

The More the Merrier Chapter 646

Chapter 646

Chapter 646 Welcome Party

Gavin looked at him. When he saw her holding his mommy, his eyes lit up, and he said, "No need!"

The boy then left coolly.

Benjamin resumed his work after seeing that everything was all right.

Once Gavin was done using the restroom, he returned to his seat and continued to sleep.

Back at the Graham residence in Dellmoor.

Arissa woke up only when she heard the commotion and found herself lying in Benjamin's arms. She was taken aback.

How did I end up sleeping on him?

"Mommy, we have arrived. It's time to get off now!"

Both Oliver and Jasper leaned over gleefully.

So did Gavin and Zachary.

Jesse was helping Tim with his stuff, but she was also looking at her with bright eyes.

Shaun, Kingsley, Ethen, and even Mary also reminded her that they had arrived.

Arissa sat up straight, rubbed her face, and stood up calmly before saying, "All right then. Let's go!"

The children found the situation hilarious and stared at her.

Arissa took out her sunglasses and put them on to avoid any more embarrassment.

Kingsley whistled and said, "Mrs. Graham, this look of yours is so cool!"

He wanted to say that she looked gorgeous, but he was afraid that Benjamin might be unhappy. That was why he used another adjective, but it was just as suitable.

Arissa smiled and said, "Thank you!"

Once she had gathered the children, she went to get Mary.

"Grandaunt, we are here!"

"All right!" Mary began to look around.

"Mrs. Graham, let us do it. I'll carry Mdm. Mary down."

Kingsley strode over and carried Mary on his back.

Both Shaun and Ethen also went over to help him.

All Arissa could do was to stand aside.

"Let them handle it!"

With that, Benjamin pulled her away.

Arissa shot a glance at him. With her sunglasses as a shield, she appeared much calmer.

The six children only got off after Mary had gotten off.

"We're finally home. Tim, let's go!"

"Okay!" Both Gavin and Zachary held Tim's hands.

Oliver and Jasper, on the other hand, held onto Jesse's hands.

Benjamin walked down with Arissa once the rest of them had disembarked.

Edwin, the housekeeper, and hundreds of bodyguards were waiting for them. Together, they formed a welcoming party.

When all of them saw the family arriving, they called out, "Mr. Graham, Ms. York, welcome home! Gavin and the rest of you, welcome home! Tim and Mdm. Mary, welcome!"

Benjamin bowed his head slightly.

Mary was surprised by such a grand gesture.

Even Tim was stunned.

Arissa rubbed his head and introduced Edwin to him, "This is Mr. Whitley."

"How do you do, Mr. Whitley?" Tim greeted.

"Nice to meet you, Tim!"

Edwin studied Tim carefully and realized that the boy was really skinny.

"Edwin, this is my grandaunt, Mary!" Arissa introduced Edwin to Mary.

"Hello, Mdm. Mary!" Edwin greeted her with a smile.

Mary smiled awkwardly when she saw that Edwin was close to her age. "Hello!"

"Tim, come with us!"

Gavin held Tim's hands and beckoned his other siblings to go into the house.

When the grown-ups saw the six children running into the house happily, they were full of smiles.

"We're finally back. The flight was giving me a backache!"

Kingsley stretched himself before pushing Mary toward the main house with Shaun.

"Mdm. Mary, let's go over there!"

"Sure!"

Mary took a look at her surroundings. The moment she laid eyes on the huge and classic-looking house, she was dumbstruck. It's so big here.

"Let's go in too!"

With that, Benjamin grabbed Arissa's hand and walked into the house.

After getting the housekeeper to take the luggage upstairs, Edwin brought a few men with him and came after Benjamin.

"Mr. Graham, lunch is ready. Should I get everyone seated?"

Benjamin turned his head and asked, "Are the rooms ready?"

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Chapter 647 An Important Elderly

Edwin nodded. "Yes, they are. For the time being, Tim will stay with the rest of the boys. As for Mdm. Mary, I have arranged for her room to be on the ground floor for her convenience."

It would be inconvenient for Mary to stay upstairs because of her legs.

