

Healing 821

Chapter 821 He Simply Cannot Live Without Her

The room was quiet.

For a moment, neither of them spoke.

It was Damion's first time kissing a girl, and he had been caught off guard by Ivy's sudden attack before he could even confess his feelings to her. He couldn't quite gather his thoughts at the moment and didn't know what to do with his hands.

Ivy looked at Damion and murmured softly, "Damion, are we together now?"

To be honest, Damion wasn't ready for this so soon. He hadn't prepared himself for what he wanted to say to Ivy about being together in the long run. But it seemed like there was no point in saying anything now that they were already in this situation.

"Yes," Damion said. "We're together."

Ivy couldn't hide her excitement but still scolded him playfully. "You didn't even ask me if I wanted to be with you!"

Damion raised an eyebrow and his gaze turned dangerous in an instant. It was clear that if she said anything else that would annoy him right now, she might face some serious consequences for provoking him like this.

Although Ivy had never been in love before, this was the first time she had feelings for a man. Her animal instincts were very keen, and she could sense that Damion wasn't in a good mood at the moment.

If she dared to say something that would make him feel worse, her life might be in danger. So Ivy obediently approached Damion and said to him, "Of course I like you. You're my favorite."

Damion let out a light snort through his nose and acted quite proud.

Ivy quietly glanced at Damion's expression and then said, "Damion, does that mean you're my boyfriend now?"

"Mm-hmm," replied Damion.

Ivy immediately became happy again and approached Damion once more saying, "So can I act cute with you now?"

Damion met her gaze and saw the starry glint in her eyes. He felt helpless yet also heartbroken. How timid this girl was around him! She couldn't express her true emotions towards him.

Why did his girl have to be so submissive?

Damion pinched Ivy's face gently and said to her, "You can do anything with me except breaking the law or cheating on me."

Upon hearing this statement from Damion, Ivy giggled uncontrollably, and couldn't help but think how adorable he was.

It was no wonder she liked him so much.

Who wouldn't like someone like Damion?

Ivy raised her hand and wrapped it around Damion's neck, snuggling into his embrace.

She said, "I don't want to go to Capital anymore. I want to stay by your side."

Damion chuckled. This girl was indeed like a child, with thoughts jumping around from one moment to the next, not even sure what she really wanted.

He patted Ivy on the back and asked her to sit down.

"Ivy," he said. "I think you need to think about this a little more clearly."

Ivy sat up straight and became serious too.

She looked at Damion and said, "I never thought we would be together. That's why I wanted to go to Capital. I want to study hard so that I can repay you when I come back."

"I know," Damion replied.

He understood the thoughts of this young girl very well.

"But," Ivy continued. "I don't want a long-distance relationship. I never had any family or friends before. Always alone all my life. Now that there is finally someone like you in my life, I don't want us separated."

It was as if Ivy was a child who had never tasted candy before. Without having tasted it before, she wouldn't have realized how bitter life could be but now that she had tasted it for the first time, how will she ever go back?

Damion touched Ivy's face gently and said, "Originally, I didn't plan on confirming our relationship so quickly but because you were in such a hurry and didn't give me an opportunity, let me explain things properly."

As soon as Ivy heard Damion's words, her face turned pale with confusion. She looked at him uncertainly, unsure if she could accept what he was about to say.

Damion knew that she was overthinking things again. He said, "I'm not breaking up with you. Since we're already together, I won't let go. That's what I wanted to tell you earlier."

Ivy stared at Damion in a daze and didn't react for a moment. She didn't know what he meant by his words.

Damion continued, "You may not know me well enough yet, but possessiveness is deeply ingrained in my nature. Unless something is confirmed as mine, no one can take it away from me."

Ivy was stunned by this revelation. The Damion she knew seemed completely different from the one standing before her now.

She couldn't believe that Damion was really like this.

Without giving Ivy time to digest his words, Damion went on to say, "So what I meant earlier was that I'm giving you a chance to decide your own path in life. If you want to leave me and fly away someday, before or after we start our relationship, then I'll let you go... but remember that you belong to me."

For a long time afterwards, Ivy just stared at him with watery eyes, finally understanding the true meaning of his words.

The truth of it all hit her hard: she liked Damion now and would continue liking him more each day going forward into their future together.

In fact, when she realized how much he meant to her deep down inside herself, she knew without question: if they couldn't be together, then there would be no one else for her either way...

"How could I possibly like someone inferior after experiencing the best?" Ivy realized this and suddenly burst into laughter.

She looked at Damion and said, "I am yours."

Ivy's gaze was unwavering as she looked at Damion, as if she were surrendering herself to him with those three words.

Damion's heart softened by the girl's words.

At this moment, he didn't want to let her go to Capital anymore.

