

## The More the Merrier Chapter 691

### Chapter 691 Deliberately Not Answering Her Call

After walking out of Mary's ward, Arissa dialed Bradley's number but could not get through to him. She then tried again, but there was still no response.

What's going on? A bad feeling rose within the woman as she furrowed her brows. He's not deliberately ignoring my calls, is he?

Soon, Tim trotted over with Gavin right behind him.

"Mommy! Tim has some food for you," the latter exclaimed.

Arissa was astonished. "Is this for me, Sweetheart?" she asked with a loving smile.

A blush crept up Tim's cheeks.

"Yeah. These are for you."

Arissa was thrilled. After receiving the snacks and fruits with both hands, she kissed the little boy on the cheek. "Thank you, Sweetheart!"

"You're welcome," the child replied in a soft voice. "Mr. Bailey bought them."

The woman nodded with a smile.

"Go on and have fun, Sweethearts."

Tim glanced at her before running to the door, pushing it open, and taking a peek inside.

Gavin leaned over too. "Great-grandaunt hasn't woken up yet," he whispered.

Arissa chuckled at the sight of the two boys. "She's receiving an IV treatment, so she won't wake up so soon."

"I'll get you more when you've finished your food, Mommy."

Gavin stared straight at her without batting his eyelids.

The woman gave his cheek a light pinch. "There's also some food inside your great-grandaunt's ward. I just had breakfast not long ago, so I'm not hungry yet. By the way, this is spicy, so don't eat too much of it, okay?"

Gavin nodded happily. "There are non-spicy snacks too, Mommy. Zachary said you like spicy food, so Tim brought you two of them."

"Mr. Whitley said you can't eat too much spicy food, so I only brought you two of these," Tim chimed in after closing the door to the ward.

Wrapping her arms around the two boys, she sat with them on the bench out in the hallway.

"Are these yummy?" she asked, glancing at the snacks.

I've never seen these before.

"They are!" Tim nodded.

Gavin eyed him briefly before nodding with a smile as well.

"They're yummy, but Daddy doesn't let me eat too much of them," he added with a smile.

Arissa gazed at the children again.

"Do you want these?"

They shook their heads.

"You can have them, Mommy. I already ate lots of them at Mr. Bailey's office," Gavin answered, beaming.

Tim responded similarly.

"I had quite a lot too."

The woman stroked both their heads and turned to the younger boy among the two.

"Did you have fun at Mr. Bailey's office, Tim?"

"Yeah! We had toys to play with!" And food.

Tim's eyes lit up.

Arissa was surprised. "Toys? Why are there toys?"

"Mr. Bailey bought them for me when I used to visit all the time. I forgot to take them home," Gavin explained.

Arissa nodded in understanding before opening up one of the snacks.

It was delicious.

“This is yummy!”

The boy’s eyes twinkled as they watched her enjoy what they had brought her.

The food smelled so good that the bodyguards glanced over.

“There’s more where that came from, Mommy. I’ll let you try the non-spicy one too!” Gavin exclaimed.

Arissa smiled at them. “I think I’d prefer the spicy one. This is delicious!”

Tim’s eyes sparkled with joy.

“Tim prefers the spicy one too,” Gavin commented.

“Did you drink any water after eating the spicy one, Tim?” she asked while giving the younger boy a pat on the head.

Tim shook his head.

With that, Arissa put the bag of snacks on the bench, rose to her feet, and walked into the ward to pour him a glass of water.

“I’ll get you some water then.”

She poured two glasses—one for Tim and the other for Gavin—before walking back out.

The two children sat on the bench, their legs swinging back and forth in the air.

The bodyguards’ stern faces softened. They loved watching the kids.

“Here you go, Sweethearts. Always remember to hydrate after eating snacks!” Arissa exhorted while handing Gavin and Tim a glass of water each.

The boys took the glasses from her and drank up as she continued eating her snacks.

Gavin tilted his head to face her and asked, “Don’t you want water too, Mommy?”

