

# In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1581

[/ In Love, Never Say Never](#)

The minute Ashton became more serious, his tone changed and became much calmer. He looked down in sorrow. "I'm just fighting a battle with myself, aren't I?"

I didn't know what he meant, but I still found his sudden sorrow interesting and looked up subconsciously.

After successfully diverting my attention, he smiled and said self-deprecatingly, "Do you want to know about the ridiculous ideas I've been having recently? I started thinking about going back to the past and making different choices. Funny, isn't it?"

I smiled and didn't reply.

Sometimes, being imaginative was a good thing. At the very least, it meant that Ashton was beginning to let go of his dark past. Whether it was realistic or not was another story, because all I could ever really sense were whatever perverted thoughts he was having in his head every night.

"You should get a new hobby," I said absentmindedly. He clearly had way too much free time on his hands.

Everyone was the same. The moment someone became too free, they would begin to overthink. The more one overthought, the more one would lose control of their emotions, and that was dangerous.

His smile became even brighter. "I'm happy with the life I'm leading right now. Having a wife and kids is my favorite hobby."

His words were so pure it was almost as if I could see the altar and the priest asking us to exchange our vows.

I started to suspect if he had gone anywhere recently, like a sweet-talking 101 class, perhaps. He had recently become much too smooth with his words.

I was certainly touched, but based on what I knew about him, there was an underlying innuendo directed at me. The moment I agreed, I would have to pay the price.

I decided not to do that.

Instead, I pulled my hand out of his grip again and became serious. "Let's talk about the actual issue right now. It'll be hard to do it at home."

I silently gave myself a pat on the back for getting rid of the lovey-dovey atmosphere that was beginning to develop.

Ashton sat up straight, slightly disappointed at his failed plan. "It's not like we can stop Audrey from ever falling in love and getting married, right? Since we'll have to go through this sooner or later, then we might as well keep an eye on him since young. We'll be able to get a proper look at him and lower any risks. It makes sense, doesn't it?"

Something sounded a little bit off with what he was implying.

Wanting to raise the boy who was going to marry our daughter in the future sounded pretty strange to me.

"Are you kidding me?" I said in surprise. "Kids are fickle creatures. Audrey's only six! Are you going to adopt every boy she gets interested in?"

"Well, I must say I haven't thought about that," Ashton said seriously. He actually started thinking about it out loud with a frown on his face. "I guess it's not a problem to have ten, or maybe twenty. Ah, but if Audrey gets John's bad habit of falling in love with everyone he meets, then I'd need to recalculate where my money is going."

"Hold on now!" I stopped him hurriedly. "Are you thinking of raising a harem or something? Ten or twenty? What I meant was that you're wrong for thinking that you can reduce the risks of her getting hurt by doing this. Kids grow up and they change throughout their whole lives. How could we force her to marry someone simply because it's the safest option?"

Ashton looked at me before nodding seriously. "You're right. We'll have to keep it a secret from her, then."

My mouth fell open.

That was definitely not what I meant!

Ashton suddenly started to look more and more like a dragon, and Audrey had become the treasure trove he was protecting from pirates and princes alike.

Danger had helped the human race evolve, but it seemed to have the opposite effect on Ashton.

Everyone was their own individual. Even if we gave them clothes, food, and a roof over their heads, that still didn't give us the right to decide their whole lives for them. It seemed more ridiculous the more I thought about it.

I really hope he was just joking out of concern for Audrey.

"These are all secondary," Ashton said again. He had gotten rid of his previous attitude and sat with his fingers intertwined on top of his lap. His stare pierced through the gap between the door and the driver's seat as he glared at the car in front of us, which Shaun happened to be inside of. "That kid is determined. He's not going to take the easy way out, but he's also extremely versatile. What happened today might leave a mark on him. Both you and I know that the seed of hate flourishing in him is only a matter of time. There are two ways to settle this: first, we could make him disappear forever."

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1582

/ [In Love, Never Say Never](#)

At this, Ashton paused. When he turned back to look at me, the piercing gaze had already mellowed out into a gentle smile. "But I know you wouldn't want that, which is why I decided to bring him home. It's less of a problem whether they actually fall in love or not. Rather, it would give us the opportunity to see whether he would grow up to become a threat to us, no?"

The need to have a perfect plan for everything had already been carved into Ashton's bones, but I had to say, he successfully convinced me.

One could never predict how sly and cunning the enemy could be. The only way to win in a battle of wits was to be more cunning than everyone else.

There was no such thing as a completely unselfish hero. Everyone, regardless of who they were, always subconsciously looked out for themselves. It was simply human instinct to think about the ways something could benefit or harm you.

