

The More the Merrier Chapter 766

Chapter 766 Not Even After Midnight

"I think so," Arissa said. I think so?

Gavin furrowed his brows, sensing something amiss. As the boy stared at Arissa, he wondered, Doesn't Mommy work with Daddy in the office? How can she not know if Daddy's still in the office or not?

"Mommy, did you fight with Daddy?"

"I didn't. Don't worry."

After ruffling the boy's hair, Arissa took the children's bags and placed them on the couch. "Sweethearts, did your teacher give you any homework?"

"Yes, Mommy. Our teacher has given us homework," Jesse quickly answered. "Wash your hands first. I'll accompany you to finish them now."

"Okay!" Jesse bobbed her head. The five older children all glanced at Arissa before running off to wash their hands. Edwin came out with washed fruits and asked, "Mrs. Graham, shall I prepare more food for you and the kids?"

Arissa had told Edwin that they were eating at the hospital, so Edwin had brought them food as well when he delivered food to Mary. "Edwin, it's fine. If they get hungry later, I'll make them some pasta," Arissa replied.

Edwin nodded. "Mrs. Graham, feel free to ask anything from me." "All right." Arissa nodded. Edwin then left to look at the children.

Gavin was leading his younger siblings to wash their hands before they run back to the living room. By then, Arissa had cleaned up the coffee table. She was sitting on the carpet and waiting for them to return.

"Come over and start working on your homework."

The six children sat down and took out their homework. "Mommy, the teacher said that we can work on different kinds of homework."

Arissa glanced at the topic before helping the children with their paper-cutting exercises. She made six different patterns for them while they assisted her. Once in a while, Edwin would bring them food and drinks.

He was impressed by Arissa's skillful cutting.

“Mrs. Graham, you’re amazing with your hands,” Edwin praised. “None of us knew how to do Gavin’s homework, and Gavin stopped wanting to do it after a while.”

Arissa paused and raised her head. “Did Graham not help Gavin?”

“Mr. Graham is too busy for it.” Edwin sighed.

Gavin huffed. “Even if Daddy comes back early, he won’t do it with me. He thinks it’s childish!”

Arissa’s heart ached when she heard that, and she patted his head gently.

“I’ll do it with you from now on. It’ll be the same.”

“Okay!” Gavin smiled.

Arissa smiled in return and continued helping them out with their homework.

Zachary and Oliver had done many similar things before, but when they saw Gavin, Tim, Jasper, and Jesse working seriously on their homework, they became excited too.

Not long after, the children completed their homework.

“Thank you, Mommy! You must be tired,” the children chorused, then came over to kiss her cheek, Tim included.

“No problems, Sweethearts!” Arissa hugged the children and gave them kisses on their foreheads. “Sweethearts, it’s time to shower and go to bed.”

“Okay!”

The children packed their bags and rushed to the bathrooms.

Arissa glanced out the window before going upstairs.

The first thing she did was give Jesse a shower.

After stepping into the master bedroom, she packed her things and brought them to the guest room.

Once she was done with her shower, she went to the children’s room to tuck them in.

Even after they fell asleep, Benjamin did not return.

Is he keeping that woman company?

Arisa could not help but think about that man.

As she watched the sleeping children, a sigh escaped her lips.

The kids were just asking why he hadn't come back. They still love their daddy. Should I ask him about it? What if he's enjoying his time with her? Won't I be disturbing them in that case? Forget it.

Even when midnight came, even after Arissa fell asleep, Benjamin did not return.

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Chapter 767 He Went On A Business Trip

When Arissa awoke the following morning and went to wash up, she subconsciously walked to the master bedroom. Just as she was about to open the door, someone opened it from the inside.

She was stunned to find herself face-to-face with the man she had not seen for almost two days. "Good morning," she greeted politely. Benjamin stared at her intently and asked in a deep voice, "Why did you move your things out?"

Her heart lurched. I went to the wrong room! I already moved my things to the guest room last night. "It's more convenient that way!"

