the sake of our children.”

I nodded, “Yes, of course!”

I have said everything that should be said. I supposed there was nothing more for me to add that would not be a waste of breath.

I grabbed the bag beside me and made to get up, maintaining my composure as I took my leave. “I understand your objective in meeting me today. I’ve also made myself very clear. If there’s nothing else you want to say, I’ll be leaving.”

I had barely taken several steps when Cameron rushed in front of me, looking shaky. “Ms. Stovall, please take this. You’re still young. You still have plenty of opportunities to have children in the future. Please reconsider. Allow Zachary and I to take you in as our goddaughter, and you can enjoy the same prospects as Rebecca does. All you need to do is give up Ashton, and you shall receive tenfold of your current privileges. I know you’ll be mad, but I beg you to think about it.”

This was all quite laughable to me. Looking at the bank card she pressed into in my hand, I grinned, “Ms. Anderson, I’ve always thought of you as someone sensible, empathetic, and governed by principles. But now, you seem quite ordinary to me. You talk about taking me in as a goddaughter, but honestly, even if I were your flesh and blood, I don’t think I’d admit that we’re related. We’d better go our separate ways.”

Cameron looked like she wanted to say something, but I shoved her aside. Humans are really disgusting creatures. We carve out an image to show that we are good and harmless, call ourselves entrepreneurs, and then shamelessly accept the admiration and praise of others. Even so, we aren’t able to conceal our shady nature.

Cameron lost her footing and fell to the ground. Repulsed, I looked on coldly as Zachary helped her up. "Sorry, I didn't mean it," I said flatly.

"That's presumptuous! I only hope that Ms. Stovall won't think that our methods are too cruel." Zachary's anger had begun to show, and his plucky face turned hostile. "Since Ms. Stovall rejected such a peaceful settlement, we shall resolve this differently."

"Surprise me!" With that, I left the premises. After experiencing such an ordeal, I couldn't help but thank my grandmother. She might have been living a hard life all these years, but she had taught me to follow my conscience. Thus, I did not become as corrupted as them.

I exited the coffee shop and headed straight to the company.

To be frank, I was not in a good mood, but I could bear it.

I bumped into Nick downstairs. He seemed to be in a hurry, so I pretended not to have seen him, but he came up to me instead.

He stepped into my path. "I haven't seen you in a while. What have you been up to these days?"

"Work!"

His mouth twitched. "Come on, don't be such an ice queen. At any rate, I'm still a fan of yours. Can't you be a bit friendlier towards me?"

I turned to face him and changed the subject, "Where's your biological father?" If Cameron is Nick's mother, where did his father go?

Perhaps the question came up too suddenly, for his face instantly sank. He scowled at me, "Why do you ask?"

"Just curious!" Cameron was a piece of work too. Who knows how many men she has bedded.

"He's dead." He dropped a simple reply, then carried on, "Have dinner with me tonight. I will answer all your questions then."

"Not interested!" I steered away from him and entered the elevator.

"I'll cook for you," He added hurriedly.

The elevator doors closed, automatically putting an end to his nonsense.

Back at the office, I called for Stacey, who did not look very well. I couldn't help but ask, "What happened to you?"

She sighed. "Mr. Fuller wanted to look at AC's audit personally. I'm so stressed right now."

I chuckled. "There's nothing to be stressed about. He just wants to take a look at it. You know I do that too. What's the difference? Just dock it like you always do, and there won't be a problem."