

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1501

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Ashton didn't feel accomplished after being scolded by his daughter so when he took his seat, he teased John by saying, "You're still so happy even after being scolded. You're going to spoil Audrey."

The latter put down his bowl said with a smile, "I just thought of Emma suddenly. That's how she would reprimand me and I can't believe that Audrey has picked up her stunts. Besides, what's wrong with me spoiling her? She's my niece so it's none of your business. Any boy who tries to pursue her in the future will have to get my permission first."

"Sons and daughters are ordained by the gods. There are very few others who have both a son and a daughter like me. Some people are destined to only have daughters while some are destined to only have sons. Blood kinship isn't something that can be compared to a few simple words," Ashton drawled in his low voice.

His mouth is simply too...

John was amused by Audrey earlier and was in a great mood. He wasn't angry at his comment at all. Instead, he was serving the little girl a few dishes as if nothing had happened. "It's okay. I won't talk about anything fake. Having the household register is the real deal. Isn't that right, Audrey?"

She knew nothing about the household register. All she knew was that her uncle had served her with her favorite dishes so she answered with a bright smile, "Yes!"

Ashton was flushed red with anger that he left the table immediately. However, he was probably afraid that Audrey would nag him again so he was very gentle when he put down his bowl. One wouldn't have noticed that he was angry if they didn't look carefully.

The little girl noticed that he had left when he had taken a few steps up the stairs. She asked in confusion while chewing on a

piece of lobster meat, "Why isn't Daddy eating anymore, Uncle John?"

John continued serving her some dishes and gloated, "He's full."

"Oh... Daddy hasn't eaten much." She didn't think too much about it and resumed eating her dinner.

There was nothing I could do about this. The Ashton who had lost his memories was indeed too weak, and it was obvious that he had no mood to continue eating because of his anger.

He was someone who liked to keep everything to himself. If this continued, he'd turn himself into a balloon and would be blown away someday.

"You should stop bickering with Ashton in front of the kids next time," I warned him.

"You wouldn't understand the joys between men. We know what we're doing so you can just let us be," John said vaguely as he waved his hand.

I wanted to continue with the conversation but I knew that he wouldn't reply so I had no choice but to shut up.

Ashton had shut himself off in the study on the second floor the whole night.

Since he hadn't eaten much earlier, I made him a bowl of pasta and took it upstairs for him. I knew that he liked stronger flavors so I purposely added more spices.

I pushed open the door and saw that he was sitting before his desk. The light from the computer shone on his face and it made him look extremely unapproachable.

"I wasn't full from dinner so I made supper. I prepared a little extra. Do you want some?" I put the plate before him as I asked.

He took a glance at the plate and pointed it out relentlessly, "It has such strong flavors. Are you sure you made extra?"

My face flushed red and I asked in embarrassment, “So do you want it or not?”

For some reason, I would always lose control of my temper whenever I was alone with Ashton.

He stared at me for a moment before picking up the fork and started eating.

Perhaps it was due to his natural-born elegance, but it was pleasing to watch him eat.

I fell into a trance staring at him and I quickly shifted my gaze when I finally snapped back to my senses. While doing so, I accidentally saw the content on his computer’s screen from the corner of my eyes.

#Winning A Child Custody Battle#

What’s going on?

He couldn’t remember anything but he could remember the issue about getting custody of the kids?

I was enraged when I remembered how he acted previously and that he might just be putting on an act. “Why are you reading up about this?”

His movement froze for a second before he continued, “Is there any reason why my child’s name should be written in their uncle’s household register?”

I suddenly understood what he was talking about. I was lost for a moment before I finally recovered from my shock. So he’s trying to compete with John.

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After keeping silent for a while, Ashton said, “I don’t really remember what happened in the past, but since we’re reunited, let’s live a normal life. I’ll accompany you to complete the required documents and merge Audrey’s registry with us. I’ll take

care of her from now on, so there's no need for an outsider to meddle with our family affairs."

Outsider? Is he talking about John?

John had taken care of Audrey for six years. He took her as his own daughter and showered her with love. It seemed men were on par with women in jealousy.

Even if he had lost all of his memories, pride still flowed strongly in him and he stood against John, fighting for the custody over Audrey.

It was as if we had returned to the past when Ashton was in high spirits and vigor. As he gleamed with ambition and determination, he seemed like a lone wolf emerging from the heavy blizzard at the North Pole, marking his territory and taking everything under control.

