

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 211**

### **- Tips**

Lina, who had been black-and-blue from head to toe covered her belly and curled up on the ground. She stopped struggling, but curses kept flowing from her mouth.

“Do you want to get up or not?” Ashley asked, eyeing the bruised woman on the floor.

A bitter smile tugged at the corner of Lina’s mouth as she sat up on the floor. She murmured, “Ashley, how could you, a girl from well-off family, understand the suffering of ordinary people? I have spent my childhood watching my parents drink, gamble and cheat on each other. In spite of their differences, they insist on maintaining that ridiculous marriage. I was the least of their concerns. They are only after me for money. And you have got everything. I’m jealous of your beauty, your excellent boyfriend, and dreamy life. I thought marrying Charley would change my situation. I have been naive to dream! In the end, I could only long for the things I will never have. Seeing you relish all the things I wanted made me jealous. I’m so pathetic! You have every reason to call me pathetic!”

Lina sat staring blankly into the distance. Tears welled up in her eyes. They slowly began to slide down her cheeks, merging with her cheap blusher. However, no noise came out of her. She didn’t sob.

The dark night was exceptionally quiet. One could hear a pin drop.

Standing in the darkness of the night, Ashley watched Lina’s sorrowful face. However, she felt no sympathy for this woman. After everything she had done, Lina didn’t deserve anything. But beating up the poor woman to a pulp tonight did help her relieve much of her anger and disgust.

“But, Ashley, I’m really as stupid as you said. For some reason, I feel a weird comfort at being beaten up like this. Ha ha...”

After uttering those odd words, Lina burst into laughter. Tears, however, continued to stream down her face. Her laughter was no longer vicious. It seemed to be coming from the bottom of her heart.

As this spectacle unraveled before Ashley, her phone rang. She glanced at her phone screen and spotted Joseph's name.

"Lina, you are free to leave now," Ashley said as she turned towards Lina. She didn't bother to answer the phone. "Let go of the jealousy you are nurturing in your heart. Your life isn't bad. If there is something bad, then it's your attitude towards it. Once you stop despising it, it will become good."

After saying that, Ashley scuttled away, indifference evident in her gait.

Everyone made mistakes in their life. And in Lina's case, her life had been hard. Ashley was willing to give Lina a chance to correct her mistakes.

She was going to let it slide. But if Lina dared to hurt her again, she wouldn't let her go. She was prepared to make her pay.

With Ashley's departure, Lina was all alone with her darkness. Her eyes were fixated on Ashley's receding figure. Even though she was cold and arrogant, there was something charming about her. A bitter smile touched Lina's lips. When she tried to move, the pain in her body intensified and she winced.

Ashley, on the other hand, finally picked up Joseph's call. "Where were you? Why have you been ignoring my calls? Is everything fine?" Joseph's worried voice came from the other line.

"Nothing happened. Where are you?" Ashley said lightly, as if nothing really happened.

She wasn't going to disclose what had happened. She didn't want to stir more trouble.

"I'm parked on the road in front of your house. Where are you? I'm coming to see you!" Joseph, who just arrived at the Guzman family's house, was eager to see his girlfriend.

Tonight, as he got ready to meet Ashley, his grandfather caught him. He had come out of his room to drink water. Leonard couldn't help but enquire where he was going at this hour.

The old man grinned when he learned it was Ashley. Then he told his grandson to hurry up and get the woman pregnant. He said perhaps that

would compel the Guzman family to accept him. However, Joseph made no reply to his grandfather's teasing remark.

Then they had a lengthy conversation. It would have taken Joseph thirty minutes to get to the Guzman family's house. But because of his grandfather, he became late. And during this period of time, Ashley dealt with Lina.

"Wait a minute. I'll come there!" Now that Joseph had told her where he was, she could go to meet him.

They hung up the phone. Joseph leaned in his seat and waited patiently for his girlfriend.

A few minutes later, a beautiful figure slowly appeared in front of him. Excitement bubbled inside of him. He strode towards her.

"Where have you been?" Joseph asked again, wrapping his arms around Ashley's slender waist.

'Why did it take so long to cover such a short distance?' He wondered what had slowed her down.

Ashley began to think of an excuse. Seeing his frown, she said calmly, "It took me a while to get dressed. And then the servants stopped me. I had to make an excuse before I could leave."

