

The More the Merrier Chapter 741

Chapter 741 Prepare Lunch For Benjamin

Arissa only sent the kids back to school after lunch. "Sweethearts, call me if there's anything. Understand?" The six children nodded in acknowledgment.

"Don't worry, Mommy. The bodyguards and Mr. William will protect us!" Gavin also chimed in, "I can fight, too!" Arissa bobbed her head and tidied the children's clothes before bidding goodbye to them. "I'll pick you guys up after school later!" "Okay. Goodbye, Mommy!"

Learning that they would be able to see Arissa again in the afternoon, the six children were over the moon. They no longer felt torturous having to endure another few hours in school.

Arissa waved at them and waited till they disappeared from her sight before she headed back to the company. Upon arrival, she went to the top floor to look for Benjamin, intending to talk to him regarding the children's matters. However, there was no one around in the office.

Arissa was stunned for a moment. Where did he go? Ethen isn't around too. Just as she turned and headed toward her office, she ran into Benjamin, who happened to step out of the elevator. "You're back?"

Benjamin grunted a cursory response that had a tinge of exhaustion to it. Arissa glanced at him before sweeping her gaze toward Ethen, who was following behind.

Seeing that, Ethen immediately answered, "Ms. York, Mr. Graham hasn't eaten lunch yet."

Initially, Arissa wanted to ask what they had been busy with, but it did not take long for her to change her mind. "You probably haven't eaten too, right? Let me get the cafeteria to whip something up for you guys then."

With that, she hurried off to prepare lunch for them. Even though Ethen felt touched by Arissa's action, he could vividly sense Benjamin's piercing glare cast in his direction. He tactfully decided to return to his office.

"Mr. Graham, have a good meal later. I'll get back to work first!"

Benjamin merely snorted lightly. Returning to his office, the man removed his coat and hung it on the chair before taking a shower in the lounge.

At the cafeteria, Arissa got a worker to prepare two plates of chicken alfredo pasta. She also grabbed some snacks before going up to Benjamin's office. "Lunch is ready, Mr. Graham."

Just as she was about to go and summon Ethen after realizing he was not around, Benjamin's voice sounded. "Where are you going?"

Whipping her head around, she saw Benjamin looking refreshed and energized after a shower. "I'll go and get Mr. Frank over to have lunch."

"No need. He already had his lunch." Benjamin strode forward and shot her a side glance when he saw she still remained in her spot, unwilling to budge. "Come over here."

Arissa did not doubt the man and thought Ethen had indeed had his lunch. Thus, she walked over. "I'd have asked the workers at the cafeteria to prepare just one plate of pasta if I knew he had lunch already."

The sight of pasta made Benjamin furrow his brows in disgust. When Arissa noticed that contemptuous look on his face, she could not help but chuckle.

"It's late. I'm afraid your stomach won't be able to take it by the time the cafeteria prepares something else, so I ordered pasta, which is easy and fast to make. Have some pasta first."

She picked up the fork and gestured to Benjamin. Benjamin gave her an impassive look but still sat down eventually. "Hurry up and dig in. It won't taste as good if the pasta turns soggy. We also had pasta for lunch just now!"

A glint flashed across the man's eyes. "We?"

Arissa fixed her gaze on him. "Yes. The kids and I. I went to the school to look for them and just came back not too long ago." Benjamin nodded. "Have they gotten used to school?"

Unwilling to discuss such a worrying issue with him during mealtime, she uttered, "Eat your pasta first. We'll talk later!"

The man shot her a look. "Eat with me." "But I ate a lot just now." Arissa stared at him. Instead of replying to her, Benjamin lowered his head and began digging in.

Contrarily, Arissa glued her eyes to that plate of pasta before her, contemplating if she should eat it. I really ate a lot just now. I've even eaten everything those kids couldn't finish. And it hasn't even been thirty minutes!

However, unwilling to see the food go to waste, she eventually held her head low and started shoving it into her mouth. Benjamin lifted his head, swung his gaze to her briefly, and continued eating his pasta.

He never liked pasta, but now, he found that it was not too bad, after all. It was warm and comforting to the stomach. "Eat more of it. It's good for your stomach," Arissa casually remarked.