Damion thought he had such strong willpower that he could generously send the girl off to study and grow up.

But now it seemed that he overestimated himself. Perhaps it was because he couldn't bear to be without her.

Chapter 822 I Don't Know How To Torture Ben

Damion looked at Ivy and said, "Ivy, you still need to go to Capital."

Ivy immediately felt disappointed and looked at Damion with red eyes. She stuttered her lips and asked, "Damion, are you trying to let me leave?"

"No," Damion smiled and said. "Your abilities are worth going to Capital for. The opportunity is in front of you, and you can choose whether or not to go. But I hope that you will do better."

"But I can also do well in Innisrial," Ivy said.

With him by her side, she would be better.

However, Damion rubbed Ivy's head and said, "Camdyn wouldn't give a suggestion for no reason. He must have his own considerations."

"So I must go to Capital?" Ivy bit her lip unhappily.

“Right now it’s just a goal,” Damion said. “Preparing for going to Capital or staying in Innisrial is different. Whether or not you succeed depends on how well-prepared you are.”

Ivy tilted her head and thought about it. It was true.

She suddenly laughed out loud as she looked at Damion, “Are you not afraid that I’ll intentionally prepare poorly so that I can stay in Innisrial?”

“If that were the case,” Damion replied calmly. “Ivy, then I think you would regret it.”

After thinking about it for a moment, Ivy realized that what Damion had said was right.

She wasn’t someone who thought only of love, although her timidity made her lack any sense of reality sometimes which led her into thinking if she went so far away, whether their feelings would disappear quickly or not.

She didn’t doubt his character. He wouldn’t cheat on her with another woman while she was away. But she worried if he didn’t like her as much as she liked him.

At the end of the day, it was just her lack of confidence in herself.

But Ivy couldn’t bring herself to talk to Damion about it.

She knew he would reassure her in the most gentle way possible, telling her that all the things she worried about wouldn’t happen.

But she couldn’t control herself.

Just thinking about it made Ivy feel sad and overwhelmed.

She looked at Damion, opened her mouth and said with difficulty, “Damion, I’m going away for a long time.”

How was she going to make it through four years?

Damion replied, “I’m more worried than you are.”

College was a pure and complex world.

No one knew what will happen during college years.

His girl was much cuter and more likable than he imagined. He can imagine how many boys will be attracted to her and want to be by her side.

Damion had his own worries too. His confidence wasn’t greater than Ivy’s either.

Although Ivy was not very confident in herself and often timid, she was not stupid.

She could directly feel the melancholy in Damion’s heart at this moment. And she could also feel how much Damion cared about her.

Ivy couldn’t help but lean towards Damion with a smile and said, “Damion, you like me so much.”

Looking at her arrogant expression, Damion felt his heart sink again. He wanted to hold the girl in his arms and let her experience his love for her firsthand. And that was exactly what he did.

With a long arm, he pulled the girl into his embrace.

Damion whispered softly into Ivy's ear, "Let's prepare according to Capital University's requirements first. We can decide whether or not to go later."

This was a way for both of them to calm down. In this way, Ivy could temporarily put aside her worries and focus on preparing for exams.

Ivy nodded and wrapped her small hand around Damion's waist obediently.

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In the living room, Casey watched her phone while looking upstairs. These two had been up there for so long now and still hadn't come down yet.

If Casey didn't know what kind of person Damion was, she would have suspected that the two of them were in the room together doing...

But she quickly dismissed the thought. It was impossible. The girl must be crying and Damion was comforting her.

Just thinking about it made Casey feel happy. She always thought that out of all their friends, Damion was the one who could never encounter such problems. Who would have thought even a god had to descend to earth?

"What are you laughing at? Where's Damion?" A sudden voice interrupted Casey's thoughts.

She turned around and saw Ben walking in with Tilly in his arms.

Casey laughed, "You two are here first? When did you become so nosy?"

Ben's face darkened as he glared at Casey, "You're getting too big for your britches! You think you can just say whatever you want because I can't hit you now?"

Casey immediately stopped laughing and pounced on Tilly instead, "Tilly, look at him! He's so old but still bullies me."

Tilly gave a perfunctory response while looking around for Ivy specifically.

Casey was speechless.

From now on they should be called nosy couple.

Ben sat down on the sofa opposite Casey and asked, "Why are you the only one here? Where are Patrick and Aimee?"

"They went out early this morning. I don't know where they went," Casey replied.

She was also wondering why it was just her and Aimee at home usually, while Patrick and her husband were out somewhere. But now both Aimee and Patrick had disappeared without telling her anything.

Casey felt a bit left out, but she was glad that Damion and Ivy came over today so she wouldn't be bored to death. Even her beloved grandfather didn't want to play with her anymore. He just kept circling around his bird.

