

The More the Merrier Chapter 576 –

Chapter 576 Have You Forgotten Your Promise

She opened the bedroom door, only to walk right into Benjamin standing at the doorway.

Had he not caught her by the waist in time, Arissa would've fallen on her behind.

“Be careful!”

This time, his voice sounded stern as opposed to his playful tone from earlier.

After taking a few seconds to regain her composure, Arissa recalled what she wanted to ask him about and quickly broke out of his embrace.

“What happened to the kitchen?”

Benjamin simply shot her a glance as he grabbed some clothes and headed toward the living room. “We’ll talk in the living room.”

Huh?

Arissa froze and stared at him in confusion.

Benjamin turned around and said, “The kids are still asleep. Let’s not wake them now.”

Arissa could only nod and follow behind him.

Unbeknownst to her, Benjamin broke into a grin as he thought to himself.

Mmm... How obedient...

“Did you have someone remove all the food from the kitchen?” Arissa asked the moment they got to the living room.

Since Benjamin had just returned from his morning run, he was about to take a shower.

“Yup!” he replied as he continued making his way toward the bathroom.

Arissa was so caught up with questioning him that she followed him inside without even realizing.

“Why did you do that? How am I supposed to make breakfast, then?”

“The hotel will prepare breakfast for us. You can go back to sleep if you wish to kill time!”

Having set his fresh change of clothes down in the corner, Benjamin began taking off his shirt in front of her.

The sight of his well-developed muscles gave her quite a shock and caused her to turn around immediately. That was when she saw the mirror and realized she had followed him into the bathroom.

“I’ll be on my way out now!”

Benjamin glanced at her through the corner of his eye as she ran off. “I don’t mind having you scrub my back for me!”

Arissa ignored him and slammed the bathroom door shut behind her. Fearing the loud noise would have woken up the kids, she quickly ran over to check on them.

It wasn’t until she saw that they were still asleep that she breathed a sigh of relief. She then pulled the blanket over their shoulders before leaving the bedroom.

I can’t make breakfast since there’s nothing in the kitchen, and it’s still very early at the moment... Should I go back to sleep? Or should I just wait for the kids to wake up? D*mn you, Benjamin! You could’ve at least told me if you didn’t want me making breakfast! I wouldn’t have gotten up so early if you did!

She thought to herself while glaring fiercely at the bathroom door.

Eventually, Arissa decided to order some food from the menu and had the butler serve it up.

The butler had just brought the food over when Benjamin came out of the shower.

“Enjoy your breakfast, Mr. and Mrs. Graham!”

Arissa froze when she heard that.

Benjamin shot her a glance as he sat down at the table. “Go on, Mrs. Graham. Eat up!”

Arissa made her way to the couch and said defiantly, “I’ll eat when the kids are all here. You can carry on without me, Graham!”

Hmph! Does he really think I enjoy this title? I just didn’t feel like explaining myself, that’s all!

Benjamin narrowed his eyes. “Arissa, have you forgotten what you promised me?”

Arissa's face turned gloomy when she recalled her promise and reluctantly returned to the table.

"It's fine if you don't feel like eating yet. You can always serve me while you wait for the kids!" Benjamin added.

Arissa felt the corner of her lips twitch as she tried to force a smile at his shameless expression.

"And how would you like me to serve you, Graham? Be careful what you ask for, because you might suffer indigestion as a result!"

"Go ahead and give it a try. We'll see if I can handle it!" Benjamin replied while staring deep into her eyes.

Arissa gritted her teeth in anger when she saw how calm and collected he was.

"I'm going to start eating!" she said while sitting down at the table.

Benjamin flashed her a smile before gracefully eating the food on his plate.

Arissa stole one more glance at him before digging in as well.

The food made by the hotel tasted so great that Arissa's mood improved significantly, and she became a lot more talkative as a result.

"Mr. Frank sure knows how to pick a hotel! The food here is amazing!"

Benjamin gave her a strange look when he heard that.

Noticing his response, Arissa paused briefly before asking in confusion, "What, am I wrong? This food does taste amazing!"

Benjamin arched an eyebrow at her as he replied, "Oh, you're right about the food. There's just one thing you got wrong."

"And what would that be?" Arissa asked while munching on her food.

The More the Merrier Chapter 577 –

Chapter 577 The Best Boss

"This hotel is a subsidiary of Graham Group," Benjamin said calmly before he continued chewing his food.

Arissa froze in shock.

What? This is a subsidiary of Graham Group? I don't think it was stated in the files I read before!

Noticing the look on her face, Benjamin decided not to tell her that he had only acquired this hotel the day before yesterday.

"Does that mean everything here is for free now?" Arissa asked excitedly.

"Yup!" Benjamin nodded.

Arissa then happily grabbed the menu and started ordering dishes that she and the kids loved.