“I’ll pour myself a glass later. Be sure to finish yours,” she urged.

The boys nodded in response.

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### Chapter 692 Eat Whatever Mommy Gives

Arissa's gaze fell on the bodyguards. "Do you guys want some snacks, too?" she offered. "We're good, Ms. York. Thank you!" they replied modestly.

The woman merely smiled and shared her snacks with them. "Eat up. You don't have to be so cautious when Benjamin isn't around. There's also no need to keep standing up, you know? You can always take a seat."

"Thank you, Ms. York."

The men were stunned to be treated kindly, but they still dared not sit down.

Punishment would be inevitable if Benjamin came over and saw them slacking off.

"You're welcome! You guys are always working so hard," Arissa remarked. "It's fine to take it a little easier when Benjamin isn't around."

"Yes, ma'am."

The guards nodded, then glanced at Gavin instinctively.

The boy looked at them. "You have to eat whatever my mommy gives you."

There was a hint of dominance in his voice.

Arissa was tickled to hear that. "There's no need to hold back. Eat up!"

She then had Gavin bring more snacks from Shaun's office. "Get some fruits too."

"Okay!" The boy nodded and began to run back to Shaun's office.

"I'll go with you!" Tim chirped.

Gavin waited for him to make his way over. When the latter did, he held his hand and trotted away together.

At that sight, Arissa's lips quirked.

Suddenly, she heard a commotion from inside the ward, so she rushed inside.

There were glass shards on the floor. At that moment, Mary was sitting on the edge of the bed.

“Don’t come down, Grandaunt! Wait right there.”

Arissa hastily grabbed a broom and began to sweep up the broken glass pieces.

“I knocked into the glass by accident. Be careful, Issa. Don’t hurt yourself!”

The elderly woman looked extremely apologetic.

“It’s no problem at all. Everything will be okay after I’m done cleaning up. Don’t come down yet,” Arissa reassured.

After cleaning the large shards, she wet a towel and wiped the floor with it, one small area at a time.

Then, she exited the ward and asked a bodyguard to buy some clear duct tape.

At the same time, Gavin, Tim, and Zachary came over with food and were about to head into the ward upon seeing that Mary had woken up.

“Don’t come in, Sweethearts! Wait outside for now. A glass got broken just now, and I’m still cleaning it up,” Arissa said to them.

“Okay, Mommy!” Zachary replied while turning to his two older brothers.

“Let’s wait out here.”

“You have to be careful as well, Mommy,” Gavin urged.

“I will.”

Arissa walked back into the ward and asked, “What were you planning to do, Grandaunt?”

Leaning against the door, Tim peeked into the room.

The boy was feeling a lot happier after seeing Mary.

“I wanted to go to the restroom,” the elderly woman answered.

“Come down from the other side. There are still some glass shards over here,” Arissa instructed while pushing a wheelchair over.

After Mary turned the other way, she helped her down.

“Be careful.”

“Okay, I’m ready,” said Mary upon taking a seat on the wheelchair.

Arissa took her to the restroom while holding on to the latter’s IV bag.

The three children remained waiting at the door.

By the time Mary came out of the restroom, the bodyguard had returned with a roll of duct tape.

“Give it to me.”

Arissa took the duct tape and stuck it to the floor, using it to pick up the remaining glass shards.

Seeing that, the bodyguard ran up to help. “Let me do it, Ms. York. Have a seat over there.”

“Be careful,” the woman urged when she saw him squat on the floor to pick up the glass shards.

“Yes, ma’am.”

After sticking every inch of the floor with duct tape and ascertaining there were no more glass pieces, he cleaned the entire area with a vacuum.

Meanwhile, Arissa tended to the elderly woman on the bed. “Give your face a wipe, Grand aunt.”

“Okay.”

Mary took the towel from her and wiped her face with it, feeling more refreshed instantly.

“When did you come over, Issa?”

“About half an hour after you fell asleep, according to the kids. Are you feeling better today?”

Mary smiled and nodded. “I am.”