Casey felt like she was the most useless person in this household.

But then Ben and Tilly arrived, so she wasn't bored anymore. Tilly touched Casey's belly gently and asked, "It's been a while now. Why hasn't your belly changed yet?"

At the mention of this topic, Casey instantly became pitifully sad. She pouted and said, "You have no idea how much trouble this little devil is causing me! I've been eating then throwing up. I haven't gained any weight."

Tilly looked at Casey with sympathy as she too began feeling a bit uneasy about having children herself. She said, "This makes me scared to have kids myself! I think we're both in for it."

In Tilly's opinion though, she would probably be more delicate than Casey, even if it meant experiencing some fatigue or exhaustion. Because compared to what Casey was going through right now, Tilly thought that would be nothing at all!

When the time came, she didn't know how she was going to torture Ben. He had hurt her deeply and she wanted revenge. But as much as she wanted to make him suffer, a small part of her still loved him and didn't want to completely destroy him. It was a difficult balance to maintain, but one that she was determined to achieve.

Chapter 823 Have Already Been Made Very Clearly

Casey had already gone through the toughest period and now that it was over, she didn't feel much terror anymore.

"Don't be so nervous. It'll pass if you just tough it out," Casey said.

Ben chuckled and said, "It's surprising to hear that from your mouth."

Casey looked at Ben. If she wasn't worried about the little one in her belly right now, she would have jumped off the couch and punched him.

Ben saw her expression and knew what she was thinking. He laughed even more heartlessly.

Casey couldn't be bullied like this. She couldn't control Ben but there must be someone who could control him.

Looking away from Ben, Casey smiled at Tilly and said, "Tilly, I think you're right. When it comes to having a baby, we should make our own decisions instead of letting men decide for us."

Tilly blinked her eyes quickly and instantly understood that she had been pulled into Casey and Ben's battle.

She coughed lightly and said, "Heheh... Actually I really like babies too."

Casey was at a loss for words.

She realized that Tilly was a husband “slave”. There probably wasn’t anything that could surpass Ben in her eyes.

Completely forgetting about Kelvin compared to Tilly, Casey finally couldn’t take it anymore, grabbed a pillow and threw it at Ben.

This was outrageous. She had never seen anyone so shameless before.

Right now, she really missed Kelvin.

She didn’t know when her husband would come back, and she was being bullied.

Tilly sat next to Ben and leaned in close to his ear. She whispered, “Ben, don’t worry. I’m still willing to have your baby.”

Ben looked down at her with a smile on his face from her cute demeanor.

He didn’t mind that Casey was still there and leaned down to kiss Tilly’s lips.

Casey rolled her eyes in response. Fine, this was revenge for their previous public displays of affection.

Quietly opening up her phone, Casey tapped on Kelvin’s chat window and sent him an emoji with the words “husband” repeated three times over.

Almost as soon as the message went through, Casey heard a familiar voice.

Turning around quickly, she saw Kelvin walking in with Aimee and Patrick by his side.

Casey immediately jumped up from the couch and ran towards Kelvin who rushed over to hook his arms around her waist before bringing her into an embrace

Casey hugged Kelvin tightly around the neck while cooing sweet nothings like “I missed you so much, my love”.

Patrick, Aimee and Ben were speechless, while Tilly was laughing.

Kelvin looked down at Casey, knowing without asking that she had been bullied and mistreated. And he didn’t need to ask, and it was definitely Ben who did it.

Raising his hand, Kelvin rubbed Casey’s head and said, “Good girl, I miss you too.”

Here came again that Patrick, Aimee and Ben were speechless, while Tilly was laughing.

Casey just wanted to be cutesy with Kelvin. When she heard him say that, she was instantly comforted.

Smilingly approaching Kelvin, Casey kissed his lips and felt satisfied.

Anyway, she wanted to be the one who showed the most affection in public.

Tilly poked Ben’s waist and said, “You’re really getting Casey all riled up.”

Ben smiled slightly and said, “I can’t help it.”

From a young age, he was always able to tease her into falling for his tricks.

Tilly said, "You're so bad, bullying a young girl like that. What are you thinking?"

Several people walked over and Patrick looked at Ben and asked, "Where's Damion?"

If it weren't for Damion bringing the girl over, he and Aimee wouldn't have come back now.

Ben shrugged helplessly and said, "We've been here for a while but haven't seen him."

Patrick was suspicious. What was going on with this guy?

Just then footsteps could be heard coming down the stairs.

Everyone turned to look and saw Damion coming down the stairs with a young girl behind him.

Damion's body completely blocked the girl from view so no one could see what she looked like right away.

As a result, Damion received several disapproving looks.