Although there was an elevator in the house, only Benjamin was allowed to use it.

That was why Edwin did not dare to arrange for Mary to stay in a room upstairs.

"Have the guest room upstairs renovated to Grandaut's requirements. Once it's ready, move her upstairs!" instructed Benjamin.

Edwin was startled to hear that. "Yes!"

Edwin found it strange. "Mr. Graham, this Grandaut..."

In order to gain Benjamin's respect, she must be somebody important.

"She is Tim's benefactor. She has raised him and now, she is also Arissa and my grandaut," explained Benjamin.

"I got it now!"

Edwin glanced at Arissa with a smile before getting to his work.

Arissa blushed. Is Edwin mistaken about something when he looked at me strangely just now?

When she recalled the way Benjamin had addressed Mary, her face felt hot.

"Actually, you don't have to address her as Grandaut!"

Benjamin shot her a look and asked, "If I don't call her that, then what should I call her?"

Arissa did not know how to reply.

"If I don't address her affectionately, she won't be able to stay here at ease."

Benjamin snorted with displeasure. What is this woman trying to do?

Hearing that he was upset, Arissa looked at his tense face and whispered, "Thank you."

Benjamin frowned and stared at her. "Why are you thanking me?"

Arissa met his angry eyes and dared not say anything more.

She smiled sheepishly. "Nothing. I just feel like thanking you. That's all. Mr. Graham, don't think too much. Grandaunt is also your benefactor. It's only right that you are good to her. I totally agree with what you do!"

Benjamin snorted lightly and said, "What a sweet talker!"

Arissa pouted her lips. What does he mean by that? I'm just worried that he might get angry.

The two of them went to Mary's room and saw Edwin showing her around.

"Grandaunt, the room upstairs has yet to be renovated because we have come back in a rush. Once the restroom has been customized to suit your needs, you will be able to move upstairs," explained Arissa gently as she held onto Mary's hands.

Mary had never seen such a luxurious house before. Looking at the decor of her room, she was a little uneasy and did not know how to react.

"I'm fine with this room. There's no need to move. It's easier for me to move around if I'm on the ground floor."

Arissa told her, "It's equally convenient upstairs. We have an elevator at home! You can move to the new room once the renovation is completed. For the time being, just stay in this room first."

Benjamin's eyes flickered with joy when he heard Arissa use the word "home."

Mary was moved beyond words. "Thank you. Sorry to cause all of you so much trouble!"

"Why are you being so polite with me again?"

Arissa pouted and pretended to be angry with Mary.

Benjamin also chimed in and put Mary at ease. "Grandaunt, just stay here and don't worry about anything. Tomorrow, you will have to stay in the hospital. Once you are discharged, the room upstairs should be ready."

The six children ran over.

Gavin said, "Great-grandaunt, just stay here and don't worry about anything!"

Zachary added, "Yes, we are staying here too!"

"Great-grandaunt, just treat this place as your own home!" said Oliver.

Jasper said, "Great-grandaunt, just stay here comfortably. If you need anything, just let my mommy know!"

Last but not least, Jesse said, "Great-grandaunt, this place is very huge. Even I haven't been to every part of it. We will go together next time!"

"Sure, sure!"

Mary nodded with tears in her eyes.

These children are so kind.

Even after letting me stay in such a grand house, they are still concerned that I won't feel at ease living here.

Mary was overwhelmed with emotions. She had never seen a house that luxurious before, let alone stay in one.

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Chapter 648

Chapter 648 Why Was Jesse Here

As Tim stood next to Mary's wheelchair and surveyed the place curiously, he was also similarly awed.

This place is truly huge! Gavin and the others showed me around downstairs just now, but we haven't even finished covering the entire downstairs area. Even this room itself is larger than the room at our house. It has an attached bathroom and a balcony. It's all so beautiful. In fact, it's way prettier than the prettiest house in our village...

"Let's eat first and unpack later," Benjamin announced. Then, he instructed Edwin to serve lunch.

As Arissa pushed Mary's wheelchair, she called out to the children, "Come on. Let's have lunch first. It's already noon! Quickly go and wash your hands before you eat, Sweethearts!"