At least, from today onward, Shaun now had a home as well as proper protection. Under the Fuller family, no one would ever treat him differently from our kids again. Both Ashton and I would make sure of that.

I was still unsatisfied at being so easily convinced by Ashton. Even though I was already agreeing deep inside, I purposely started to argue, "How sure are you that you can control him?"

Human beings were ever-changing. Not even God could anticipate how something might turn out, much less us.

Ashton suddenly lay down on my lap and closed his eyes. At ease, he murmured, "Even the strongest hero falls to temptation."

As he spoke, he even stretched out languidly like a cat basking in the sun. Even though I started trying to get him off, it was practically impossible to move him.

I couldn't do anything. The very moment I looked up, I noticed Joseph looking at us through the rearview mirror as he studied us secretly with a devious smile on his face. My cheeks heated up and all I could do was turn away and look at the passing scenery, deciding to leave Ashton be.

—

We finally got home and met the people we had been missing for so long.

“My dear Scar! I’ve missed you!”

Someone dressed in a floral suit with gold-rimmed sunglasses strutted toward me with open arms.

I instinctively stepped back and Ashton reached out to press a hand against the other’s chest. “Excuse me, who are you calling Scar? In this house, there’s only Mrs. Fuller. If you make the same mistake next time, I’m kicking you out.”

After he spoke, he pushed lightly and the man stumbled back a few steps.

He pulled a face and took off his sunglasses as he ranted, “I’ve been wondering why you’ve become so sensitive recently. Don’t you know what manners are? I was already polite enough since she was your wife! If not for that, I’d already been hugging her!”

I finally got a proper look at him.

Holden really never changed. His actions and fashion sense were still as flamboyant as ever. As always, he was also extremely loud.

I had only heard about him from John. For example, he ganged up with the Hawen mafia to get rid of some disrespectful and huffy seniors. I also heard about how some big donations in his name had suddenly turned him into some angel of two small neighboring countries. He worked with both the dark and light sides, and he had a steady grip over his place as the head of the Taylor family.

“No, thank you,” I said with disdain as I walked past him and gently coaxed both kids to go upstairs first.

Holden looked at me with an ambiguous smile as he mocked, “The two of you must be baby-printing machines.”

His tone led me to believe that he almost definitely had misunderstood things.

He was so talented at babbling on and on that I felt like I had aged ten years by the time he finished prying. I decided to just change the subject and move into the main topic. "What brings you here, Mr. Taylor? I know you're a busy man, so just come out with it. I would hate to waste your precious time."

Holden chuckled evilly before following me to the living room and sitting down with one leg idly crossed over the other. "It's been six years and yet you're still so sharp with your words. I guess the saying of time mellowing out women really doesn't apply to you."

"The same goes for you, too." I chuckled. "Your skin looks just the same as before."

"Really?" Holden actually lifted a hand and caressed his own cheek and chin.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1583

[/ In Love, Never Say Never](#)

"Yep," I said with a forced smile. Of course, I swallowed down what was supposed to come after it; that his skin was just as thick.

Holden caught sight of my expression and immediately figured out I was mocking him. His eyes narrowed and he whined, "Scar! Why are you mocking me again-"

Suddenly, a pair of hands roughly shoved a piece of fruit into Holden's mouth.

Holden frowned and chewed. "What is this?"

"Dragon fruit," Ashton said coldly.

"Sh\*t! I have trypophobia!"

After that, he made a beeline for the bathroom.

After a series of loud retches, the sound of the toilet flushing rang out.

Ashton glanced at me and shrugged innocently. "I had no clue."

Holden walked out of the bathroom. "Sh\*t. Ashton, are you a proper man or not? That was below the belt!"

Ashton leaned against the sofa wordlessly.

I burst out laughing. "Well, as the saying goes, do stupid things, win stupid prizes. God's teaching you a lesson."

Holden suddenly started babbling even more. "God? I fought God a long time ago and I'm only standing here because I won! If not, I'd probably have been chopped up and fed to the fishes. No one can teach me a lesson now unless I want to be taught."

As he spoke, he returned to his comfortable perch on the sofa and lay down casually, completely making this place his home.

He almost seemed as if he were dozing off for a second before he bounced back up like a spring. After he sat up straight, he suddenly stared at me intensely, looking almost like a wolf staring at its prey.

"Just to remind you, if you keep staring at me like that, the man behind you is going to teach you another lesson."

Holden was staring at me like a predator staking out its prey, and Ashton was like the hunter right behind him with his rifle pointed straight at Holden's head. As for me, the poor deer stuck in between, I felt goosebumps beginning to rise on my arms.