Who cared about him? Everyone just wanted to see what kind of girl he brought along with him.

Damion couldn't help but laugh bitterly. He had become that annoying person now.

But what could he do? He was also speechless about it all.

Originally he wanted to bring Ivy down with him since they were already in a relationship, and might as well tell everyone openly.

However, the young girl was too shy and insisted on hiding behind him.

Damion was helpless and speechless about this.

But what else could he do besides doting on her?

Finally, they finished walking all the stairs, and Ivy couldn't keep hiding behind Damion forever.

However, when Ivy stepped out from behind Damion at that moment, she was truly dumbfounded.

Why were there suddenly so many people?

Now Ivy was really starting to panic a little bit.

Just as she felt like she couldn't even breathe properly, her hand was suddenly held.

The warmth that came through their fingers quickly calmed Ivy down.

When Casey saw the two of them holding hands, she couldn't help but laugh out loud.

She gave Damion a thumbs up and said, "You're amazing. You're lightning fast."

They hadn't even defined their relationship before going upstairs yet and they were already openly together now!

Damion smiled at Casey and said, "You're right."

Ivy looked at Damion suspiciously. She didn't understand what secret he knew that she didn't know about this situation.

At this moment though there wasn't much Damion could say to explain things to her.

He led Ivy to the crowd and introduced her formally, saying, "This is Ivy Griffin, my girlfriend."

Chapter 824 I Will Not Envy Others Anymore

Ivy's face turned completely red at Damion's announcement that she was his girlfriend.

Everyone looked at Damion, shocked in unison.

Although they had grown up together as friends, this was the first time they had seen Damion like this. It was truly shocking.

"What's wrong? Why isn't anyone saying anything? Is there a problem?" Damion chuckled, knowing exactly what everyone was thinking.

Ben cleared his throat and said, "Don't just stand there, come sit down."

Damion smiled and led Ivy to the couch where he introduced her to everyone one by one.

Despite looking very timid and shy in front of them all, Ivy was a sweet and well-behaved girl who quickly won their affection. However, no one could have guessed that Damion would be interested in someone like her.

Ivy politely greeted each person as they were introduced to her. Although she had a talent for remembering names even when meeting many people at once, she still felt nervous after greeting them all.

She never expected to meet only half of the group today though. Eden and Minnie arrived followed by Walter and April along with Miles trickling in later on. Ivy felt like all she did today was introduce herself over and over again!

Camdyn couldn't contain his happiness seeing all these young people gathered together!

However, Camdyn quickly realized a problem. Ash and Mikayla didn't show up.

This wouldn't do. He was planning on exchanging bird-raising tips with that girl Mikayla. How could he let his little friend not come?

Camdyn asked, "Didn't you tell Mikayla?"

Casey immediately raised her hand and said, "I told them in the group chat but they didn't respond. Maybe they didn't see it."

Upon hearing this, Camdyn became even more unhappy and said, "Couldn't you just call them?"

Casey stuck out her tongue and said, "Oops, I forgot."

Aimee said, "Grandpa, I'll call them right now."

Camdyn huffed as he stared at Aimee.

Patrick was a bit speechless and he felt like their grandpa was getting more and more strange lately. He couldn't remember when it started but it seemed like the old man's temper had returned to his youth – which wasn't good news at all! Just like now – his temper flared up for no reason at all.

Aimee made two phone calls but nobody answered on the other end of the line. However, she wasn't worried about Ash or Mikayla getting into trouble though.

"If something really happened, she would have received a message. But now, in a safe situation, she hasn't answered the phone. This means that these two people are either unable to answer the phone or too tired to do so." Aimee put away her phone and said to Camdyn, "Grandpa, they're probably still resting. I'll call them later." Her words were clear enough.

It was hard not to imagine what they might be doing while still resting at this time. Everyone looked at Aimee together. After all, it was her own sister who was involved.

At this moment, everyone couldn't help but sigh inwardly: Ash is really not a good person.

However, there seemed to be nothing unusual about Aimee's expression as everyone looked at her. It made them realize that Aimee was someone who didn't speak much but had a strong character when it came to certain things.

Casey rolled her eyes and leaned towards Kelvin saying, "Your friend is quite something."

Kelvin raised an eyebrow and looked down at Casey saying, "What? Am I not good enough?"

Casey was speechless. Was that what she meant?

She thought Ash was very brave, daring to take away her sister Mikayla before school even started. She wanted to give him a big thumbs up and tell him he was a hero.

Kelvin whispered in Casey's ear, "Do you think you have it easier than Mikayla?"

In reality, Aimee might care more about Casey than Mikayla.

And when it came to the difficulty of being together, it was clear that Casey's had a harder time. Plus there was Patrick who didn't like Kelvin.