Benjamin didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he saw that. "Those who don't about us might think I've been starving you guys!"

Arissa shot him a glance and said, "No, of course not! You're really nice to us, Graham! You're the best boss I've ever seen!"

Her sweet voice brought a smile to his face, and the look in his eyes turned gentle as he looked at her.

"Do you always flatter your bosses like this?"

Arissa shook her head profusely. "Nope! You're the only one I flatter! Wait, no... I mean, this isn't flattery! I genuinely think you're a good guy!"

Benjamin couldn't bring himself to get mad at her when he saw how cute her response was.

Arissa then passed her order down to the butler and carried on eating.

"Benjamin, the chef here is really good! You should give him a raise!"

Benjamin nodded. "Sure!"

Arissa was a little taken aback by his response, but chose not to think too much about it.

As the butler returned with more food moments later, Benjamin instructed, "Give all the chefs here a raise."

The butler was shocked. "Mr. Graham..."

"Just tell them Mrs. Graham enjoyed the food a lot, so we're giving them a raise," Benjamin added.

“Yes, Sir! Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Graham!” the butler exclaimed while bowing gratefully.

Arissa retorted softly with a pout, “Since when did I become Mrs. Graham?”

Noticing that the butler was still standing there and watching nosily, Benjamin shot him a warning glare in response.

The butler then quickly served up the food and left them alone.

What, you don't like being called ‘Mrs. Graham?’” Benjamin teased her.

“I'm not married to you, so you'll give people the wrong idea!” Arissa protested.

“I'm not even worried, so why are you getting so worked up about it? Here, eat up!” Benjamin said while handing her a breakfast platter.

“You know what? It'd be a lot nicer if you'd be gentler instead of ordering me around all the time!” Arissa snapped back at him.

What? She's starting to make demands now?

Benjamin frowned at the thought of that. “Shouldn't you at least reflect upon yourself before you request such things from me?”

Arissa pouted. “Am I not gentle enough?”

“Hmph!” Benjamin snorted coldly, much to her chagrin.

The chefs were delighted when the butler informed them about the raise.

“Why are we getting a raise all of a sudden?”

“Because Mrs. Graham really likes the food you guys made. She's the reason behind your raise!”

“Mrs. Graham sure is a nice person! Should we go thank her?”

“Maybe later! They're having breakfast at the moment, so you guys probably shouldn't ruin the mood for them!” the butler reminded them.

“Oh, right! They're having a romantic breakfast right now, so we shouldn't interrupt! Hey, boss! What other dishes does Mrs. Graham like? We'll whip up some more for her!”

The butler, who had been personally serving Benjamin and the others, was actually the manager in charge of the hotel.

“I’ll let you guys know when I’ve figured that out. From what I know, Mrs. Graham really liked whatever I just served them. You guys can use those dishes as a reference to figure out what she might like. Try coming up with some different dishes this time. Don’t just make the same ones over and over.”

“Yes, Sir! We’ll come up with something different!”

The More the Merrier Chapter 578 –

Chapter 578 A Little Romantic

When they had almost finished eating, the children started getting out of bed one after another as the tantalizing smell of the food roused them from their slumber.

Tim was the first to wake up, and sensing his movements, Gavin and Zachary also followed suit.

“Could it be that Mommy is making breakfast again?”

Zachary glanced around but did not see Arissa.

“Let’s go out and take a look!” Gavin suggested, calling for the two other buys to follow him. The trio ran outside together, and their eyes widened when they saw Arissa eating breakfast with Benjamin.

They could not help thinking that the scene before them looked a little romantic.

Seeming to sense their presence, Arissa turned and saw the three brothers standing rooted to the spot in shock.

She beckoned at them happily. “Sweethearts, why are you just standing there? Come over!”

Gavin, Zachary, and Tim rushed over to them with a chorus of greetings.

“Mommy!”

Mommy!”

“Ms. York!”

“Daddy!”

“Mr. Graham!”

“Mr. Graham!”

Benjamin nodded at them. "Good morning."

Their sweet and adorable voices melted Arissa's heart, and she pulled them to her. "Come and have breakfast with me. Aren't the others up yet?"

"Mommy, we haven't washed our faces!" Zachary piped up as he stared at the delicious spread on the table.

Gavin and Tim nodded. "And we haven't brushed our teeth!"

Smiling, Arissa stood up and quickly brought them to wash up.

"Come on. Go and brush your teeth first."

After leading them to the bathroom, she went to the bedroom to wake the three younger children.

She leaned over and nudged them gently. "Sweethearts, it's time to get up."

Jasper turned onto his front and hugged the covers while Oliver also rolled away.

Meanwhile, Jesse burrowed deep under the covers.

The three older siblings slept in much more normal positions compared to them. Now that the older ones were not in bed, they began moving around and sleeping in various odd positions.