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Chapter 742 He Does Not Mind It

"Mmm-hmm," Benjamin hummed a reply and continued devouring the pasta. Throughout all, the man ate his pasta gracefully without making any slurping noises.

On the contrary, Arissa loved slurping her pasta as she believed it was tastier that way. She inevitably felt a little embarrassed as it seemed like she was being too noisy.

Since she was not hungry in the first place, she only ate a little chicken and barely any pasta. She was full after eating half a plate. "Don't force yourself if you're too full," Benjamin advised after catching a glimpse of Arissa rubbing her belly.

"It's a waste to throw it away."

Arissa glanced at the pasta on her plate. It's quite tasty. It'll be a waste to throw such tasty food away. Right then, a hand holding a fork reached over and scooped all the pasta up.

Arissa stared at Benjamin in bewilderment. Does he not mind that I've eaten it? "Your eyes are about to pop out of their sockets," Benjamin uttered without looking at her.

Embarrassed, Arissa shifted her gaze away from him to her plate of pasta. She realized there were only several strands of pasta left. She picked up the leftover strands of pasta with her fork and downed them with some sauce.

Unable to control herself, she snuck a few more glimpses at Benjamin. Barely anyone could resist Benjamin's handsome appearance. He was as pretty as a picture no matter what angle it was.

It was, in fact, not appropriate to describe a man's appearance as pretty. Yet, a term like "handsome" was not enough to express his visuals. To call him a piece of art was not an exaggeration.

"Are you satisfied after staring at me like that?" All of a sudden, Benjamin turned and gazed at Arissa deeply. She awkwardly moved her line of sight away and changed the subject. "What were you busy with?"

“There’s something wrong with a project.”

Arissa was surprised since she thought Benjamin would not tell her anything. He actually explains it to me. “Have you settled it then?”

“Yeah,” Benjamin replied with a nod.

Arissa stared at him intently and became a little hesitant. He’s so busy with work that he can’t even have his meals on time. I better not tell him about the kids’ matter, lest he gets worried.

“What is it that you wanted to tell me?” Benjamin put down the plate, wiped his mouth, and leaned back on his seat lazily.

His relaxed appearance made Arissa shake her head in dismissal. “It’s nothing. I’m just curious what were you busy with.”

Noticing Benjamin’s firm stare, Arissa hastily averted her gaze and looked elsewhere.

“Let me clean up!” Having said that, she hastily got up and began clearing the plates.

“Is everything fine with Grand aunt?” Benjamin asked suddenly.

“Hmm... Quite well, actually. I called Dr. Bailey, and he told me Grand aunt is feeling great.” Arissa then took the plates out to the cafeteria.

Benjamin’s gaze followed her closely.

Is she no longer angry with me? She even cares whether I’ve eaten or not. I guess she’s not angry anymore.

The corners of Benjamin’s lips gradually quirked upward as those thoughts ran in his mind.

On the other hand, Arissa returned to her office straight after sending the plates to the cafeteria.

She tried calling Bradley but still could not get in touch with him. Without any other choice, she continued with her work and checked the media from time to time.

Nevertheless, there was still no news regarding the school’s scandal when work ended.

Arissa scrunched her brows. Could it be that those parents have stopped stirring problems?

She packed her stuff and prepared to fetch the children from school.

However, she had just stepped out of her office when she spotted Benjamin approaching her.

“Is anything the matter, Mr. Graham?”

“It’s nothing.” Benjamin cast her a quick look and leaned over to grab her bag from her. “Let’s leave together.”

With that said, he turned and strode out.

Though slightly taken aback, Arissa quickly trailed behind the man, ignoring the curious glances of the colleagues.

After the two left, the crowd began whispering among themselves.

“Is Mr. Graham and Ms. York in a relationship?”

“They look like they are! Mr. Graham even helped Ms. York carry her bag!”

“How romantic! They even got off work together!”

“I can’t believe Mr. Graham has such a gentle and caring side to him!”

“If they’re really together, I think they make a good pair!”

“What you think isn’t important. What’s important is that Mr. Graham and his family have to think that way.”