Casey thought carefully and realized that this was true. She gave Kelvin a big thumbs up and said, "Honey, you're my hero."

He laughed and whispered in her ear again with an electric sensation, "I'm willing to do anything for you."

Casey was instantly moved to tears as she looked at Kelvin and said, "Honey, you love me so much."

Kelvin smiled back at her, "Yes I do love you."

Casey lifted her chin proudly again and said, "I also love you very much!"

Finally Kelvin couldn't resist any longer, leaned down and kissed Casey on the lips.

Quietly watching everything, Ivy couldn't help but tug on Damion's arm and whisper in his ear, "Damion, Casey and her husband are so in love."

Damion looked down at Ivy and naturally saw the envy in her eyes. He said, "We will be too."

Ivy's face immediately turned red with joy. She wanted to get closer to Damion and kiss him hard on the lips. But she was too timid to do it.

She really envied Casey's passionate expression of love.

Damion squeezed Ivy's hand and said, "Everyone has their own way of expressing themselves. Just be yourself."

Ivy blinked her eyes a few times, feeling a bit dazed. She realized that he knew what she was thinking all along.

Once again touched by Damion's words, Ivy felt like she loved him more every day.

Her hand snuggled even further into Damion's palm as she said, "I understand now. I won't envy others anymore."

Damion smiled slightly but didn't tell Ivy that he actually preferred her passionate side – the one only he got to see.

Chapter 825 Can't Wake Them Both Up

Ash and Mikayla were misunderstood. It wasn't what everyone thought when they didn't answer their phones.

It all started three days ago when Ash was working on a data project that required his full attention, leaving him no time to spend with Mikayla. However, Mikayla wasn't clingy and could occupy herself while Ash was busy.

But with school starting soon for her in Innisrial, she would have to leave for a month of military training. This made Mikayla unhappy, so after Ash finished his work, she suggested they challenge themselves by staying up as long as possible without sleeping.

Ash agreed without hesitation and they spent the next three days watching movies, playing games and eating junk food at home. They watched over a dozen movies from different eras and countries.

Despite their fun-filled time together, others assumed the worst about why they weren't answering calls or texts. But in reality, Ash and Mikayla were just enjoying each other's company before being separated by school obligations.

During this period, Mikayla was so tired that she could barely keep her eyes open, but because Ash was still going strong, she refused to sleep and insisted on competing with him.

Ash found her stubbornness incredibly adorable.

In reality, he didn't want her to exhaust herself like this.

However, the girl had a strong will and insisted on proving herself through this competition. She absolutely would not allow Ash to let her win.

As for Ash himself, he really didn't have much of a need for sleep. He had learned from Aimee at a young age that she didn't require much sleep either. At first he tried to resist it himself but eventually realized that he couldn't compete with Aimee's natural talent and had to learn from her instead.

Unfortunately for him, Aimee's unique constitution couldn't be replicated in him. He could only rely on training and some medication assistance from Aimee in order to function without sleep during missions.

Seeing Mikayla trying so hard against him made Ash realize just how brave she was.

He tried several times to coax Mikayla into sleeping but the stubborn girl wouldn't listen no matter what he said or did. Even though she was swaying on her feet from exhaustion, she refused to give up and go to rest.

What could he do? He chose his girlfriend after all. Now it was up to him alone to take care of her needs.

Finally last night Mikayla came face-to-face with one fact: even if she were trying not to get any rest at all, there was no way that she could outlast Ash in their competition.

So, Mikayla tilted her head and leaned on Ash's shoulder, falling into a deep sleep.

Ash felt both heartbroken and amused. Sleeping like this was really not good for her health.

When she woke up, he would have Aimee check to make sure there were no problems from staying up too late.

After kissing Mikayla's face, Ash himself was about to pass out. He hugged the girl and fell asleep with her in his arms.

This nap felt like they had both passed out completely. No sound could wake them up now.

With the way they were sleeping, even if Aimee called them or an earthquake or tsunami hit, and even if the sky fell down on them, it wouldn't be enough to wake them up.

Chapter 826 You'll End Up Hurting Yourself

After sleeping for twenty-one hours straight, Mikayla finally woke up.

Ash had woken up earlier and saw that she was sleeping soundly, so he didn't bother waking her up. Little did he know that she wouldn't wake up on her own.

Halfway through the day, Ash realized that it wasn't good for Mikayla's health to sleep for such a long time. He tried to wake her up but was unsuccessful.

It wasn't until three in the morning when Mikayla finally opened her eyes. She was still a bit groggy and didn't even know where she was at first.

Ash heard some movement and turned on the bedside lamp. When he looked down at Mikayla's sleepy face, he couldn't help but smile and give her a kiss on the cheek.

"You're so cute when you're half asleep," Ash said as he kissed her again.

