

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 998-1002

Chapter 998

Upon a thorough look at the factory, it had nothing special about it. There was not much human traffic around. If someone were to walk past, they might think that it was an abandoned building. No one would have guessed that there would be an operating theatre there.

On a closer look, several rooms on the second floor showed signs of being cleaned. Those might be the wards where the patients stayed in. Most patients here were likely from wealthy families.

“Ms. Stovall, you’re...” Brandon came down to check on me, squinted his eyes, and asked, “Are you taking a stroll?”

I chuckled lightly and replied, “I was just walking around while waiting for a taxi.”

He chuckled and said, “This place is in the suburbs, so there won’t be many taxis around. Since I’m also heading back, I can give you a lift.”

“Thank you for your kindness, Mr. Dumphy.”

He chuckled and replied, “You’re welcome. Please wait at the entrance. I’ll go get the car.”

I smiled and nodded in response.

It was noon as I walked past the doorman having his lunch. "Hi Miss, you're heading back now?" he greeted.

I nodded in reply. I walked over to him and asked, "How long have you been working here? It's so isolated here. Did your family send you lunch?"

He laughed. "I've been working here for several years. My wife has difficulties walking, so she's currently staying at home. These were made by her last night. I heated it and brought it here for lunch."

I nodded. "That makes sense. Do you live far away from here? Is it convenient for you?" I asked while I glanced at his legs.

He took a mouthful of food and replied, "Not far. I live in the village across. I may appear old, but my legs are still strong!"

I chuckled. "Since there are not many people that come here, and your house is nearby, why don't you head home for lunch and return after?"

He looked at me and smiled. "It may appear to be quiet, but there are many vehicles that drop by daily. Since the boss ordered for me to deny entry to unauthorized vehicles, I'd have to obey the order."

I got curious and asked, "This building looks very old. Why are they so strict on entry? Are there other offices located within this building as well?"

He shook his head. "I don't know. It has always been the same few cars. I find it weird that people are going in and out of this place too. I've walked around but did not spot anything unusual. I heard that the boss had set up a live stream studio, and there have been young girls and kids coming here to work. However, due to my poor eyesight, I couldn't catch a proper glimpse of them."

I nodded slightly. It seemed like they were tight on security. Though they hired an elderly to guard the entrance, they enforced strict rules.

Since I knew the location of the operating theatre, I could easily gauge the location of other hidden places too.

Brandon drove over and waved at me. I got in the car and had a light chat with him.

It was afternoon when we arrived in the city. My stomach grumbled loudly as I had not eaten anything that day. I entered a restaurant, ordered my meal, and took out my phone. As I was about to call Ashton, I noticed I had several missed calls.

Out of habit, I had placed my phone in silent mode. The calls were from Ashton and Hailey.

Ashton probably called to check if I had eaten lunch, so I decided to call Hailey first.

Ashton called before I could dial Hailey's number. I picked up the call and chuckled. "Mr. Fuller, I feel very honored to receive your call despite your busy schedule."

He scoffed at my mocking. "I'm guessing you missed your lunch. Why didn't you pick up my calls earlier? What were you busy with?"

This man seemed to grow more protective as the days pass. It seemed like I might need to start reporting to him every hour.

"I told you that I had an appointment with Brandon to view the operating theatre. That appointment ended, and I was about to feed your baby and myself."

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He sighed with worry. "What about the breakfast that I've prepared for you this morning? Did you skip it?"

I scratched the tip of my nose and replied, "I ate, and I got hungry again soon after. I plan to eat more later." The truth was, I did not eat breakfast as I was in a hurry.

He sighed once more helplessly. "You're already a mother, yet you're not taking good care of yourself. Should I get a nanny for you?"

I immediately rejected his offer. "We don't need a nanny for now. I'm fine. I'm only two months pregnant. It would be better to wait till Summer's recovery and at a later stage of my pregnancy. What do you say?"

He agreed as he knew that it would not be easy to convince me otherwise. "Sure. On the condition that you would start taking good care of yourself and our baby."

I smiled, knowing that it was out of his concern for me. "Okay, I'll take note. Let's put this aside for now."

While the waiter brought out the dishes, I took a bite and continued, "Do you know where the hospital is located? It's within a factory in the suburbs. That building looked abandoned, but they built an operating theatre on the second floor of it. They had five doctors and a few wards as well. It's inconspicuous – no passerby would've guessed it."

"Hmm. An operating theatre in a factory – inconspicuous and could be shifted easily. It was indeed the perfect place. However, our focus now is to be careful. There had been several issues that occurred at the ports of Moranta. It seemed like the Murphys had intentionally caused the delay. Please be careful. Joseph will arrive within these few days. Keep in mind, safety first."

I nodded in agreement. I had guessed that Armond had been keeping his eyes on the Fullers. He did not seem like the type to give up after one failure.