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Chapter 743 Worried It Will Affect Your Mood

“Are you done with work?” Arissa caught up to Benjamin and locked her eyes on his handsome side profile. “Nope,” the man muttered as he entered the elevator.

Without hesitation, Arissa followed in. He swept his gaze over her. “Do you know that the kids were bullied by several parents in school?”

Immense shock surged within Arissa. “H-How did you find out about it?” The man arched an eyebrow and stared at her fixedly. “So you knew too? Why didn’t you tell me?”

Arissa blinked and answered softly, “You look so busy, so I didn’t have the chance to tell you.” Benjamin snorted lightly. “Why didn’t you tell me during lunch?”

“I was worried it’ll affect your mood.” Arissa eyed him briefly before looking away. The man’s gaze darkened. “There’s no need to hide the children’s matters from me.”

“How did you learn about it?” She was full of curiosity. “Mr. William told me.”

Benjamin held her hand and brought her out of the elevator. Arissa came to an immediate revelation and gave a slight nod. “But Mr. William didn’t tell me about it.”

“Then how did you know?” He turned to look at her. “I noticed that Tim was acting strangely and found out after questioning the other kids,” uttered Arissa as she gave the man a look.

A glint flashed across his eyes. “I’m sure the kids didn’t want to worry you.”

Arissa nodded. “Those children have been expelled from school. I bet their parents wouldn’t just let things slide. I wonder if they’ll talk bad about our kids.”

“Mr. William said he’ll watch closely and handle the problem well,” Benjamin comforted. Arissa responded with a nod and followed him into the car.

Upon getting inside the car, Benjamin leaned back on his seat and shut his eyes. Taking note of his fatigue look, Arissa inched closer and helped massage his temples.

At that, Benjamin opened his eyes and locked his deep gaze on the woman’s calm expression. His unusually intense gaze made her heart skip a beat.

“You look so tired. Let me give you a massage,” Arissa softly explained. Benjamin closed his eyes again, hiding his sharp gaze. She felt more at ease and continued with the massage.

Arissa only sat back to her seat when the car arrived at the school. Thinking that Benjamin had fallen asleep since his eyes remained shut, she turned and opened the car door to get out. Little did she expect the man to follow her out as well.

“Hmm?” Arissa cast him a confused expression. Benjamin turned to her and uttered, “Let’s go pick the children up.”

Suppressing the sudden surge of shock within her, she quickly followed behind to fetch the kids from school. At the school’s entrance, many kids were standing in one line with their bags, eagerly waiting for their parents to pick them up.

Arissa craned her neck, attempting to search for the six children among the crowd. When she spotted the six of them strolling out while carrying their bags, she quirked her lips into a smile and raised her hand to gesture to them.

“Sweethearts!” Everyone at the venue, including all the children and the parents, directed their gazes toward Arissa at once.

Benjamin, who was putting on his sunglasses, stretched his hand and gave her forehead a light flick. “Why did you hit me?” Arissa glared at him, yelping in pain.

The man raised a brow at her slightly annoyed expression. “Keep it down.”

Only then did Arissa realize that everyone’s attention was on her. Embarrassed, she flashed a sheepish smile. Just then, the six children ran out. “Mommy! Daddy!” Gavin yelled.

“Mommy!” Zachary and the others also greeted Arissa sweetly as they ran toward her. Elated, she hugged them. “Slow down! Be careful!”

Watching the kids and Arissa hugging each other so tightly as though it was a long-awaited reunion, Benjamin was incredibly envious.

Verily, Robert approached them. “Mr. Graham and Ms. York!” he greeted politely. “It’s my fault that the kids got bullied in school today.”

“We can’t blame you for that, Mr. William. The kids told us that you’ve protected them.” Arissa did not find fault with Robert. It’s beyond our control what those people want to say or do.

“Pay more attention to the children in the future,” Benjamin reminded in a deep voice. “Yes, I will, Mr. Graham.” Robert quickly nodded in acknowledgment while looking apologetic.