It was already hard enough to hold back my laughter at the mere sight of Holden, so I really couldn't find it in me to actually be serious on top of that.

Holden looked back and waved Ashton away. "I'm talking business here. Don't butt in, buddy."

He placed a hand on the armrest of my armchair and leaned over. His sentimental gaze was still staring into my soul. "You're pretty good at keeping secrets, huh? I've known you for so long, and yet I've never known that you were such an artist."

Ashton reached out and pulled him back. "Hey, watch it. Haven't you heard that you should never go after your friend's wife?"

"But-"

"No exceptions."

Holden was speechless and sighed heavily in response. "All right, I see what you're doing. I can't believe I've spent the last six years helping you find your wife and this is how you treat me! What happened to us being friends?"

The two of them stared each other down, as stubborn as bulls. For some reason, the whole scene looked strangely comedic.

"Hey, hey, you've been friends for so long! Is it really worth it to fight right now?" I quickly decided to become the mediator. "It was just a joke! Just be the bigger person and step down, both of you. Let's get back to business. Why were you talking about art just now?"

Holden was clearly still in a huffy mood and he said impatiently, "There's an organization in Eastern Epea who's been selling art pieces under your name. It's really made a huge change to our currency!"

When we heard the word 'currency,' Ashton and I exchanged glances. Clearly, we had arrived at the same conclusion.

Suddenly, a familiar male voice called out from the doorway, "Oh, do you guys have a visitor? Maybe we should have come another day."

I turned to see Nick and Rose walk in.

Nick was holding Rose's hand and she was holding onto his arm affectionately. Every few steps, they would glance at each other as if making sure the other person was still there. It definitely seemed like they were on great terms.

I could tell from just Rose's gaze alone. She was smiling so hard her eyes shone and crinkled at the corners.

Because of our past issues with Jackson, Nick and I weren't exactly close anymore and we chose not to interact with each other if possible. All I heard about him was whatever I got from Cameron, and I was happy to hear that he was on good terms with Rose again. I was also glad to hear that he had managed to expand the company through the Walker family's help and was extremely successful now. Apart from being happy for him as an older sister, I was also relieved to see that the two of them were so lovey-dovey.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1584

[/ In Love, Never Say Never](#)

The giant river flow of time had always been unforgiving with washing people away. Unfortunately, as mere human beings, we couldn't do anything but watch them leave. Luckily enough, there would always be those people left behind that could huddle together for warmth.

"What are you guys doing here?" I moved aside with a smile, leaving some space on the sofa for Rose to sit down.

She clearly had gotten past all of the Jackson drama and just sat down right next to me. "I heard that you guys came back, and I kept thinking about dropping by, but I was in Europe at the time, so I pushed it all the way to now. You're not mad, are you?"

"Of course not! I'm glad to see you. Don't worry about that," I said breezily. Catching on to what she said earlier, I continued, "Has the Harrisons' business already broken into Epea?"

"Not yet," Rose said, a bright red blush suddenly creeping onto her cheeks. She glanced at Nick before saying, "We went for our honeymoon. Nick had been really busy the past year with work, so the moment he got some free time about six months ago, he took me on a global tour."

Holden smiled meaningfully and interrupted, "Good for you, Mr. Harrison! I told you, men do best when they're with women. Now you know why we tried so hard, right?"

Rose's smile stiffened at Holden's words.

I sighed. Holden was straightforward, but he definitely needed to learn about picking a time and place.

“Don’t listen to him. Mr. Taylor’s gone insane from counting dragon fruit seeds,” I quipped impatiently.

Holden probably imagined it unwillingly and ran off to the bathroom as he started to retch again.

“What happened to him?” Nick asked.

“Probably overdosed on dragon fruit,” Ashton said calmly.

“Ah,” Nick said, not trying to pick a fight. He then changed the subject and said, “We’ve brought you a present.”

He gestured toward the door, and his butlers walked in with a large package.

“Open them,” he commanded.

The butlers opened up the package and revealed the gift inside. It was an oil painting.

I was taken aback and fell silent in shock.

What’s going on? Is today National Art Day or something?

“What do you think? We won this at an auction in Granatano. It cost six point eight million!” Nick said as he admired the painting.

With the Harrisons’ prestige, it wasn’t out of the ordinary for them to give such an extravagant gift. Maybe due to my lack of artistic talent, I couldn’t understand the point of spending so much money on such a fragile piece of canvas.

Out of politeness, I received it with a smile. “I like it! I really like the scenery depicted in it.”

I really had no idea what else to praise out of lack of artistic talent, so all I could do was randomly point some things out.