"Come on, Tim! Let's wash our hands before we eat!"

Since it was Tim's first time at the house, Gavin pulled him along as he ran to wash his hands.

"Okay!" Tim hurried after him.

"Wait for us!"

Calling his younger siblings to follow him, Zachary and the other three quickly rushed to catch up.

As the adults trailed behind them to wash their hands before eating, they could not help smiling when they saw how happy the children looked.

Arissa personally led Mary to the bathroom and said, "Grandaunt, why don't you use the bathroom?"

"Sure."

Mary held Arissa's hand to steady herself as she got to her feet, then said, "Give me my crutches. I'll go in by myself."

Arissa took the crutches from behind the wheelchair.

"Be careful," she cautioned, watching Mary closely.

The older woman nodded in response.

Once Mary had used the bathroom and came back out, Arissa helped her to the sink to wash her hands.

"I can do it myself. You should go and use the bathroom too."

"Okay," Arissa replied with a smile. But just as she was about to enter the bathroom, Jesse ran in ahead of her.

"Mommy!"

Arissa gazed at her daughter with a smile on her lips. "Oh? Do you want to use the bathroom?"

"Yes! Yes!"

Jesse's brows were knitted as she needed to use the bathroom badly.

"Did you forget to go earlier because you were too busy playing?" Arissa asked with a chuckle.

Mary was also laughing.

Seeing that Mary had washed her hands, Arissa helped the former to the wheelchair and pushed her out, only to see Benjamin staring in their direction with a frown. She could not tell what he was thinking.

Just then, the housekeeper bustled over. "Let me, Ms. York."

"Okay. Take Grandaunt to the dining room first," Arissa instructed.

Mary felt somewhat embarrassed about going to the dining room by herself and said, "I think I'll just wait and go over with everyone else."

"That's okay. You should head over first. We'll be there soon."

The five boys returned at that moment, and Arissa told them to bring Mary to the dining room.

Tim wanted to wait for Arissa, but she flashed him a gratified smile and caressed his head as she said, "You go on ahead, Sweetheart. I'll go over in a little while."

Then, she turned and entered the bathroom to find Jesse standing on her tiptoes to wash her hands.

"Mommy, I'm done!"

"Hurry on out, then. Your brothers have already gone to the dining room," she said before hurrying to use the bathroom.

Jesse dashed out and bumped into Benjamin. He quickly reached out to steady her.

"Watch out!"

"Thank you, Mr. Graham!"

After thanking him, she ran over to where her brothers were.

When Edwin saw them enter the dining room, he quickly greeted Mary and directed her to sit near the head of the table. Then, he picked up each of the kids and lifted them into their chairs.

Meanwhile, Benjamin withdrew his gaze and walked toward the bathroom Arissa was in.

She was stunned when she came out and found herself face-to-face with him.

His eyes were fixed on her, and he looked like he had something to say.

Glancing at him quizzically, she asked, "What do you want to say?"

Benjamin cleared his throat. "Why was Jesse in the women's bathroom?"

Arissa froze for a moment. She was tempted to laugh, but she quickly restrained herself.

Lowering her head as she washed her hands, she replied, "Jesse likes to stay close to me. Besides, Jesse is still so young, and it's not like we're in a public area. There's no need to designate men's and women's bathrooms."

Looking unconvinced, Benjamin asked, "Wouldn't it be better to let him follow his older brothers and get used to being with them?"

However, she merely glanced at him and said, "Do you still want to talk about this now when we're about to sit down for lunch? Hurry up and wash your hands."

With that, she turned and left.

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Chapter 649

Chapter 649 A Warm Welcome

Benjamin furrowed his brows as he followed Arissa out of the bathroom. But instead of going to the dining room, he turned and went into the bathroom next door.

She chuckled when she saw that. Hearing the sound of chatter and laughter coming from the dining room, she hurried over there.

Kingsley, Shaun, and Ethen were inside the room already.

When the six children saw her, they called out excitedly. "Mommy!"

"Ms. York!"