It tickled Arissa to see their actions. Clearing her throat, she said sternly, "Oliver! Jasper!"

The two boys sat up instantly and even stood at attention on the bed. "Yes, ma'am!"

She chuckled and instructed, "Go wash your faces."

"Yes, ma'am!" With that, they jumped from the bed and ran to the bathroom.

Gazing at Jesse, who was still curled up in bed, Arissa said, "Jesse, if you don't get up, your brothers and I will be leaving you here."

As she spoke, she patted the little girl's bottom through the covers.

"Mommy, I still want to sleep..."

She raised her eyebrows. "Well then, go back to sleep. We'll finish breakfast and won't leave anything for you. The food prepared by the hotel looks so nice and tastes so yummy..."

Sitting on the edge of the bed, she deliberately described how good the food tasted. She even smacked her lips to emphasize its deliciousness and tempt Jesse.

Jesse squirmed and finally poked her head out from under the covers.

“Mommy!”

Having just woken up, the little girl looked utterly adorable with her flushed cheeks.

Arissa picked her up in her arms and kissed her cheek. “Come on. I’ll take you to go wash your face.”

Jesse wrapped her arms around Arissa’s neck and leaned against the latter’s shoulder, still half-asleep.

Then, Jesse sniffed at her and asked, “Mommy, you’ve had breakfast already?”

Although Jesse was half asleep, she was still thinking about food. Arissa gazed at her in amusement and said, “Yes. I’ve almost finished with my breakfast.”

“Then is there any more left?” Jesse asked with a yawn. The thought of getting up to eat something delicious was tempting. However, she also felt like sleeping, and the two opposing thoughts locked horns in an inner conflict.

“Yes. But if you continue sleeping, there might not be any left for you to eat by the time you wake up,” Arissa replied, teasing her daughter.

Jesse pouted. “This is a hotel. I can just ask the kitchen staff to make some more.”

“Do you have money?” Arissa asked, arching her brow.

Jesse bowed her head and mumbled in a defeated tone, “No.”

Arissa carried her daughter into the bathroom with a chuckle and placed her on a chair. Dampening a towel with warm water, she proceeded to wipe Jesse’s face.

Jesse felt much more awake after that.

Then, Arissa squeezed some toothpaste onto Jesse’s toothbrush. “Hurry up and brush your teeth.”

The More the Merrier Chapter 579 –

Chapter 579 We Are Not Arguing

Oliver and Jasper looked up at Arissa as they stood to one side, brushing their teeth.

“Mommy, what time did you get up today?” Jasper asked, spewing foam everywhere as he spoke.

She pinched his cheek lightly. “Don’t talk while you’re brushing your teeth!”

As Jasper nodded obediently, Oliver secretly laughed and lowered his head to spit out the foam in his mouth. “Mommy, have Gavin and the others been up for a long time too?”

“They only just woke up as well. They’re washing up in the bathroom outside,” Arissa replied, dampening some towels and wiping the boys’ faces after they cleaned their teeth.

After that, she went out to check on the three older boys and saw they had just finished washing up.

“Sweethearts, come and have breakfast,” she called out while waving at them. The trio went over to the dining table.

Benjamin was still eating, and he poured glasses of milk for the children. “Sit down quickly and have breakfast.”

Arissa lifted each of the kids onto the chairs and took a few plates for them.

Benjamin watched her intently as she busied herself, then asked, “Are you done eating?”

Arissa turned to look at him. “No. Why?”

“If you haven’t, then sit down. Watching you bustle around is making me lose my appetite.”

Her lips twitched when she heard that while Gavin shot him a dirty look as he thought about how infuriating those words were.

“If you can’t stand watching my mommy bustle around, then don’t look!”

“Don’t talk when you’re eating!” Benjamin barked, reprimanding his son with a stony expression on his handsome face.

Gavin pursed his lips and ate in silence.

Arissa’s heart ached when she saw that, and she caressed the boy’s head gently. “Can’t you speak to him in a gentler tone?” she chastised Benjamin.

Benjamin glowered at her. "The children are already five years old. It's time you let them learn to be more independent and stop doing everything for them."

Arissa did not retort after getting admonished by him. Just then, the three younger children came running over.

As they climbed into their seats by themselves, she shot Benjamin a proud look.

"Do you think my darling children aren't independent? I was only trying to interact with them more."

Benjamin's expression turned grim.

For some reason, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse immediately sensed something amiss in the atmosphere. Their eyes flicked back and forth between Benjamin and Arissa.

Then, they whispered to their older brothers, "Are they arguing?"

Gavin, Zachary, and Tim looked at each other.

"It seems like it," Gavin answered.

Hearing that, Benjamin and Arissa were speechless for a moment.

"We're not arguing. We're just having a discussion," Arissa explained.

All six children fixed their gazes on Benjamin.