We chatted a while more before Ashton hung up, and I gobbled the food down. I planned to look for Hailey after.

If Armond chose to act up in Moranta while I create some trouble for Ashton in A City, he might not have sufficient energy left to deal with the issues at Moranta. Furthermore, Ashton had taken over the ports not long ago and need some time for things to settle down. Our plan had a high risk of falling through if Armond were to sabotage.

All of them were looking out for their own benefit. The illegal operating theatre was not a piece of substantial evidence to bring Armond down. We need to find a witness and the family members of those who supplied medical equipment to them as soon as possible.

At the hospital.

Upon arrival at the hospital, I saw Hailey packing while wearing a fur coat. I frowned and asked, "Why are you in such a hurry to leave? What did the doctor say?"

She turned and was stunned to see me. "I'm fine. I've had this illness for quite some time already. I prefer to rest at home. I don't like to be in the hospital."

I sighed as I failed to convince her. "You need to take good care of yourself, especially now that you're all alone. We have to accept that some things cannot be changed and carry on with our lives. You have to hang in there."

She stopped her movement, turned to look at me, and replied, "Her name is Carmen."

I was taken aback for a moment before I regained my senses and asked, "Did you manage to contact her parents? To compensate for the guilt you hold, why don't you help to take care of her parents?"

She shook her head while her eyes started to turn red. "No. She's an orphan. Dad brought her back from the orphanage. Her parents abandoned her at a young age, so Dad decided to let her stay with us."

Orphanage?

Could it be that the child that Armond had been searching for came from the orphanage instead?

“Do you know which orphanage she came from?” That could be a clue as there would be records of the adoption at the orphanage.

She went through it in her head thoroughly and nodded. “Carmen never told me about it. She only briefly mentioned that she was from an orphanage.”

“Does your Dad know?” Hailey’s father might have gotten in touch with Armond. It could save a lot of trouble if he could stand in as a witness.

Chapter 1000

Hailey shook her head. “That, I don’t know.”

I stared at her in silence and asked, “Hailey, do you hate Armond?”

She was startled by my question. She looked at me with utter confusion.

“We must get the criminals arrested. If we do not report him, there might be countless victims in the future. You want the same too, right?”

She thought about it for a moment. “What are you planning?”

I knew that we had to keep certain things to ourselves. However, it's only right for people to pay for their crimes. "Could you bring me to your father? He could be a critical witness."

Her face turned pale. "No way. If he confesses everything, he might never be able to get out of jail for the rest of his life. I don't wish to ruin his life. Neither should you."

As she narrowed her eyes, I pursed my lips and said, "I totally understand how you feel. However, deep down, you know that your father is in the wrong, and he has to take responsibility for it somehow. If he keeps silent, Armond will continue to harm more kids. Do you want another incident like Carmen's?"

"Please leave. I don't wish to hear more of what you have to say. Scar, you're too selfish; you only think for yourself. He's still my father, and I can't bear to let him stay in jail for the rest of his life. Leave! I would never agree to it."

She was getting emotional and shoved me out of the ward. I had no chance to speak.

I understood that it was hard for her to face something like that. She was right. I lacked consideration for her feelings. Furthermore, the only family member she had left was her father.

I returned to Summer's ward. I was startled as she was not there. I tugged at Cameron's sleeve and asked anxiously, "Mom, where's Summer? Did her condition worsen again?"

Cameron patted my shoulder, hinting for me to calm down. "Don't worry. She's fine. The doctor suggested for her to be quarantined in the disinfected chamber. We can visit her once in the morning and once at night."

I let out a sigh of relief. My heart ached as I saw Amy asleep at the bedside. She must have been anxious since the day she had first been there. I felt apologetic towards her as I had no energy and time to be there for her.

“Have you contacted the child’s legitimate guardian? The hospital would require their signature before proceeding with the surgery. It had not been easy to find a suitable donor. Let’s hope to resolve this quickly.” Cameron whispered, “This child is too skinny. I’m worried that she might not be able to recover from the surgery. We need to nourish her to prevent any side effects post-surgery.”

I pursed my lips, nodded, and looked at Cameron. “Mom, we might need to postpone the surgery. Firstly, Amy’s body is too frail. No matter how much we love Summer, it’s not fair for us to make use of another child like that. I bought a house in A City and hired a nanny who is a great cook. Let’s wait for her health to improve before we even consider the surgery. Secondly, I need to find a way to register her birth. For that, I need to head to the village. It’ll take some time, so we need to postpone the surgery.”

“But will this affect Summer’s illness?” Cameron asked in a worried tone.

I was worried too, but we should not look back since we already reached this stage. “Mom, We need to have faith in Summer. She’ll recover for sure!”

We had no other option.