Mikayla looked at him dazedly and asked, "What time is it?"

"It's three in the morning," Ash replied. "Are you hungry? Do you want something to eat?"

"No, I'm not hungry but thirsty," Mikayla said with a sore throat starting to develop from all of the sleep she had gotten.

Ash grabbed a cup from the nightstand and said, "I knew it! I made some tea for you. It's good for your throat."

He handed over the cup of tea to Mikayla who gratefully took it from him.

Mikayla gulped down a big cup of water, relieving the discomfort in her throat. It also made her completely awake.

She reached out to Ash and snuggled up against him, burying herself in his arms.

Ash hooked his arm around her waist and lifted Mikayla up. "I bought some porridge. Let's have some, okay?"

Mikayla wrapped her hands and feet around Ash's body, swaying back and forth while asking in a sweet voice, "What kind of porridge? I want preserved egg and beef porridge."

"I knew you'd want that," Ash replied with a smile.

Mikayla was instantly overjoyed like a child. She swung her legs back and forth before leaning over to kiss Ash on the cheek. "You're so good to me."

Ash chuckled at Mikayla's antics before placing her on the dining chair. He went into the kitchen to get the food.

When he opened the lid, an aroma wafted out that made Mikayla's stomach growl even though she wasn't hungry just moments ago.

Ash scooped some into a bowl for Mikayla and stirred it until it cooled down enough for her to eat comfortably. He placed it in front of Mikayla who took one sip before smacking her lips together happily as she recognized which restaurant it came from.

"That place closes at seven o'clock! Did you go there early?" asked Mikayla as she ate more porridge.

"At that time I couldn't wake you up no matter what I did. You were sleeping like a pig," teased Ash playfully.

"You're the pig!" retorted Mikayla with mock indignation before calling him "silly piggy".

Ash chuckled and reached out to rub Mikayla's head. "Don't ever do that again, okay? If you keep playing like this, you'll end up hurting yourself."

Mikayla nodded obediently. She had never realized before that being reckless could have such consequences. She couldn't just rely on her youth to get away with anything.

Looking up at Ash with a pitiful expression, she said, "I feel like I've been run over by a car. My whole body feels like it's falling apart and my thighs are cramping so badly I'm about to cry."

Ash suggested, "How about we finish eating first and then take a nap?"

Mikayla shook her head vigorously. "No way! Just looking at the bed makes me nauseous."

Chapter 827 I Think You're In Trouble

"Want to go out and have some fun? Fresh up?" Ash asked.

Mikayla didn't mind, so she immediately said, "Let me change my clothes and we'll go out."

It was already past four o'clock now. In the summer, it would be almost dawn by this time. But now that it was autumn, daylight hours are getting shorter day by day.

Mikayla didn't feel it inside the house but felt a bit chilly when she followed Ash outside.

This was probably the quietest moment in the city all day long. There were no pedestrians or vehicles on the road as if they had taken over the entire street.

"I've never been out at this time before. It's so strange," Mikayla said.

"If you like it, I'll often accompany you for a walk at this time in the future," Ash replied.

After thinking about it for a while, Mikayla shook her head and said, "No thanks. I'm not that diligent."

Ash laughed and held Mikayla's hand as they walked slowly ahead of them. For them both there was really no need to wake up early just to see scenery outside.

"Oh yeah! Aimee called many times earlier. Let's pay her a visit when it gets light," Ash suggested

Mikayla nodded but worriedly added, "If my sister finds out I dragged you along with me, she might get angry."

"Don't worry about that. Everything will be fine," reassured Ash as he patted Mikayla on her head.

The two walked along the road and soon arrived at the riverbank. Ash looked towards the east and said to Mikayla, "Actually, the sunrise view here is pretty good." He had seen it once before and was amazed by it.

Mikayla became interested upon hearing this and curiously asked, "With so many obstructions around, can you still see the sunrise?"

"It's a different style of sunrise than what you see in other places," Ash replied.

Mikayla tilted her head and looked at Ash with a mischievous glint in her eyes. "Who did you watch the sunrise with?" she asked.

Ash was taken aback by her question but met Mikayla's gaze to confirm that she was teasing him. He lifted up the girl into his arms, holding onto her neck while his arm firmly encircled hers.

"I saw it accidentally. Who do you think I watched it with?" he said.

Mikayla let out a soft humph from her nose as she muttered under her breath, "Who knows."

Ash, exasperated, turned his head and nipped Mikayla in the face. "I think you're in trouble," he said.

Mikayla winced in pain, holding her face with a pitiful expression. Ash reached out and touched the bite mark on Mikayla's face, but couldn't help but laugh. "Baby, you're so cute," he said.