"Okay," said Joseph softly.

It was a plausible explanation. However, Ashley avoided meeting his gaze. Noticing this, Joseph began to wonder if she was speaking the truth. Suspicion arose in his heart. But he did a wonderful job at hiding his emotions.

In order to distract Joseph, Ashley looked up and asked, "Why are you here?"

"I came here because I was worried about your safety," Joseph said honestly, stroking her hair softly. "It's pretty cold outside. Let's get in," he suggested.

As soon as he said this, Ashley got into the car and Joseph followed her.

"Tell me, why did you come to see me tonight?" Joseph asked his girlfriend who was nestling in his arms.

"I missed you terribly. That's all! Don't you believe me?" Ashley deliberately rubbed her head against his chest.

"Of course, I do," said Joseph as he looked at her dotingly.

"Also, I want to resist!" She thought back to the torturous days. She had no way of being alone with her boyfriend. She was finally going to vent her rage. A fierce look crept into her eyes and she said, "Dad has tormented you a lot. And he seems determined to keep us apart. Do we even look like a couple? It's been a while since I had the pleasure of spending time with you."

Seeing his girlfriend's agitation, Joseph's face broke into a smile. "I have some good news for you. Your father finally agreed to move us onto the second stage.

From now on, we are allowed to go on dates."

"Really? When did this happen?" She showed her elation at having finally achieved her desire.

"Yes! When I got home this afternoon, I received a message informing me about this," Joseph said and continued to give her all the details.

Finally all sufferings had their reward.

Once he was done speaking, she exhaled and let out a deep sigh. "So, according to my father's terrible system, we are allowed to go on dates?" she asked, still unable to believe it.

"Yes. Now you won't have to sneak at nights to meet me. But to be honest, I like this."

After saying that, Joseph, who was in a good mood, gave her a gentle kiss.

"Well, why didn't you tell this to me earlier? I went through all this trouble thinking we couldn't go on dates!" Ashley pursed her pretty lips to show her anger.

"Did you give me a chance to speak?" Joseph asked, raising his eyebrows. Ashley had spoken in a hurry and hung up the call. He never had an opportunity to share this good news to her.

Even though he tried to make it look like it was her fault, he was extremely happy that she had dropped her reserve just to meet him. He also cherished this precious moment when there was no one to disturb them.

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“But why couldn’t you call me again?” Ashley demanded as she watched him with disdain.

One more call could have solved all the problems. However, this shrewd man didn’t even bother to call her again! She gazed at him sternly.

However, before Joseph could refute to her allegations, Ashley raised her hand and pinched his handsome face. She couldn’t help but shower him with odd compliments. “Your face is so smooth! What skin care products do you use?”

Not only was he blessed with amazing features, but he also had an excellent skin. If one ignored his arrogant aura, he would be a typical prince charming that came straight out of a fairy tale. His looks could make the opposite sex weak at the knees.

Ashley had long desired to caress his smooth-looking skin. It was indeed as delicate as she had expected it to be. She was overcome by an urge to touch him again.

As she played with his face, one could tell she was deeply amazed with his skin. Deep down, she felt a sting of jealousy as well. ‘How can a man have such good skin? What should we women do to achieve this perfection?’

Joseph, whose face was being fondled continuously, was rendered speechless by her question. He said leisurely, “Honestly, I use nothing. I was just born with such beautiful skin.”

His answer amused Ashley. She raised her eyebrows and said, “Ha-ha, that’s so cute. Come on, let me touch your face again.”

Ashley, who was obsessed with his immaculate skin, was behaving like a heinous hooligan, stretching out her hand without his permission to touch him again.

This was something she had always dreamed of doing. Now that she had begun, she couldn't stop.

This proved that hooligans weren't always men. Women could behave shamelessly as well!

Her hands kept playing with his face. Joseph, who was molested unscrupulously, felt all kinds of sensation as she touched him.

In the face of Ashley's roguish behavior, Joseph thought it was time for him to take advantage of the situation.

He pounced on her and gazed at her. Under the orange light of the car, the lovely couple felt a flirtatious air. She too began to look at him.