“Did you sleep well last night?” Arissa asked in concern.

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“Yes. I slept much more comfortably after getting my mattress changed.” Arissa grinned. “I wasn’t used to soft mattresses either back then. I wanted to come here with you this morning, but I overslept, and the kids didn’t wake me up either!”

Mary did not mind it.

“You’ve been working so hard these days, so you should get more rest. Don’t push yourself. Everything’s just as fine if it’s Benjamin and the others bringing me here. They’ve taken care of everything,” she reassured after hearing Arissa’s explanation.

The younger woman nodded in response.

“Can we come in now, Ms. York?” asked Tim.

He wanted to speak to Mary.

“Come on in, but be careful.”

The woman walked over and let the three children in. “Are Oliver and the others at Mr. Bailey’s office?”

“Yeah. Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse are there. Mr. Whitley is with them too,” Zachary reported.

Arissa nodded. She did not have to worry as long as the other kids were there.

Then, she poured Mary a glass of water and placed a straw inside the glass so that the latter could drink it with ease.

“Does your hand hurt, Great-grandaunt?” Tim asked worriedly, frowning as he leaned against the side of the bed.

“Not at all,” Mary replied with a smile.

Tim gazed at her. In the end, he still lowered his head to blow on her hand.

The elderly woman chuckled in response to his heartwarming gesture.

“Have some water, Grandaunt.”

Arissa held the glass in before Mary’s lips, and the latter lowered her head to drink water from it.

“I’ve had enough, Issa. Take a seat!”

“Okay.” Arissa put the glass down and sat at the edge of the bed while pulling the covers up to Mary’s chest.

“By the way, Issa, now that I’m staying here, you don’t have to spend all day tending to me. Just do whatever that you need to do, okay? The doctors and nurses here are really caring, so don’t worry about me,” Mary remarked before glancing at Tim.

“Tim and the other kids need to go to school too. Don’t let them come over too often. It isn’t good for children to be at hospitals.”

Arissa nodded. “I’ll only be here today since I have to go to work tomorrow, and the kids will be going to school too. So after today, we’ll only be able to drop by and see you during our free time,” she explained as her lips curved.

Mary beamed at her. “It’s okay even if you don’t drop by. I can take care of myself.”

“You might say that, but I’d be worried if I don’t come over. I’ll drop by with the kids after work. When we’re not around, you can watch some TV if you ever get bored. There’s one in every room.”

“Okay, I understand,” the elderly woman replied.

“Listen to whatever the doctor says, okay, Great-grandaunt? You have to let Mr. Bailey know if you ever feel sick. He’ll be sure to treat you!” Gavin chimed in.

“Okay, I will.”

Suddenly, Arissa let out a gasp as she remembered something. The soup!

“I almost forgot! Benjamin got Edwin to make you some soup, Grandaunt. Have some. It’s also almost time for you to have your meal.”

While speaking, she grabbed the container containing the soup, placed it on top of the bedside table, and served Mary a bowl.

“Oh, but you really didn’t have to!”

Mary was beyond touched.

Arissa grinned at her. “What are you being so courteous for? We’re a family, aren’t we?”

“I’m so lucky, indeed.”

The elderly woman had never expected herself to be cared for like this.

“Here. Be careful! It’s hot.”

Arissa fed Mary a spoonful of soup.

“This is good for your body. You’ll be coming here often for treatment, so it’s important that you keep yourself well-nourished. Be sure to drink some before every meal.”

“Okay.” Mary nodded.

“It smells so good!” Zachary took a big whiff.

Gavin nodded with a smile. The soup did smell amazing.

Tim secretly gulped.

“Are you boys hungry?”

Arissa gazed at them in amusement.

Mary could not help but chuckle too.

“They can drink this too, right? Give them some. I can’t finish everything on my own.”

She wanted to share the soup with them.

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### Chapter 694 You Can Have Mine

“Sure, but finish yours first.” After feeding Mary a bowl of soup, Arissa glanced into the container to check out the remaining portion.