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Chapter 744 Not Supposed To Eat Snacks In Class

After a short chat with Robert, Arissa led the children and left with Benjamin to visit Mary at the hospital. “Sweethearts, how was school today?” Arissa hugged the six kids tightly and gazed at them tenderly as she concernedly asked.

“Yes, Mommy. We have been paying attention in class the whole afternoon!” Zachary reported. “Tim was especially serious!” Gavin chuckled.

Going to school was a first for Tim, and despite being clueless about almost everything, he was the most serious among the six of them.

“So, what did you learn in school, Tim?” Arissa smiled at the boy. “We had a math class today. The teacher taught us about numbers,” Tim answered in a small voice.

“Mommy, Tim is very clever. He understands everything the teacher taught us!” Jasper chirped. “I can recognize a few of them before this!”

Tim had learned how to calculate money when he went to work with the other kids in the village. Hence, it was little wonder he could pick up numbers easily.

“You can do it, Tim! I’m sure you’ll be more impressive than us in the future!” Oliver clenched his fists and encouraged his brother. Tim bobbed his head.

“You’ll surely be amazing, Tim. Read the numbers aloud to me when we get home!” Arissa adoringly caressed the boy’s head. “Okay!” Tim agreed and gradually broke the ice with Arissa after some interactions.

The woman bent over and gave the boy a peck on his head. Suddenly, Jesse let out a sigh. “I’m the stupidest among all!”

“No, you aren’t. I can teach you if there’s anything you don’t know.” Gavin hugged Jesse as he reassured her. A smile crept up on Arissa’s face as she watched their interaction.

“You’re just lazy!” She pinched Jesse’s nose. The young girl was indeed not as clever as her brothers, but her intelligence was comparable to other children her age.

“She even sneakily tried to eat something in class!” Zachary giggled. Arissa was surprised to hear that. “Jesse, you shouldn’t do that. Your actions will affect other kids in class.”

“I didn’t let the other kids see me doing that, Mommy.” Jesse let out a mischievous laugh. “If you want to eat something, you can only do that during breaks. You aren’t supposed to eat any snacks other than water in class,” Benjamin reminded.

Upon seeing her father’s stern expression, Jesse murmured, “I only ate a bun. A bun isn’t a snack!”

While Benjamin was at a loss for words because of the young girl’s response, Arissa was already chuckling away.

“That’s indeed not a snack. But eating during classes is not the right thing to do. Even though the teacher didn’t point it out, that doesn’t mean you can do that. You have to change that habit,” she explained to Jesse.

The young girl glanced at Arissa, then shifted her gaze to Benjamin, who was wearing a solemn expression.

Seeing that, Jesse bit her lips and nodded. “Mommy, I got it.” “Good girl!” Arissa patted Jesse’s head. “Mommy, they gave me yummy snacks too!” The young girl clung to Arissa’s arm as she shared her joy with her mother.

“Did you share with them then?” Arissa tenderly queried. Jesse’s hair bounced about as she bobbed her head, rendering her absolutely adorable.

“Yes!” the young girl shouted. Arissa smiled and caressed Jesse’s soft and tiny face.

“Good job. Remember, always share your food. So, do you have any more food left?”

Jesse stared at her mother and beamed. “No more, Mommy! We finished everything!”

“We still have some cookies left just now, Mommy. But we finished them. Are you hungry?” Gavin fixed his gaze on Arissa.

She curled her lips. Well, she was honestly a little hungry.

“I’m fine.”

“But Mommy, I’m hungry!” Jasper touched his belly.

Arissa affectionately stroked his nose. “We’ll see if there’s any kiosk nearby when we arrive at the hospital. I’ll get some buns for you all.”

“Awesome!” The children were ecstatic.

“I wonder if Great-grandaunt misses us? We should buy more and share some with her!”

“Sure!” Arissa replied gently.

That made the six children squeal in excitement.

It was then Arissa realized that Benjamin had been quiet throughout. Directing her gaze at the man, she saw him holding onto a tablet in his hand, busy dealing with work matters.

At once, she turned back to the children and signaled them to lower their voices.

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Chapter 745 Work Overtime With Me Tonight

The six little ones turned to look at Benjamin and saw that their father was busy. They stuck out their tongues cheekily and kept quiet after that.