Ashley's face soon turned crimson red. Awkwardly, she tried to dodge meeting his eyes. However, it was hard. His eyes were shining bright in spite of the dim light. She felt the ticking of the time yet everything remained still. He sat in the same position, gazing at her.

At last, Joseph withdrew his seductive gaze and slowly pulled Ashley up. "If you try to tease me next time, I'll never let you go."

Ashley frowned and blurted out, "Does this mean you are going to let me go easily this time?"

From her previous experience, she knew Joseph wasn't someone who would let her go so easily. He would jump at the opportunity of making out with her.

"What? Are you implying you don't want me to let you go?" His lips were spread in a sly smile.

She had a strong sense of approaching danger. She replied decisively, "No! Just do as you said. You need to have some control over your urges. You have been doing great so far. Keep going!"

As she discouraged him from making out with her, he smiled at her dotingly.

Ashley, who was shy, lowered her head. A tinge of disappointment rose in Joseph's heart.

Then, he raised his hand and gently rubbed his girlfriend's hair. In a soft voice, he whispered, "Ashley, it's getting pretty late. You should go back home. We can see each other tomorrow."

Ashley raised her eyes and glanced at her watch. She found that it was almost twelve o'clock. Gently, she said, "Okay, you are right."

Then, Joseph and Ashley walked on the hillside road, hand in hand. They soon reached the front of the Guzman family's house. Cold wind nipped at their bodies, bringing them close to each other. The full bright moon reflected the harmonious figures of the two people. There was something serenely beautiful about the scene.

"Bye. See you tomorrow," she said as they approached her doorstep. After entering the mansion, Ashley waved goodbye to her tall boyfriend who was still standing by the gate.

"See you tomorrow. Good night." Joseph stood over there and waved at her.

He stood there until Ashley's figure completely disappeared into the darkness. Once she was gone, the gentle smile still remained on his face.

Having entered the second stage, Joseph and Ashley, who had lived in oppression, had the freedom to go on dates. They made good use of this opportunity, going on dates and spending a romantic time. Ashley's father never interfered but made it clear she had to be home when the night fell.

It was worth mentioning that because of the deal that Joseph had struck with Mike, Ashley's brother was longer the third wheel.

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The change in her father frightened her. The more he became lax, the stronger her feeling uneasy. Even though she was enjoying this lax system,

somewhere deep down worry was building in her. She couldn't help but think it wasn't as simple as it looked.

On the third day, the sweet couple was leisurely strolling along the famous Eledo Boulevard in Ariosa, their fingers interlocked. They were heading to the Lover's Lake, a perfect place for couples.

Ashley, who was still thinking about her father, racked her mind for an explanation. 'Why did his attitude suddenly change?' she wondered. She shook Joseph's arm and raised her eyebrows. "Did you bribe my father as well?"

After going through it over and over, this seemed like the most plausible explanation for what happened. Her father must have been bribed by her rich boyfriend! Moreover, this was a trick that had worked on her brother. Perhaps Joseph attempted it again and Jack fell for it.

Hearing Ashley's sudden question, Joseph asked, "What put this idea into your head?"

"The fact that Dad was against our relationship but suddenly decided to stop interfering! So please tell me. This thought has been bothering me a little. I am scared and nervous..." Her voice faltered as she tried to explain.

She thought back to how her father had been in the past few days. He never questioned her when she went on dates with Joseph. In fact, she caught him smiling a peculiar smile.

For some reason, she preferred the oppression over this. She couldn't imagine her father would stoop so low.

She seemed to have accustomed to being slave to her father.

"Maybe it's because my father-in-law has finally begun to see things clearly. Moreover, he seems to be in a really good mood lately. Perhaps he is slowly starting to realize that giving his daughter to me is not such a bad idea," Joseph explained with a faint smile. After a short pause, he went on, "Anyway, I don't have the ability to buy him off."

Jack had got everything and wasn't the sort of man who would fall for traps. Even if Joseph was omnipotent, he was helpless to deal with Jack who had unwavering resolve.



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Joseph's explanation seemed rather far-fetched. The father-in-law and son-in-law hadn't gotten along well. This issue would have taken a while to be resolved. The fact Jack had turned from a bully to a philanthropist was too hard to believe. Ashley knew her father. He wasn't the sort of man who would give in easily.

She thought there was something fishy but Joseph wasn't willing to tell her.