Since the children were craving the soup, she served them a bowl for the three of them to share. “Here. You’ll be sharing the soup, Sweethearts. If you like it, I’ll get Mr. Whitley to make more next time. But for now, this is all you can have. Leave the rest for Great-grandma, okay?”

The three boys nodded fervently, thrilled to be able to drink the soup.

“I’ll go and get Jesse and the rest, Mommy!”

After taking a few sips, Zachary turned and left.

Arissa smiled as she continued feeding Gavin and Tim the soup.

“Slowly, now. It’s hot.”

“I’ll wait for Zachary and the others to return first!”

Tim stepped aside, refusing to have any more of the soup.

Arissa smiled at him. “It’s okay. You two can have this. I’ll serve them another bowl.”

Only then did the boy take a few sips.

Seeing how much the boys enjoyed the soup, Mary said to Arissa, “Let them have the rest. I’m okay with not drinking it!”

The latter turned to face her and replied, “No, Grandaunt. You’re the one who needs it more than they do! It’s fine if they don’t get to drink it.”

The elderly woman chuckled.

“Since they like it, let them have more!”

“Okay, I’ll do that,” Arissa responded before scooping another bowl of soup and letting Timmy drink it on his own.

She then grabbed a different bowl and gave Gavin a serving of the soup.

That bowl was smaller, so there was enough soup to fill another four bowls of the same type.

“Sit there and drink your soup.”

“Mommy, will Great-grandaunt have enough if you serve us a bowl each?”

Gavin eyed his mother, worried that there would not be enough for Mary.

“Yes,” Arissa answered while stroking his head.

At that moment, Zachary returned with Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse.

“Hi, Mommy! Is there something tasty here?”

Leaning over, Jasper began to salivate when he smelled a rich aroma.

Oliver grinned from ear to ear. “It looks like there’s more good food!”

Jesse giggled upon noticing Gavin and Tim drinking soup while sitting at the side. “Did Mr. Whitley bring this over?”

“Yes, he did. Go sit where Gavin is, all of you. I’ll bring you your soup.”

Arissa did not want them to walk around in case they stepped on some broken glass shards that were not cleaned earlier.

“I’ll help you, Mommy.”

Zachary carried two bowls.

“Be careful,” Arissa exhorted.

She then brought the remaining two bowls to the coffee table.

“Wait for it to cool, okay?”

However, the children could not wait any longer. Oliver and Jasper sat on the floor, and with their elbows pressed against the coffee table, they began to drink their soup.

“Mmm! It’s yummy!”

Seeing her brothers sit on the floor, Jesse did the same.

Zachary took a seat next to her.

Tim was sitting on the couch with Gavin, but after seeing everyone else sitting on the floor, he followed suit and sat next to Zachary.

Eventually, Gavin felt it was pointless sitting on the couch by himself, so he moved to the carpet too.

The six children looked adorable sitting around the coffee table and drinking their soup.

The sounds they made gave the impression that they were having the best meal in the world.

Arissa’s lips curved at that sight.

She then moved all the other things on top of the coffee table elsewhere to give the children more room.

“Aren’t you drinking any, Mommy?”

Oliver lifted his head to look at her.

His mother shook her head. “I’m good. You guys can go ahead. Remember, just one bowl. The rest is for Great-grandaunt, okay?”

The children nodded in unison.

“Has Great-grandaunt had any?”

Jasper darted a glance in Mary’s direction.

“She just had a bowl. I’ll serve her another one later,” Arissa answered, smiling.

“I’ve already had some just now, so you can have the rest of mine, Ms. York,” offered Tim as he gazed up at her.

He wanted her to have some.

“Thank you, Tim!” she replied, pinching his little face. “But it’s okay. I’ll be eating soon, and I’m not hungry yet.”

“Have some fruit then, Mommy,” Gavin called out to her before shifting his attention back to his soup.

Edwin arrived at that moment, and a doting smile formed on his lips as he saw the children enjoying their soup together.