Mikayla grumbled and complained. She didn't feel cute at all right now – all she wanted to do was bite Ash back! However, before she could act on that impulse, Ash cradled her face in his hands and kissed her gently.

Chapter 828 Pretending to be Good

The time pointed directly to sunrise. The sunlight was shining on the faces of the two people, making this moment's kiss seem to have a different meaning.

"Click."

A sudden sound interrupted the kiss and startled both Ash and Mikayla.

Ash furrowed his brow and turned his head unhappily to see a woman holding a camera, taking pictures of them.

Seeing him looking over, the woman put down her camera and said, "I'm sorry. I just thought your kissing looked so beautiful that I couldn't resist taking a picture."

Mikayla poked her head out from Ash's embrace and looked at the woman. She didn't feel anything uncomfortable about her.

So Mikayla pinched Ash's hand and said, "It's okay if she took pictures. Don't worry about it."

Ash was very insistent on this matter though. He made sure that the woman deleted the photo and confirmed that it wasn't uploaded to any cloud storage or social media platforms.

Of course, even if this woman tried to be sneaky by uploading it somewhere else, Ash had ways of finding it. He wasn't worried at all.

The woman had never seen such an assertive attitude before so naturally she wasn't very happy about it. But even if she was unhappy, she wouldn't say anything about it.

After all, it was her who took the photo first.

After the woman left, Mikayla poked Ash's arm and said, "Ash, you're so mean. The photo actually turned out really nice. You don't have to be so harsh on her."

"It's just professional habit," Ash replied.

Mikayla nodded in understanding. She knew that if Ash's photos were everywhere, it could cause problems.

She reached over and hugged Ash around the waist. "Let's go home before we get caught by any paparazzi," she said.

Ash playfully flicked her forehead with his hand and said, "You're talking nonsense again."

Mikayla giggled uncontrollably and snuggled up against him like a cute little kitten.

On their way back home, breakfast stands started popping up one after another. Smelling the delicious aroma of bagels in the air, Mikayla asked Ash if he wanted one.

She also wanted toast and avocado toast too!

"I think you should give your stomach a break before eating all this stuff," Ash warned her as he was worried about her health since she had only slept for an hour earlier that day.

But Mikayla didn't care at all. She rubbed her belly and said confidently, "I'm fine! Let me eat some delicious bagels. My stomach will feel even better!"

Unable to resist her charm anymore, Ash gave in reluctantly, "Fine then... let's buy some."

Mikayla immediately jumped onto him and clung onto his body while acting cute as usual.

Ash laughed helplessly as he lifted up Mikayla by holding onto her butt while heading towards the breakfast stand together with his girlfriend.

The two of them ate in the restaurant, not really hungry but just wanting to eat. Mikayla tasted a bit of everything and was satisfied like a child. They packed up the leftovers and headed home.

"Are we really going to Aimee's later?" Mikayla asked when they got back.

"Don't you want to go?" Ash leaned against the door, arms crossed, watching as Mikayla searched for something to wear.

She didn't seem like she didn't want to go.

"Of course I do," Mikayla said. "I'm just nervous that she will fix us up."

Just thinking about it made her anxious.

Ash reassured her, "Don't worry. I'll be there with you. And if anyone needs fixing up, it'll be me first."

Mikayla laughed and pulled out a dress from her closet. "Then I'll dress like a lady today and act like an obedient baby."

Chapter 829 Aimee Is Usually Very Gentle

Ash couldn't help but laugh at her words. He walked over and patted Mikayla's head, saying, "Just choose what you like."

Mikayla had already decided to wear this dress, but suddenly she thought of something and said to Ash, "I remember you have a shirt that matches mine, right?"

"Are you trying to match with me?" Ash smirked and looked at Mikayla while crossing his arms.

The girl's eyes sparkled as she blinked at Ash. "From the tone of your voice, it sounds like you don't want to," she said.

Ash pulled the girl towards him and held her in his arms. "You're being mischievous again," he said.

Mikayla giggled uncontrollably as she wriggled out of Ash's embrace. "Hurry up and change your clothes so I can change too," she said.

Ash didn't tease her anymore but went back to his room to find the shirt that Mikayla mentioned.

After they both changed their clothes, Mikayla saw that Ash had indeed worn the shirt that matched hers just like she asked him to do. She immediately felt happy about it.

She leaned in close to him and gave him a kiss on the cheek before saying, "Ash, you look handsome."

Ash cupped Mikayla's face in his hands and lowered his head to capture her lips with his own.

Mikayla tapped on Ash's shoulder gently while protesting softly, "You kissed off all my lipstick!"

Upon hearing this complaint from Mikayla, Ash playfully bit down on her lips hard enough for them both turn red.