I was worried that he would harbor hatred against John, so I reminded, "Your father was in charge of everything back then, and you obeyed his orders by giving up the custody over Audrey. John did nothing wrong."

Upon hearing what I said, Ashton was taken aback as he slowed down at eating his pasta.

I figured he was rendered speechless because he was the one who made the decision of letting Audrey go.

Even if people lost their memories, they still remembered how to differentiate between right and wrong. That was the case with Ashton. He knew he couldn't take back what he let go.

Ashton finished the pasta very soon and placed his cutlery down before shutting his laptop. He lifted his gaze at me, devoid of any emotion. "Are you happy now?"

He sat on the chair with a serious expression while some pasta sauce was left on the corner of his lips. It was as if he was fighting with me in silence.

Having loved each other for ten years, Ashton had always been good at picking fights with me.

I've only exposed the ugliness of the Hall family, so does he really have to be angry at me for this?

This man. Huh... He is getting caught up in the past.

I didn't have the time to act all childish with him. Shooting a glare at him, I cleaned up the table before leaving him alone.

When I went downstairs, Nathaniel came.

Hearing footsteps approaching, he stood up with a gentleman-ish smile on his face. "Scarlett."

The man was still the gentleman he was for six years as gentleness and kindness were etched into his charming features.

I smiled faintly and greeted him as I walked down the stairs. "What's the matter, Nathaniel? Why are you here at this hour?"

"Nothing. It's just that I heard Ashton has resigned from the company, so you guys might have some time to spare. I'm here to invite you guys to my art exhibition." Nathaniel smiled and took out two invitation cards from his pocket before asking Gregory to pass them to me.

"Here, Mommy." Gregory lifted the invitation cards to me and looked at me as I scanned the card. "Mommy, Uncle Nathaniel's paintings are beautiful. Plus, there are many other paintings from top artists in the world. Many people from different places come here just to view them."

I patted Gregory's shoulder and smiled to show that I understood what he was trying to say. "Good boy."

Frankly speaking, the gold-plated invitation cards were more than enough to show the significance of the Hall family's art gallery.

A fox wouldn't give without wanting something in return. When Ashton resigned from the company, Nathaniel didn't show up.

Now that he took the initiative to visit us, he must be up to no good.

Knowing one's enemy would only benefit in one taking control of the whole situation. While I wanted to understand Nathaniel more, I pondered over the matter for a few seconds before agreeing to it. "Thank you, Nathaniel. I'll be there tomorrow."

The man only curled his lips slightly and said nothing in return.

Gregory headed toward the coffee table and took the computer to Nathaniel's front and asked, "Uncle Nathaniel, there were some errors in the information of computer coding you sent me before. I studied it, but I couldn't correct them. Can you help me take a look?"

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"Of course." Nathaniel took over the computer and sat down on the couch with Gregory.

Once they focused on the things they liked, they would neglect others as they were absorbed into the world of coding. I was the centre of attention just now, but now, it was as if I was transparent.

Knowing Gregory's personality, he would be fixated on a matter until the problem was solved. So, I took the bowls and plates to the kitchen and instructed the maid to clean them.

When I exited the kitchen, Audrey was done showering and wanted to ask her brother to play with her. As she walked down the stairs, she kept on calling Gregory's name, but her enthusiasm was met with indifferent answers from the latter. "Wait, Audrey. I'll be done in a minute."

While Nathaniel smiled at the girl and greeted her warmly, "You must be Audrey. I'm Uncle Nathaniel. Do you remember me?"

“Uncle Nathaniel?” Audrey scratched her head and furrowed her brows slightly before shaking her head. “I don’t. Do you know me?”

“Haha...” Nathaniel chuckled and explained with an amiable tone. “Your father is my brother. So, do you understand now?”

“Daddy, brother... oh!” Audrey was so shocked that her lips were curved into a big “O,” and she seemed to want to express her thoughts, but she didn’t make it clear. “I like my brother the most, and you like Daddy!”

Audrey probably thought that Nathaniel was close to Ashton like how it was between her and Gregory.

Suddenly, Gregory stood up and dragged Audrey to the couch at the side. With a serious expression on his childlike face, the child sounded like an adult as he negotiated with the latter. “Wait for me for about 15 minutes. Can you do that?”

Audrey nodded almost immediately and blinked her beautiful eyes. “Sure.”

They were undoubtedly brought out the best in each other.

Seeing how the girl was obedient, Gregory acted like an adult and let out a long breath in relief before running to the other living room. He took Audrey’s favorite doll and shove it into her arms.