“Did you have some too, Mdm. Mary?”

“I had a bowl just now.” Mary was all smiles.

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### Chapter 695 We Still Want To Keep You Company

Edwin nodded as he observed Mary. She looks well. “Mr. Graham told me to make this soup as a tonic for you. Drink more of it. In fact, drink it whenever you feel hungry, even if it’s not time for your meals. It helps to energize your body.”

“I will. Sorry for the trouble!” Mary responded politely. “Not at all. I make this all the time. It doesn’t take much effort.” Edwin smiled.

“Please make more the next time so that they can have some too, Edwin,” Arissa requested.

“Sure. I’ll make a bigger batch tomorrow. This soup is good for children too since they’re growing.”

The butler chuckled as he gazed at the children lovingly.

“You can have some too, Mrs. Graham.”

Arissa beamed in response. "It's okay. I'm not hungry."

Then, Edwin glanced at the time. It was past eleven, which meant it would be lunchtime soon.

"Will you be having lunch at home or outside, Mrs. Graham?"

"I'll just eat here at the hospital."

"Very well. I'll go to the kitchen and have the staff prepare the meal. What do you feel like having?"

Arissa was tickled. "Just get me anything since we're eating outside of the house, Edwin. You can put more care into my meals when we're at home. Right now, just do whatever that's convenient!"

"That can't do. You should be eating whatever you feel like eating!" the man insisted light-heartedly.

He then asked Mary what she wanted to eat.

The elderly woman told him she would have anything he got her.

"You can order food at the hospital, Mr. Whitley?"

Jesse gazed up at him, full of curiosity.

"Certainly!" answered Edwin as he turned to the six children. "What do you all feel like having?"

Zachary grinned. "How about we come with you?"

There's also food at the hospital cafeteria.

"Sure! I'll wait for you."

Edwin then sat in a corner and waited for the children to finish their soup.

Seeing that, the children finished it as quickly as possible.

"Hurry up, Tim! We'll be following Mr. Whitley!"

Jasper was exhilarated, although the food was not what he looked forward to most. He just wanted to take a stroll.

"I'll just have whatever Mr. Whitley gets me. I don't have to go," Tim commented sheepishly.

"Don't say that, Tim! We'll be taking a stroll while checking out the food!"

Jasper beamed at him.

"Let's go together," Zachary chimed in.

"Let's head out together. We won't be out too long," Gavin added.

"Run along now," Arissa urged with a smile.

Then, she washed some fruits for Mary.

"Why all the trouble? I'll just have a quick hospital meal set. The rest of you should eat somewhere else, then go home and rest," Mary proposed.

"But we still want to keep you company," Arissa responded cheerfully. "In fact, I would've prepared you a meal before coming over if I hadn't overslept."

"That's too troublesome." Mary shook her head.

Arissa merely smiled and placed the clean fruits on the bedside table.

After the children finished their soup, Edwin cleaned up and took them to the hospital cafeteria.

Meanwhile, Arissa continued to chat with Mary.

During that time, Shaun dropped by to examine the elderly woman before heading out for lunch as well.

"Aren't you eating with us, Mr. Bailey? Edwin's gone to get some food."

"I can't. I'm going to the cafeteria for lunch now. I have a meeting at one," he replied with a smile.

If not for the meeting, he would have taken her up on her offer.

Arissa nodded in understanding. "Okay, go on then. We'll be having our lunch later than you."

As soon as Shaun left, Edwin returned with the children—all of whom had a sausage in their hands.

They had gotten Arissa one too.

“This is for you, Ms. York!”

The children had Tim give it to her, and she took it merrily.

“Thank you, Sweetheart!”

“Mr. Whitley bought these for us,” Tim explained, glancing at Edwin.

Arissa turned to him too. “I’ll get Benjamin to give you a pay raise tonight, Edwin,” she quipped.

Edwin let out a chuckle.

“That would be nice, although treating the children to some snacks isn’t going to burn a hole in my wallet!”