After spending some time cuddling together, the two finally left home for Hayden's Mansion. By then it was already past breakfast time.

Casey followed Camdyn into the garden house to play with the bird. When she saw Ash and Mikayla come in, she waved at them and asked, "What brings you guys here at this hour? We couldn't find you yesterday, so you decided to show up today?"

When she was thinking about their speculation from yesterday, Casey's eyes changed instantly. "Where were you guys yesterday?" she asked.

Ash and Mikayla were confused by Casey's sudden suspicious look. They had already decided on their way there that they wouldn't tell anyone about what they did.

So even though Casey's eyes looked strange now, neither of them said anything. This only made Casey more convinced that Ash and Mikayla must have done what she suspected yesterday.

She couldn't help but give Ash a thumbs up and say, "You're brave."

Ash was even more confused now as he looked at Casey skeptically without getting an explanation. Camdyn couldn't wait for them to see his new bird as soon as he saw them.

Mikayla was completely in sync with Camdyn on this matter. They were like old friends who forgot their age difference. They excitedly discussed things while Ash looked around and asked, "Is Aimee not here?"

"She might be inside," replied Casey nonchalantly. "She went back to her room after breakfast. Do you want me to go get her for you?"

Ash nodded his head in agreement saying, "Sure."

Casey raised an eyebrow lightly before asking teasingly, "Aren't you afraid of Aimee beating you up?"

"Aimee is usually very gentle," Ash said.

"Unless I really get on her nerves, Aimee is always easy to talk to," he added.

He didn't think there was anything recently that had upset her.

Chapter 830 Bring Back The Award of Top Trainee

Ash was feeling a bit uneasy after his encounter with Casey. He had no idea what he had done wrong.

Could it be because he had gone crazy with Mikayla and Aimee found out? But that couldn't be the reason, right?

Aimee wouldn't install cameras in his house, would she?

But when Ash saw Aimee again, his tense heart finally relaxed. She just casually asked about it and didn't pry any further.

Mikayla and Camdyn walked in from outside as well. As soon as Mikayla saw Aimee, she ran over to her and hugged her neck tightly while being all clingy.

Aimee lightly patted Mikayla's arm and said, "I thought Ash was bullying you when I saw you like this."

Mikayla laughed when she heard this. She glanced at Ash before pouting pitifully and saying, "Aimee, he really did bully me."

Ash didn't defend himself but instead indulgently looked at Mikayla. He let the girl have her fun since she loved to play around.

Aimee felt a bit helpless seeing this situation unfold before her eyes. She regretted saying anything since it seemed like they were trying too hard to display their affection.

Even Casey couldn't help but feel annoyed by their behavior as she said, "How could Ash bully you?"

Mikayla stuck out her tongue without commenting on Casey's words one way or another.

Indeed, in her relationship with Ash, Mikayla was usually the one who bullied him. Ash's indulgence towards her could be said to have reached an exaggerated level.

Mikayla smiled sweetly at Ash, feeling happy that she had met someone who cherished her so much.

Returning to reality, Mikayla turned her head and looked at Aimee. "Aimee, I'm going for military training next week. Will you miss me?" She didn't know what to expect from the enclosed military training and just thinking about it made her feel scared.

Aimee asked teasingly, "Are you afraid of military training?"

Mikayla tilted her head and although she didn't want to admit it, she couldn't deny it either. She did have a strong aversion towards military training.

On this point, Casey had a lot of say. With a wave of her hand, she said reassuringly to Mikayla, "Don't worry! Although our school's military training sounds scary on paper, in reality there's nothing much to fear about it. It's all small stuff."

Before experiencing it herself she too thought that it would be unbearable but after going through with it once, she realized how easy-peasy-lemon-squeezy it actually was!

She even won the award for best trainee, which was simply unbelievable!

Casey's words really comforted Mikayla.

She said, "Casey, it's really not that difficult, right?"

“Well, it depends on how you define ‘difficult.’ Personally, I don’t think it’s that hard. But if you’re someone who can’t handle hardship, then maybe it’ll be a bit challenging,” Casey replied.

Mikayla couldn’t forget that she was also a Read family child and had been pampered since childhood. It was normal for her to have trouble handling hardship. Although their backgrounds were similar, Casey had trained with Patrick since childhood and naturally had a better ability to handle hardship.

After a moment of silence, Mikayla said firmly, “It’s okay. I’m not afraid of hardships at all.”

“Okay then! Don’t scare yourself,” Aimee chimed in.

To Ash and Aimee, military training was just child’s play and not worth mentioning at all. They couldn’t understand why Mikayla was so anxious about it.

Since Aimee had spoken up already, Mikayla wouldn’t want to appear weak in front of them. She nodded vigorously and said, “I’ll do my best to come back as the top trainee.”