Then, he turned to Nathaniel and said, “Uncle Nathaniel, let us continue.”

Nathaniel burst into laughter after seeing his actions and continued discussing the coding with him.

I sat with Audrey and played with her, while glancing at Nathaniel to guess what he was up to, from the look in his eyes to his body gestures.

After observing for a while, I noticed that the man was trying his best to be Gregory’s teacher, completely different from the scheming image I initially thought of him.

He was very attentive when teaching Gregory. However, I didn't think that the Hall family would believe in the concept of blood was thicker than water.

The Hall family treated Gregory so nicely, and I figured they must have some ulterior motives. There was nothing such as a free lunch in the world.

About ten minutes later, a low deep voice of a man sounded in the living room. "Nathaniel, you're here."

I glanced back and saw Ashton at the staircase on the second floor. Then, he started walking down the stairs.

When the two heard his voice, they put down the things they had in their hands and got up together.

"Ashton, I heard that you've been unwell recently, so I'm here on behalf of dad and mom for a visit. While I'm here, I might as well spend some time with Gregory," Nathaniel said.

Ashton didn't reply and sat down on the couch with his legs folded, giving off an impression of the owner of this house. Then, he spoke slowly, "Are you here for a visit or a confrontation?"

Glimpses of shock flashed across Nathaniel's eyes. Soon after, a smile returned to his face as he lowered his gaze. "Ashton, you're overthinking. We're just worried about you. Father said that you can go on a vacation whenever you want, and you'll always be the president of the company."

"How about you?" Ashton didn't give him the time to breathe and leaned in closer. Looking at him coldly, the man emanated an oppressing aura and said, "You're the heir of the Hall family, and your ability is on par with me. Don't tell me you're not going to use this chance to take action?"

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Ashton's words were exactly what I was thinking. I glanced at him and got ready to watch the show.

Suddenly, a thought flashed across my mind. Could it be he's venting his anger on the Hall family because of me?

I raised a brow and changed my posture of hugging Audrey to conceal my uneasiness.

Well... Nathaniel can only blame himself for having bad luck.

"Haha..." Nathaniel laughed humbly, as his eyes curled into crescents. "Ashton, stop making jokes about me. I know my capabilities, and Dad said you're the best candidate to inherit his company. I'm well aware of my shortcoming, so I won't think of getting what's not mine."

"But why did I hear that you're the one in charge of the Hall family's assets before me?" Ashton narrowed his eyes and a meaningful smile plastered on his face.

Their gaze met one another's, and neither of them intended to back down.

Most people showed fear when they faced Ashton, and there were only a few for those who withstood the pressure. Plus, none of them were simple.

However, Ashton emerged victorious in scheming as he could make his opponent give themselves away after exchanging a few words.

The silent confrontation went on for half an hour before Nathaniel was defeated. He averted his gaze from Ashton casually and changed the topic. "Ashton, you should understand that we have little say in a lot of things."

Before Ashton could give a response, Nathaniel decided to leave. He turned to Gregory and patted on his shoulder before saying, "Granatano experts in programming. I've sent some men there to collect information for your references and they would be delivered to me soon. When the time comes, I'll ask someone to send it here."

“Thank you, Uncle Nathaniel.” Gregory actually smiled at him while in the past, the child never smiled in front of the others, except to me and Audrey.

Seeing how he was amiable to Nathaniel, I figured they must’ve gotten along well in the past six years.

“It’s getting late. I have some matters to attend to, so I won’t disturb you guys anymore. Goodbye.” With that, Nathaniel headed toward the exit slowly.

His pace was calm and collected.

On the other hand, Ashton fixed his fiery gaze on Nathaniel’s figure until the latter disappeared from his sight. Then, he seemed to be lost in thought.

The expression in the eyes could easily expose what one was thinking.

Perhaps Ashton had no choice but to pretend to lose his memories. However, his acting was way too poor, so he gave himself away many times.

I wanted to tear away the mask he was wearing, to see the secrets it held.

So, I called out to him. “Ashton.”

He turned to me subconsciously as he furrowed his brows in confusion.

“Not only did they decline your resignation, they even send Nathaniel here to visit you. Do you not suspect what John and I said? Maybe the Halls value you greatly, so they were reluctant to let you go.” I looked at him in the eyes and asked seriously, “Maybe I was the one ruining your relationship with them. Are you really not doubting me?”