“Alright, I’ll leave it to you. Regardless, what’s important is for Summer to be healthy again.”

I nodded in agreement. “Mom, don’t worry. I won’t let anything bad happen to Summer.”

As she nodded, her gaze landed on my tummy. “Your tummy is growing by the day. Have you ever seen any pregnant ladies as haggard as you? You need to take better care of yourself.”

I consoled her worries for some time and took Amy out for food after.

I planned to buy some daily necessities along the way too.

After a whole day of tormenting, Amy fell asleep. When she woke up, she followed me around, so I asked, “Amy, do you have something you want to tell me?”

She looked at me with her bright and adorable eyes. “Ms. Stovall, could you help to find my sister? I’ve been waiting for her for a long time. She told me she would come and get me, but I had not seen her for several days already.”

Chapter 1001

I had almost forgotten about Ann. For a fleeting moment, I looked at Amy, didn’t know how to answer her. After a moment’s silence, I said, “Amy, maybe Ann didn’t come to the city. She’s married.”

“No. Ann said she wouldn’t marry that idiot. So, she will definitely make an effort to escape. Ms. Stovall, will you help me to find Ann?”

Amy sounded very insistent on finding Ann. It seemed like she was sure that the latter would escape from her husband.

Unwilling to strike Amy with the truths, I nodded in response and replied, “Of course. I will get someone to look for her. And, I will bring her here if I find her.”

Amy nodded when she heard my words. “Yay! I don’t need to worry that Ann will get lost when she comes to the city anymore,” said Amy as though she had gotten a load off her mind.

She was so sensible that it made me feel sorry for her. Holding her in my arms, I said, “Amy, we have to go to your hometown to visit your parents. Can you go with me?”

At that, she looked at me with her eyes wide opened and queried, “Ms. Stovall, are you trying to send me back? Am I not good enough?”

I shook my head. "No. You are not registered as a citizen yet. So, I want to bring you back and ask your parents to help in this matter. After you've registered as a citizen, you can have the surgery legally."

Upon hearing that, Amy nodded with a clueless face. The way she looked at me told me that she couldn't understand much of what I had said. At that, I smiled at her while thinking about Hailey.

The next day.

I had told Cameron that I wanted to drive myself to Amy's house, which was located in the countryside, beforehand, and she was worried after knowing that. In the morning, just as I stepped out of my house, I saw Boris standing beside the car in the yard.

He was an old man, but his appearance was well-maintained, so he looked middle-aged. When he saw me, he flashed me a faint smile and said, "Mr. Moore was worried about you. He wanted me to bring you there."

I shrugged. "I should have known this."

Without giving more thought to it, I got into his car with Amy. When he realized I brought many clothes and shoes, he frowned and queried, "Will we be gone long?"

I shook my head. "No. These are the clothes that Ashton bought for me every season. I rarely wear them. When the season changes, he will ask his men to send them to the recycling centres. So, I am thinking of giving them to Amy's mother so that the clothes won't go to waste."

Then, he started up the car and said, "You're so attentive, but that woman doesn't deserve it."

Upon hearing that, I frowned slightly and asked with a tone of disapproval, "Do you think that she is by no means a good person because she is cruel to her daughter?"

He nodded as he took a peek at Amy and replied, "She treats her children so badly. She is not fit to be a mother."

Sighing slightly, I said, "When I was a kid, I lived in an alley in R Province with my Grandma. In the alley, there was a family of four. The man of the house was very hardworking. At that time, people in R Province relied on farming to make a living. Every day, the man left early for work and returned home late. Maybe because he had overstrained himself and his body became weak, one day, he fainted at the lake that supplied water for farming. That lake was not very deep, but he drowned. After his death, his wife left with their son, leaving their daughter at R Province. Back then, I didn't understand why that woman did this. The little girl was more thoughtful than the little boy, but why didn't that woman bring the former along? After that, the little girl lived with her grandmother. Her grandmother was a harsh person. She always beat and scolded the girl and starve her. I had seen her crying under the bridge a few times. My Grandma always asked me to bring her some food. But, that was not a good idea because sometimes, she would still have nothing to eat.

"One day, she borrowed some money from me. I gave her all the money that I had, just the two coins. I thought she wanted to buy something that she really wanted. But, never would I have expected that she had bought pesticide with it. She brought the pesticide to her father's grave, drank it, and lay in front of the grave. I remember that she said this to me back then, 'Some people are born without a choice. Everyone wants to show their best side to others, but to some people, life itself is a struggle. They can't even make the effort to put on a show.'"

Hearing that, Boris remained silent. However, after we got on the highway, he suddenly spoke up, "Your parents didn't stay by your side these years. Did you hate or blame them before?"

I was shocked when I heard his question because I was under the impression that he wasn't a person who liked to ask about people's internal affairs.