Seeing how well-behaved the kids were, a satisfied smile appeared on Arissa's face as she passed them a water bottle for them to drink some water. "Mommy, you should drink some too!" Gavin gazed at his mother and said.

Arissa nodded. Tim took out his textbook and started reading with a serious expression on his face. "You shouldn't be reading in the car!" Oliver adjusted his glasses while reminding his brother.

Arissa noticed it as well and quickly stopped Tim from doing that. She kept the boy's book and said, "Sweetheart, don't read when the car is moving. It would hurt your eyes. Read when we get home!"

"Okay!" Tim answered as his face blushed. Arissa pinched the boy's cheek affectionately while Zachary, Jasper, and Jesse looked at them smilingly.

For the rest of the journey, Arissa and the kids kept their voices low when they spoke. Although Benjamin was working, his ears were pricked up, listening to the conversation that was going on in the car at the same time.

When they arrived at the hospital, Benjamin kept his tablet and got out of the car before carrying the kids out. Arissa looked at the man and teased, "I thought you wouldn't notice that we've reached!"

Benjamin cast a glance at her and replied, "I always stay alert to my surroundings even when I'm concentrating on my work!"

Arissa was surprised that Benjamin could hear them even though they were speaking so softly.

Benjamin turned to instruct his bodyguard to buy some buns before entering the hospital with his family.

"Mr. Graham, so sorry to have disturbed you while you were working!"

Benjamin turned his head slightly and said to the woman who looked completely unapologetic, "Work overtime with me tonight!"

"Work overtime?" Arissa froze for a moment.

What does he mean by that?

Benjamin took them to see Mary without replying.

After that, he went to look for Shaun to understand the situation while Arissa and the kids stayed with Mary.

“Great-grandaunt!” the six little ones crowded around the bed and greeted Mary sweetly.

With a benevolent expression on her face, Mary patted the kids’ heads lovingly.

“Is school over?”

“Yup, Great-grandaunt. We came to visit you right after school. Are you happy?” Jasper replied.

“Of course I’m happy!”

“Great-grandaunt, we missed you so much when we were in school. Did you miss us?” Jesse asked.

“Yup, I missed you guys so much!”

“Great-grandaunt, are you hungry? Daddy’s bodyguard went to get some buns. He’ll be back soon!” Oliver said.

“I’m not hungry. Mr. Bailey bought me some food just now.”

“Great-grandaunt, are you feeling better today?” Zachary asked.

“Yup, I’m feeling great today. Don’t worry!”

“Great-grandaunt, Tim worried about you the most. He wanted to call you but was afraid that he would disturb your rest!” Gavin said.

Mary was touched by the kids’ concern for her. She looked at the little ones before landing her gaze on Tim, who had not spoken at all.

“Tim, you have to concentrate when you’re in class, yeah? I’m well taken care of in the hospital so you don’t have to worry about me. Just focus on your studies!”

“Yup, Great-grandaunt. I will do that!” Tim nodded obediently while stroking the back of Mary’s hand, which had a needle stuck in it, and said, “Great-grandaunt, your hand is swollen!”

“Don’t worry. It’s not painful at all!” Mary replied with a smile.

Noticing the bruise on the back of Mary’s hand where the needle was, Tim frowned and started blowing on the bruise.

Arissa, who was sitting at one side, saw the children’s concern for Mary and felt a sense of gratification.

Mary was delighted to have the company of the kids.

The hospital ward was much livelier with the six little ones around, and laughter could be heard constantly.

Just then, Benjamin and Shaun walked into the room, and Shaun added another dosage of solution to Mary's IV drip.

"This IV session would only finish in the evening," he said.

Mary smiled and replied, "That's all right. I'm not in a rush."

Shaun nodded and said, "Mdm. Mary, take a nap if you're tired!"

The old lady nodded.

"Just focus on resting and don't worry about anything else. Let Shaun know if you're feeling uncomfortable," Benjamin reminded Mary.

"I will!" Mary nodded and replied with a smile on her face before continuing, "You guys must be tired after a whole day of work. You should go back and rest. I'm fine!"