Listening to his explanation, Ashley gave it some thought and came to the conclusion that her father was a weird man. His thoughts were hard to understand. Shrugging off these negative thoughts, she said, "I don't want to dwell too much on it. We rarely get to relish such free time. We should focus on each other."

After saying that, Ashley pointed her fingers ahead of her. "Look! We are here. And seems like it's pretty crowded today," she exclaimed.

Today's date was supposed to be simple and ordinary. It was bereft of luxurious car, expensive clothes and high-end places. Hand in hand, the two strolled along the beautiful Eledo Boulevard. The flowers and plants along the road and the vast sea witnessed their footprints. Their cheerful laughter reverberated in the air.

Both of them were clad in casual matching off-white couple's hoodie. It was paired with denim trousers in matching color. Ashley took Joseph's hand in hers and watched the crowded lake.

The Lover's Lake was one of the most famous scenic spots in Ariosa. It was a man-made lake near the vast beach. Located next the sea, it was away from all the hustle and bustle of the city life. It also gave them access to elegant scenery. They had various exclusive facilities for couples, making it quite a special place. People from all over the country came here.

In spite of being clad in ordinary clothing, Ashley's and Jacob's natural beautiful shone amidst the crowd. As they walked past the lake, lots of heads turned to admire them. They were as beautiful as the scenery. Being used to such attention, the couple remained calm.

However, Ashley eyed Joseph and whispered, "Wherever you go, people look at you like you are some kind of a celebrity."

Her face didn't have any expression when she spoke.

Joseph hadn't worn his expensive clothes. His fancy clothes were exchanged for something casual. In spite of this, he stood out in the crowd. Wherever he went, people looked at him.

"You're popular too," Joseph whispered back. He withdrew his hand from his girlfriend's hand and wrapped it around her waist.

There were equal number of men and women. All of them were taken by this breathtaking couple. Ashley was being showered with equal amount of attention. The amazed gazes of the crowd kept flitting from Ashley to Joseph.

Joseph looked very gentle today. He held her towards him as if there was no one around. Ashley, who was normally shy, seemed to be in a very good mood. She leaned close to him, embracing the romantic feeling that had awoken in her heart.

While they were busy with each other, something odd happened. Within a radius of two meters, there was no one. They were rewarded with privacy they hadn't expected to get.

Perhaps this couple was so enchanting that it brought a twinge of envy in the other couples. As a result, most of them began to become nervous. The ladies worried that Ashley would grab their partners' attention. And the men were afraid of their ladies falling for Joseph. Some of them cursed their partners in a low voice.

There were also people who found Ashley and Joseph to be extremely cute. They didn't want to disturb them, considering they looked so deeply in love.

"Do you have any coins with you?" Ashley asked, looking up at her boyfriend.

"Coins? I don't think I have ever carried one!" Joseph replied haughtily.

"Don't you have any change?" Ashley's eyes were fixated on her handsome boyfriend. She wanted to make use of the wishing well in front of her.

“Can a hundred dollar note be considered as a change?” Joseph asked and stared at Ashley.

His reply astonished her. Ashley didn't know how to respond.

For the first time it dawned upon her that in spite of being rich, Joseph was by no chance perfect. For example, she was eager for coins to put into the wishing well. However, her boyfriend seemed to have only hundred dollars bills.

“Give me a hundred dollar note. I will try to get some change.”

Ashley spread her palm before Joseph. Ever since she had begun dating this ridiculously wealthy man, she had stopped bringing her wallet on dates.

“Here you go!” he said, taking out his wallet and handing over the money. Then he asked, “Do you want more?”

“No, this is plenty enough. Also, stay here. Don't move. I will be back soon,” she ordered as she left with the note.

Joseph's eyes followed his girlfriend's receding figure. He stood where she had asked him to. Standing there, he wondered why she had asked for change.

It wasn't Joseph's fault. After all, he had lived almost all his life as a single man. Being rich, he hardly had to use change. Besides, he wasn't aware of the wishing well. He had no idea such a tradition existed!

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After a few minutes, Ashley returned excitedly and handed ten coins to Joseph. And then she took his wallet and neatly kept the rest of the money inside.

After putting the wallet back to its original place, she held his empty hand and continued to walk. “Let's go to the wishing well that's right in front of us,” she said, excitement surging inside of her.