"This is the 'Summer Walk!'" Rose said in shock. "Scarlett, have you forgotten? This is your own painting!"

"Huh?" I said in a daze. "My painting?"

"Yeah!" Rose nodded frantically before saying happily, "Nick said it was fate to run into it even halfway across the world, so we decided to buy it as a present for you. It's both charity and also a way for you to own your own work!"

"Haha..." I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Here's the thing, though. I don't know how to draw. Didn't Nick tell you?"

Rose shook her head in disbelief and turned to look at Nick.

Nick immediately burst out into laughter. "I said it on purpose. I thought it was weird because I knew that Scarlett couldn't draw, but I didn't want to affect your mood on our honeymoon so I just made up a story. Sorry, darling!"

Rose started panicking. "Huh? Why didn't you say so earlier? Doesn't that mean we didn't end up getting a souvenir for Scarlett? Nick! How could you?"

Nick just shrugged.

"Okay, let's not go any further into this." I knew a couple's spat could go on for a long time. It was starting to get late, too, so I went straight into the subject. "Nick, what exactly is going on?"

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1585

[/ In Love, Never Say Never](#)

"What else could it be?" A defiant voice called out from the bathroom. "F\*ck, it feels like I've just puked my guts out. I've only been at your house for a few minutes and I'm already within an inch of my life!"

For some reason, his voice sounded funny to me. He should start a comedy show, I thought to myself.

Holden's expression soured at the sight of my mirth and he clutched his stomach as he walked toward us. He had to support

himself against the wall as he staggered into the living room and said, "Your drawings may not be worth a penny, but art is priceless. If you sell it, your money won't be clean anymore. How could you miss such a simple theory?"

His words hit the mark for me. After a brief moment of hesitation, I finally realized how terrifying this all was.

Only dirty money had to be laundered. If it was dirty money, that meant it had been acquired illegally. The moment the transaction got discovered by the policemen, I would at least be arrested for aiding and abetting a crime as the so-called owner of the painting. Even if I didn't think about the sentence I would get, I would still lose my freedom. I barely managed to get my freedom back, but it seemed like I was on the verge of losing it again.

Why?

Everything was starting to fall into place, so why is everything going downhill again?

I felt myself growing numb after all of my inward complaints.

Suddenly, a warm palm enveloped mine and I came back to my senses, realizing Ashton was holding my hand. I tried my best to bring myself back to reality.

The reason evil people were evil was that they didn't know anywhere else apart from hell. Not only did they not realize any mistakes, but they also tried to drag innocent people inside. All they wanted to do was to see me panic and fret and cry, so if I showed them that they had gotten to me, they would have achieved their goal.

"That's right," Nick said seriously. "That's why I brought Rose over once we landed. People are really cunning nowadays and you all need to be careful. I know you know how to get rid of being suspected as a culprit in money laundering since you studied law, but I just wanted to remind you to do it as soon as possible. It would be bad if you only try to solve it when it comes knocking at your door. By then, it'll be even harder to get out of it."

“Okay,” I replied dully. I couldn’t smile anymore and decided to send them off. “I got it. It’s been a really long day, so I’m going to head upstairs now. Feel free to continue on with your conversation.”

“But Scarlett, we just arrived-”

“Rose,” Nick interrupted. He could clearly tell that I didn’t want to continue talking and glanced at Rose. After indicating for her not to continue the conversation, he helpfully suggested, “It’s getting late, we’ll make ourselves scarce so you can rest. The kids are at home waiting for us, anyway.”

I couldn’t exactly be aloof in the face of his considerate words, so I sent them out before trudging upstairs.

I still heard Holden gossiping behind me as I left, “Isn’t Nick gay? Has he always been such a manly man?”

I took a hot shower and had just lay down when Ashton walked in and took off his jacket before lying down next to me, pulling me into his embrace.

“Are you stressed out?” Ashton asked quietly after hugging me for a while.

Everyone’s mood changed under the influence of their surroundings, and naturally, Ashton had already grasped the ins and outs of my own mood swings. His tone was so gentle I felt like I was floating on a cloud.

“A little bit.” I flipped around and burrowed into his embrace like a scared rabbit until I was flush against his chest. Sighing in relief, I murmured, “When will we be able to live our lives peacefully?”

“I’m always here for you to rely on,” Ashton said as he leaned over and patted my arm with a warm hand.

His protective gesture suddenly made me feel like a kid again.

I shot my head up and bit onto his chin in retaliation.

“Ouch!” Ashton hissed as he frowned deeply. In just a second, though, his brows relaxed, and he acted as if nothing had happened.

“Did it hurt?” I asked, knowing the answer.

“It itched a little bit,” he said seriously.