Upon hearing my words, Ashton lowered his gaze and pondered for a while. Soon, he spoke, “Every relationship we have is related to the benefits that followed, be it close or distant. They are just for beneficial gains. I don’t have the time to determine who is to

blame, as all I wanted is to do whatever I want and see the truth I want to know.”

His words were practical, as his tone was indifferent. After saying his words, he went upstairs.

However, right when he stepped onto the stairs, he halted in his tracks. “How did you know I’m unhappy being the live-in son-in-law of the Stovall family?”

With that, he went upstairs without glancing back.

I froze for a long while before coming back to my senses. I didn’t even notice Gregory leading Audrey away from my embrace.

Ashton didn’t lose his memories!

He had been pretending to be foolish and behaving in a servile manner just to make us believe that he was naïve. As a result, we let our guard down.

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He was still as self-righteous as ever after six years.

Is it fun pulling a trick on everyone like this?

I gritted my teeth and clenched my fists as I dashed to the study.

When I opened the door, Ashton wasn’t there.

If we didn’t talk this through tonight, I would have trouble falling asleep, so I decided to confront him.

Suppressing my fury, I went through all the rooms on the second floor, from the guest room to the storeroom. But he was nowhere to be found.

Finally, I went into the bedroom.

The door was wide open, and I scanned the room in the hallway. To my disappointment, the room was empty.

At this moment, a “thump” sounded from behind, and it was the sound of the door shutting.

I turned around and almost bumped into a sturdy “wall.”

Ashton was right in front of me and the distance between the two of us was less than 0.5 centimeters. If we got closer, we could hear each other’s heartbeats.

I pushed him away by reflex. “Mr. Fuller, please watch yourself.”

The man staggered for a few steps before stopping. He looked at me without any expression on his face, while complicated feelings could be seen in his eyes, and it was hard to tell how he felt.

Then, silence followed, as the man said nothing, and that was what I hated the most.

“Why are you not talking?” I spoke in an overbearing manner. “Didn’t you lose your memories? You forgot everyone and only take me as a substitute, right? So why are you getting so close to me?”

Ashton kept silent as he frowned slightly. Staying rooted to his spot, his eyes went dull as he stared at me.

His reaction only made me feel I wasn’t trustworthy enough for him to tell me the truth.

The emotions I had long suppressed erupted as I dashed toward Ashton and hurled my fists at his chest.

“You left the woman who gave birth to two kids for you abandoned outside for six years while your relatives erase the proofs of her existence.” I started tearing up when I recalled the painful memories of the last six years.

My heart started aching as I grimaced. “I’ve always thought that love is endless and repeating. After going through so many

hardships, I still found myself in love and am ready to face the future with you. But what about you? Do you remember what you said when we met again the last time? 'Not all women are worthy of me.' So, am I unworthy of you?"

"You knew I was Scarlett since the beginning. You altered the DNA test results to make me live with another identity. Is this what you wanted? To make me forget about the past and stay with you with this new identity? You are a selfish, heartless man!" The man stayed silent during my fit of rage, and I stopped punching him as my hands started to hurt.

"Say something! I hate you like this! Mm!" I bombarded questions at him as I wasn't able to contain the fury holding up inside me. Driven by the waves of emotions, I bit down hard on Ashton's shoulders with every ounce of my strength to let him know how hurt I was.

Right at that moment, all my bottled up frustrations and emotions dissipated with the strength I put into hurting him.

Having used up the energy in me, my body felt weak as my legs gave way and I collapsed to the ground uncontrollably.

Almost immediately, his large arm circled my waist and trapped me in his familiar embrace.

I struggled to break free, but he tightened his grip and pulled me closer to him.

When I raised my head, Ashton was looking at me with a fiery gaze. The man looked like an injured wolf as his eyes were filled with passion and sorrow.

After staring at me for a few seconds, he extended his neck and leaned in closer to me. Our face was touching and slowly, he pressed his lips on mine.

I remained rational and broke free from his grip before grabbing his arm. Looking at the man seriously, I asked, "Can you make a choice now?"

I can't coexist with the Hall family.

It wasn't because I couldn't accept them. Instead, they just wouldn't let me off. After so many years of scheming against me, I figured they wouldn't let us live our lives unbothered if I remain alive.

The anguish I had suffered was carved into my body, and I still remembered the pain to this day.

Ashton seemed to be aloof, but he cherished his family. I believed he could've been ruthless to the Hall family, but he kept on hesitating. As time went by, he couldn't make up his mind to do it, so we had fallen into the traps laid out by the Halls.