Joseph did as he was asked. When the two of them squeezed into the edge of the clear wishing well, he looked at her confusedly and asked, “What are we supposed to do?”

“Look, there’re many coins in the water, right? With our backs to the pool, we should make a wish holding the coins and throw them, one by one, into the pool together.” She could tell a rich man like Joseph wouldn’t have heard of such a place or such a tradition. She took the time to explain it to him patiently. “If you don’t know how to do it, you can take a moment to watch how everyone else is doing it. Also, don’t throw them all in. One coin at a time!”

she explained hastily, afraid he would throw it all at once and run out of coins.

“Give me a coin. Are you ready?” Ashley asked. Joseph was busy watching the others.

He passed her a coin. He then took a deep breath and said, “Yes, I’m ready.” He placed a coin between his palms, clasped his fingers, and pressed them against his chin.

After making a silent wish, Ashley said in a sweet voice, “Three... Two... One.”

Their coins made a beautiful arc in the air and hit the water at the same time. They heard the sound of the coins jumping in the water in unison. They stood with slightly closed eyes, giving them a devout look.

After a few seconds they turned around. Ashley looked down at the large pile of coins soaked in water and nudged Joseph gently. “Joseph, did you find this boring?”

Dispirited, Ashley had already guessed this wasn’t something her aloof boyfriend would enjoy. She knew he wasn’t a fan of public entertainments. Yet she wanted to hear it from him.

“I don’t mind doing it,” he said, breaking into a smile. He gazed at her adorable face and added, “I could never be bored when I am with you.”

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Ever since Joseph began dating Ashley, he was becoming a charming speaker. He knew how to talk to a girl. A big smile spread across her face, listening to these sweet words coming out of her boyfriend.

At this moment, the lights of the whole lakeside square were lit. The music fountain in the center of the large wishing well came alive, spurting water. The melodious music began to play, casting an enchanting aura.

In this romantic atmosphere, Joseph and Ashley, who were being watched by everyone, had eyes only for each other. They smiled at each other, relishing the lively and elegant surrounding.

They sat side by side on the edge of the wishing well. Ashley's hands rested on the smooth stone bench and her legs swayed gently. With a resolute expression, she gazed at her boyfriend and asked, "What wish did you make just now?"

"Would you like to venture a guess?" Joseph said, moving a little closer to her.

Ashley detected tenderness in his eyes. She instantly figured what he had wished for. Her eyes became watery and she tried not to look at him. Instead, she looked down at the colorful floor and whispered, "I am guessing it's related to me."

"Yeah," said Joseph flatly.

"Can I choose not to say it?" After giving it a thought, Ashley felt a flush of embarrassment. She couldn't say it out loud. Her gaze was still on the floor. When she next spoke, her voice was soft like a whisper. "But I want to hear it from you."

Joseph, who knew that Ashley wouldn't take no for an answer, said in a pampering tone, "I wished for us to be able to marry as soon as possible."

Hearing these words, Ashley blushed, but didn't look up. This confession, when combined with the beautiful soft music in the background, gave a special meaning to their conversation. It would suffice to say that this felt like a proposal.

However, Joseph hadn't intended to be romantic. His gaze was fixed on the crowd. A little doubtfully, he asked, "Ashley, what is that?"

Hearing this query, Ashley followed his gaze and looked at the direction he was looking at. "It's one of the special facilities of this place! Magpie Bridge! We are lucky to be able to see it! The Magpie Bridge is open to visitors today."

As the name suggested, the Magpie Bridge was related to the legend of the traditional Ob.rarian Valentine's Day. It was a facility arranged by the Lover's Lake, exclusively providing games for couples to play.

However, in order to attract customers and maintain a mysterious vibe, the Magpie Bridge with its special structure would open only from time to time. To Ashley's delight, today it was open to visitors.

"Let's go," Ashley suggested happily, eager to see what was inside. Both of them walked towards it.