Casting a glance at Arissa, Benjamin said, "Yes, I was having a discussion with your mommy. As you're all older now, you need to be more self-aware and independent. Don't keep waiting for her to help you."

His words struck a chord within the children. Recalling how Arissa would always help them, they bowed their heads guiltily.

Seeing that, Arissa rolled her eyes at Benjamin.

"They're all very independent. Does helping the children into their seats, getting their plates, and washing their faces mean they're not independent?"

She could not help cursing inwardly. They're only five years old, for goodness' sake. I still have to watch over them a little with things like these. I correct them as I spend time with them. After all, it's a learning process. Sometimes, I do it because I love them and want to dote on them. Is that wrong? Must I let them become self-reliant like adults? Is that the only way? My sweethearts are very independent, okay? They do so much for me that I sometimes don't even feel a sense of pride from being a mother.

As Benjamin watched her closely and noticed her cheeks puffing with anger, his tone softened slightly as he said, "I was only reminding you to be mindful. It's not the first time this has happened."

The More the Merrier Chapter 580 –

Chapter 580 Are You A Big Baby

"They're my children. If I don't do these, who will?" Arissa retorted, shooting Benjamin a sidelong look.

Nonetheless, she did agree that what he said made sense, so she added, "I'll be careful."

These are things that I do at home, and there's nothing wrong with doting them occasionally. Unlike him, who always looks so stern and serious. No wonder the kids are afraid of him.

After setting plates in front of Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse, she began serving them food.

"Eat up, Sweethearts!"

Even after she sat down and started eating, she did not forget to continue getting more food for them. "You should eat more. You'll be going to the hospital later to spend time with Mdm. Mary, and there won't be anything to eat there. You'll have to wait until lunchtime."

Then, she paused when she noticed Tim had left some food on his plate untouched. "Tim, why aren't you eating? Does it not taste nice?"

Tim bit his lip. "I... It's nice. It's just that I want to bring some for Grandma."

Arissa felt a pang in her heart. Patting his head affectionately, she said, "We'll pack some for her later. These are for you, so hurry up and eat."

She scooped up a mouthful of food and held it up to his mouth.

Tim quickly took the spoon from her and ate it by himself, sneaking a peek at Benjamin.

When Arissa saw that, she felt her chest tighten and glared at Benjamin. It's all because of what he said earlier. Now, I can't even feed my child.

Benjamin's heart wrenched in pain when he saw the look of disappointment on her face and that she was on the verge of tears.

"Arissa," he called out.

She ignored him and continued eating with her head lowered.

I like bonding with my children. I'm not like him, cold and distant.

"Take some omelet for me," he ordered.

She gritted her teeth when she heard his voice, then lifted her head and glared at him.

Benjamin froze when he saw her fix him with a death stare. Did I go overboard with what I just said?

Suppressing her anger, she snapped, "You just told me off and wouldn't let me help the kids. But now, you want me to get some food for you? Are you a big baby? Can't you get it yourself? You're a... fiend with double standards!"

Having noticed the instant darkening of his expression, she had forced herself to change her last sentence. I wonder if he'd kill me if I'd called him a dog instead.

Thinking that Benjamin had gotten what he deserved, the children snickered to themselves.

Gavin was especially gleeful, secretly giving his mother's actions his stamp of approval.

If Arissa had not been fuming with anger, he would have burst out laughing.

Benjamin pressed his thin lips together tightly and flung down his knife and fork. "I'm full!"

Arissa watched him walk away with a smug look. Full from rage, I suppose.

Unable to contain his laughter anymore, a giggle escaped from Jasper.

"Hush!" Arissa hissed, motioning for him to watch his behavior.

Benjamin is someone who holds grudges. It'll be bad if he overhears them laughing.

The children finally continued eating after giggling quietly for a while.

"You should all eat more. There's still a lot of food. This one here and that one are nice too. Here, have some milk."

Her soft and gentle voice would drift over to Benjamin from time to time, and he could feel his rage intensifying.

The sight of the seven around the table was such a happy and heartwarming scene that he felt the urge to join them. However, he could not let go of his pride.

Hence, he sat reading the newspaper in the living room. But only he knew how much he actually read as his gaze kept getting drawn toward the dining table.

“Mommy, I want to eat this!”

“Mommy, this is for you. It’s a little hot, so be careful!”

“Okay!”

Benjamin could not help feeling envious when he saw how close she was to the children and began reflecting on his behavior.

Was I too harsh? Is that why the children behave so differently when they’re with me compared to how they are with her? They share such a close bond with her, but with me, they feel afraid. Even Zachary, who has been by my side since he was little, is sometimes somewhat scared of me.

He pursed his lips as the thought crossed his mind. Since he was a child, Darius had raised him in a military-style setting with strict expectations, and he had been envious of the other children’s freedom.

Gazing at the kids, Benjamin fell into deep thought.