Then, I smiled faintly and replied, "It's impossible that I don't hate them at all. But more than the hatred is gratitude. I'm grateful that I was raised by Grandma, and I'm glad that I can marry Ashton. Although our lives are not the best, I am willing to strive hard to live. For these reasons, I should thank them for giving birth to me. Humans are no saints. I think they abandoned me for a reason. Maybe they faced some difficulties back then. So, I don't blame them anymore."

Chapter 1002

Staring at me, he said with remorse, "I am responsible for the incident that happened back then. I shouldn't keep it from Mr. Moore. If he learned of your existence, maybe he would bring you back to the Moore family."

To me, that was all in the past now. Hence, I let out a faint smile and replied, "Boris, there is no such thing as 'if' in this world."

Smiling, he took a quick glance at Amy, who was sleeping on my legs, and said, "This child will have a different life after encountering you."

I shrugged in response and remained silent. It was too early to jump to conclusions now. No one could tell if this was a good or bad thing.

After about eight hours, we arrived at the village. At that time, all of us were exhausted. Although we departed early in the morning, it was late when we reached the destination.

The cold spell hit the village in December, causing a drastic dip in the temperature. Just as I got out of the car, I shivered because the cold wind blew toward me. After a while, Amy woke up and opened her eyes slowly. Looking at the environment that she was familiar with, she said, "Ms. Stovall, we've arrived."

I gave her a nod and grabbed hold of her as we walked toward her house with the bags. Her house was not too far from our car, but the road was not easy to walk. Luckily, there was no rain recently. The soil was dry and hard, so it wasn't that bad.

By the time we reached Ronald's house, the sky was already dark. Hence, I couldn't find the entrance. Looking at the dark house, I was a little worried. It's already nine! Why there's no one here? Where did they go?

Luckily, Amy was familiar with this place. She stood outside the door and called out to her parents. Not long after, someone opened the door slightly. A meek voice was heard coming from the inside, "Amy, is that you?"

After a short pause, Amy replied happily, "Ava, it's me! Ms. Stovall brings me back." At that, she rushed into the house happily.

There was no light in the house. Hence, Boris turned on the torchlight. When he saw a seven-year-old child, he furrowed his brows unwittingly and queried, "Where are your parents?"

Ava held onto Amy's hand and replied, "They work at the farm and haven't come back yet."

At that time, the light from the torch lit up in the house, and I could see a pot of vegetable stew on the cement floor. The dish looked like it had turned cold. Besides, the fire in the coal stove that provided heat to the house was almost extinguished.

I turned to look at Ava, who was trembling from the coldness, and asked, "It's so cold, and you're only wearing so little? Why don't you burn more coal?"

She tugged on Amy's arms and touched the latter's clothes in envy as she replied, "Mom told me not to waste the coal when they are not home. I just need to cover myself with the blanket to keep warm. I will start the fire after they come home."

Hearing that, I was overwhelmed by an inexplicable feeling. I think that doesn't seem appropriate, but I did not say anything else. Then, I asked Boris to take all the food from the car and bring her a heavy jacket. After putting on the jacket for a while, she took off the jacket and kept it.

I was confounded. "Why don't you wear it? The weather is cold. You'll catch a cold if you don't wear a few more layers."

She shook her head and answered, "I want to save it for Christmas. If I have new clothes for Christmas, no one will make fun of me anymore this year."

At that, Boris stood up and passed her the jacket again, and said in a serious manner, "Just keep it on. Ms. Stovall will give you some new clothes too for Christmas."

Upon hearing that, Ava was excited and put on the jacket as instructed.

About half an hour later, a sound came from outside. Ronald and his wife came back from work. Seeing that, Ava started the fire to heat the dishes up while Amy helped the former to add the firewood.

On the other hand, Boris and I walked out of the house. At the sight of us, Ronald was stunned before he could react. After that, he wore a wide grin and nervous expression on his face and queried, "Ms. Stovall, what makes you come here? Did Amy cause trouble to you? Don't worry. Everything can still be discussed!"

I frowned at what he said. It seemed that to them, the children were always wrong. Looking at him, I said, "Don't think too much. Amy didn't cause any trouble to me. We are here to discuss something with you."

Ronald's wife listened to our conversation as she unloaded the dried grass and radish from the car. The children were helping her too.

Upon hearing my words, she heaved a sigh of relief.

As night had fallen, I didn't tell him the purpose of my visit until the next morning.

The next day, Ronald's wife got up very early.

She brought a huge basket and left the house with her children, saying that she wanted to collect radish at the nearby field.

Ronald knew I had something to discuss with him. So he woke up early too. I said bluntly to him, "It's like this. I knew you haven't register Amy as a citizen. So, I want you to get citizenship for her, and we will pay for the fee. This will definitely bring benefits to you and Amy in the future."