A voice suddenly addressed the crowd awaiting. "Hello, everyone! Today, the Magpie Bridge is open. All the couples present can come inside and take a look. You can check if you are meant to be with your partner forever. According to our statistics, the couples who had held their hands in the center of the bridge always end up getting a happy life ever after. The Magpie Bridge is magical! If you don't believe me, come and check it out for yourself." As they approached the crowd, the young speaker's voice continued after a short pause, "Since there are many people present, you will have to take turns to walk on the bridge." Next, the host briefly explained the rules of the game. "A man and a woman should stand at the starting point of both ends of the bridge. Both of them should slowly walk along the stone pillars. They have to keep walking until they reach the middle. Let me remind you that the bridge is placed on the shallow lake. There are many transparent stone pillars in the water. Your duty is to choose carefully and reach the middle point. Each time, the right path will be placed differently. If you are not careful enough to step on the right one, you might end up stepping your foot into the lake. Please take off your shoes before you start the challenge.

The couple that manages to finish this task in the shortest time today will have a surprise awaiting for them! It's an absolutely exquisite gift. I am pretty sure everyone here would want it." The speaker paused for a moment to gaze at the crowd and went on, "I can sp0t several eager eyes in the crowd! My words have pumped you all up. Without further delay, we welcome couples who are confident about their love. Come ahead and show the world how much you love each other."

As soon as he finished speaking, he received warm applause. Several couples around the spot became happy. Their curiosity and joy could be seen from the way they behaved. In a low voice, couples began to discuss whether to participate or not.

Ashley, who found the whole thing very exciting, turned to her boyfriend and asked, "Joseph, shall we go and give it a try?" She shifted her gaze from the Magpie Bridge in front of her, eager to hear his opinion. Her wide eyes made her excitement evident.

"It sounds interesting. If you want to do it, I am more than happy to join you." Joseph raised his hand and gently rubbed Ashley's silky hair.

Hearing her boyfriend's affirmative answer, Ashley suddenly hesitated. "What if we don't make it to the middle?" she said timidly.

"Don't you have faith in our relationship?" Joseph, who was confident and knew only about victory, didn't mirror her ideas. He raised his eyebrows questioningly.

"No, that's not what I meant. I have faith in us but look at the couple out there! They got wet after taking two steps. It looks harder than I thought."

Ashley glanced worriedly at the couple who had failed to complete the challenge. Her stomach was in knots as she waited for her turn.

Ashley glanced worriedly at the couple who had failed to complete the challenge. Her stomach was in knots as she waited for her turn.

She carefully observed the bridge and noticed one had to take at least ten steps to reach the central area. In the blink of an eye, more than ten couples attempted the challenge. And the worst part was, not one of them could survive five steps. Seeing the disappointment on their faces, Ashley's worry intensified. She couldn't bear the thought of stepping into the lake halfway.

"Do you have no confidence in your intelligence?" Joseph whispered in his girlfriend's ear, gently leaning against the handrail of the pool.

His remark offended Ashley. She looked at him with displeasure. Raising her chin slightly, she asked, "Why would you ask such a question! You know very well that I am pretty smart. Go to the other end of the bridge. We will be starting soon. If we can't meet at the center, then I won't talk to you!"

Ashley was being overtly unreasonable.

“Believe in our tacit understanding and fate. Don’t take off your shoes as required when we begin the challenge. We will definitely win.” Looking at his girlfriend’s lovely face, Joseph tried to make her confident.

“Okay!” It seemed like his confidence was contagious. In an instant, she broke into a smile and nodded her head. “Give me five!” she exclaimed.

After this, the confident looking couple stood at the opposite ends of the bridge.

Another couple was still performing. However, in no time, they stepped into the water. Now it was Joseph’s and Ashley’s turn. They stood at the starting point of the bridge. When they came to the spotlight, silence ensued. Everyone watched them with rapt attention. It became obvious that they had a lot of admirers. Their pretty faces had stolen all of their hearts.

Standing at a distance of more than ten meters, the couple gazed at each other. They began to walk cautiously.

Every time Ashley stepped on a stone pillar, her heart thudded against her chest. With fear she forced herself to step on those stone pillars.

There were occasions when she couldn’t bring herself to move. Then, she would look up and try to see how her handsome boyfriend was faring. Her desire to not let him down was what made her keep going.

In the end, Ashley lowered her head, very fixated on choosing the right path. Her mind was so occupied with thoughts, she forgot to count her steps. However, she was greeted by rousing cheers. She looked up and saw her handsome boyfriend standing right in front of her, a triumphant smile appearing on his face.