Arissa murmured an acknowledgment in an affectionate tone.

Edwin drew out a chair near the head of the table and motioned for her to sit down. "Please sit here, Ms. York."

The kids were also sitting on the same side of the table as her.

After taking her seat, she glanced at the table laden with delicious dishes. It was evident that Edwin had put in a lot of effort as the food looked just like what one would expect to find at a five-star hotel.

Edwin proceeded to instruct the help to serve the soup.

Tim secretly gulped as he gazed at the scrumptious spread on the table while Jasper took a deep whiff of the delicious food and declared, "It smells good!"

Meanwhile, Oliver and Jesse's stomachs started rumbling.

Jesse leaned against the table, staring starry-eyed at the delectable dishes. "I can tell they're going to taste yummy just by looking at them."

Although Zachary laughed at her remark, he could not help gulping too as his mouth watered at the sight of the food. "Why isn't Mr. Graham here yet?"

"He's such a slowpoke," Gavin grumbled, his remark tickling Kingsley, Shaun, and Ethen.

Arissa's eyes twinkled with amusement as she gazed at her children. "Daddy will be here soon. Just be patient."

After serving the soup, Edwin lifted the plate covers keeping the food warm.

"Be careful, everyone. The food is hot."

Just then, Benjamin walked in and swept his gaze over the room. "Let's eat."

He sat at the head of the table, then turned to Mary and said warmly, "Help yourself to anything you fancy, Grandaunt. Think of this as your house."

Delighted, Mary replied, "All right."

"Remember to blow on your soup and drink it slowly. Be careful not to burn your tongue," Arissa reminded softly.

"I will. You should all hurry up and eat too!" said Mary, waiting for the others to start digging in before she started eating.

Looking around at the kids and seeing Tim eating along with the others, Arissa's lips curved into a smile.

Benjamin also cast a glance at the little ones. Seeing them wolfing their food down ravenously, he cautioned, "Eat slowly, kids."

They raised their heads and glanced at him, then nodded.

Withdrawing his gaze from the children and looking toward Arissa, he said, "You should eat too."

"Okay," she murmured, shooting a quick glance at him before drinking her soup.

After finishing half a bowl of soup, Kingsley let out a contented sigh. "I'm starving!"

Shaun laughed. "I can't believe you still have the audacity to say that you're starving after how much you ate on the plane."

"Right? He sneakily ate everything!" Jasper piped up.

"Hush!"

Kingsley gestured for Jasper to lower his voice as he stole a glance in Benjamin's direction, and the other kids could not help giggling upon catching sight of that.

When Benjamin glanced at Kingsley, the latter merely smiled back sheepishly.

Edwin had been standing behind the children, and when he saw they had almost finished their soup, he asked in a low voice, "Would you like some more soup?"

Jasper wanted more soup, so he quickly replied, "I'd like another bowl of soup, Mr. Whitley."

"Mr. Whitley, I want some pasta," Jesse answered in her soft and adorable voice.

Edwin felt his heart melt and agreed to bring some at once.

Then, he turned to Tim and asked, "Would you like to have soup or pasta?"

Tim's cheeks flushed. "I... Mr. Whitley, I want to eat pasta."

"Okay, sure!"

Edwin could tell that Tim was feeling shy, so he smiled and patted the boy's head fondly before going to get the pasta.

After serving Jesse and Tim their pasta, he ladled soup into a bowl and placed it in front of Jasper. "Be careful. It's hot."

"Thank you, Mr. Whitley!" Jasper sang out with a bright smile.

Tim and Jesse also thanked him sweetly.

“You’re all such good children,” Edwin praised as he placed more food on their plates.

Gavin, Zachary, and Oliver finished drinking their soup just then and wanted to have pasta, so Edwin hastened to bring them some.

Seeing Arissa getting up to take some pasta for herself, he quickly took away her plate.

“Ms. York, please go ahead and enjoy the other dishes. I’ll bring you the pasta.”

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Chapter 650

Chapter 650 I Would Not Say No

Arissa sat back down. “Thank you, Edwin.”

“You’re welcome,” he responded warmly.

Turning to Mary with a smile, Arissa placed some food onto the woman’s plate. “Have some of this, Grandaut.”

“Ah, okay. I’ll have some soup first,” Mary replied hurriedly.

“Have some of both,” Arissa said as she piled more food onto the children’s plates.

“Eat slowly. Don’t scarf down the food!”

Too engrossed in eating, the other kids merely murmured a response and nodded.

However, Tim looked up and answered, “Okay, Ms. York.”

Gazing at him lovingly, Arissa murmured a response before continuing to eat.

“These dishes are absolutely delicious! Edwin, did you prepare all of this?” Arissa asked when she saw the butler walking over.

“Yes. I had the help of two cooks as well.”

Worried that he would not be able to cope with preparing so much food, Edwin enlisted the help of two cooks.

“It must’ve been a lot of work,” Arissa remarked as she took the pasta from him with both hands.

“As long as they’re to your liking, it’s all worth it,” Edwin responded with a grin.

Then, he went to get Mary some pasta and refill her plate while directing the help to serve pasta to Kingsley and the others.

Benjamin had peeled a bowlful of prawns, and after passing some to Arissa, he told Edwin to distribute the remainder among the children.

“Thank you, Daddy!”

“Thank you, Mr. Graham!”

A smile appeared on Edwin’s face when he heard their different ways of addressing Benjamin.

“Thank you,” Arissa muttered as she shot Benjamin a glance, sharing some of the peeled prawns with Mary.

However, Mary covered her plate, saying, “Oh, that’s enough for me. I can’t eat that much. You should have more, Issa.”

“We can share them. There’s still plenty left,” Arissa answered smilingly.

Seeing that, Kingsley could not help saying in jest, “Arissa, I wouldn’t say no if you were to give some to me.”

Arissa glanced at him in amusement.

“If I were to give some to you, I’d have to share them with Dr. Bailey and Mr. Frank too. There isn’t enough to go around, so you’d better peel them yourselves. There’s still a lot left.”

Benjamin had shot Kingsley a warning look, but his expression relaxed a little after hearing Arissa’s response.

“I was only joking. I’ll peel some for everyone.”

Noticing that the children liked to eat prawns, Kingsley put down his fork and started peeling diligently. But after peeling one, he popped it straight into his mouth.

Shaun and Ethen burst out laughing when they saw his antics.

“You offer to peel prawns for us, yet there’s barely enough for you!”

“That’s so true!” Ethen chimed in.

The children also started giggling, and the sound of laughter filled the dining room.

Even with Edwin and the help attending to them, Arissa did not forget to ensure the kids had enough to eat.

Meanwhile, Benjamin was attentive to Mary and served the latter some food.

“Try this, Grandaunt!”

“Okay,” Mary replied graciously.

Benjamin also served Arissa some food from the dishes that were further away.

The sight caused Kingsley, Shaun, and Ethen to look at the couple with a twinkle in their eyes.

Ignoring their ambiguous gazes, Arissa thanked Graham calmly.

Benjamin gazed at her and only started eating when he saw her enjoying the food.

Since they were all hungry, everyone ate quietly.

“Tim, this is yummy. Try it!” Gavin said while placing some food onto Tim’s place.

Tim had never had such exquisite dishes before. Even if there were some dishes that he had eaten at hotels before, he found Edwin’s cooking much tastier.

Every dish he tried filled him with awe.

Just like him, Mary felt she had never tasted such delicious food.

“It’s so yummy!” Tim said, licking his lips.

Zachary also took some food for Tim. “This is tasty too!”

“Thank you,” Tim replied, feeling moved.

“Don’t mention it. This is our home, so go ahead and take whatever you like to eat. Since you’ve never had Mr. Whitley’s cooking, you can try a little of everything!” Zachary said warmly.

Tim nodded. “Okay!”

Oliver and Jasper also passed Tim some of the other dishes he had not yet tried.

Following her brothers' example, Jesse stretched out her hand to take some food for Tim, but it was too far for her to reach.

The dish happened to be in front of Ethen. Hence, he placed some on her plate with a smile.