She glanced at the weary-looking man before her. He looked as though he had just returned, and his eyes were bloodshot.

He glared at her in response.

However, she merely nodded, then turned to return to the guest room and wash up.

Benjamin pursed his lips. Then, he also turned and went to shower in the master bedroom.

Knowing that Benjamin had returned, Edwin prepared more food for breakfast.

He asked Ethen, "Where has Mr. Graham been these past two days?"

"He was on a business trip. Didn't you know?" Ethen replied as he moved closer and stole a bite of the food.

"A business trip?"

Edwin was surprised.

Ethen nodded. "That's right. We were on a business trip. After yesterday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, we rushed to Xenhall. We were very busy, and that's why we've only just returned."

Something flickered in Edwin's eyes. He had seen the news about the previous day's ribbon-cutting ceremony, so he enquired softly, "Wasn't Mr. Graham with Ms. Adams?"

Ethen glanced at him. "No, he wasn't."

Then he scanned the surroundings to make sure Benjamin was nowhere in sight before continuing to gossip with Edwin.

"She did show up at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, but Mr. Graham ignored her. After that, he took me on that business trip."

Edwin breathed a sigh of relief. "So that's what happened."

He also cast a quick glance around them before saying to Ethen quietly, "Mrs. Graham didn't look too happy yesterday."

Astonished, Ethen asked, "She saw the news too? She doesn't know Rosetta, does she?"

"I'm not too sure about that. However, women tend to be more sensitive about such things. I already felt something was off when Mr. Graham left yesterday morning, and they didn't sleep in the same room the night before."

Realization suddenly dawned on Ethen. No wonder Mr. Graham has been giving off such a terrifying and unapproachable aura since yesterday morning. It turns out that it's because of Mrs. Graham and not Rosetta.

"Did they quarrel?" Ethen asked.

Edwin furrowed his brows. "The children asked Mrs. Graham that yesterday, but she denied it. It doesn't look like they did to me. They were fine before I went to bed the night before, but things had changed by the time I got up the following morning. I've no idea what happened since I wasn't there."

"That must mean something unpleasant happened between them since Mr. Graham wasn't in a good mood either," Ethen guessed. Mr. Graham was on his phone a lot during the business trip. I asked him something while he was waiting for a call, but he cut me off with a glare.

As the two gossiped in the kitchen, they did not notice Arissa coming downstairs.

"Could it be because of that woman?"

Edwin looked at Ethen. That woman has already left the country, so why would she return?

“I didn’t dare to ask,” Ethen replied with a shrug of his shoulders.

“Good morning, Edwin. Good morning, Mr. Frank!”

The two men nearly jumped out of their skins when they heard Arissa’s voice.

Fixing their gazes on her, they answered in unison, “Good morning, Mrs. Graham.”

She went to pour a glass of water, then busied herself with getting the children’s breakfast.

Edwin and Ethen exchanged glances. Then, the former stepped forward and said, “Mr. Graham is back from his business trip. I saw him just now.”

Arissa nodded.

“Mr. Graham and I left for a business trip yesterday morning,” Ethen also chimed in to offer her an explanation.

However, she merely turned toward him and nodded with a smile before continuing with what she was doing.

So, he went on a business trip. But whether or not he did has nothing to do with me, nor is it something I should ask about.

The two men gazed at her. Seeing that she had no wish to continue the topic, they fell silent and helped to prepare breakfast.

The More the Merrier Chapter 768

Chapter 768 I Brought Gifts For All Of You

After showering and getting changed, Benjamin walked out of the bedroom and headed to the children’s room. The kids were already awake.

“Daddy!” Gavin exclaimed, staring at him in surprise. The others also turned to him with similar expressions. “Mr. Graham!” Benjamin murmured an acknowledgment.

After sweeping his gaze over the little ones, he called Ethen on the phone and asked the latter to bring up the things he had prepared. Gavin’s eyes gleamed briefly when he heard that. “Did you go on a business trip?”

Benjamin nodded. "Mm-hmm."

"Where and when did you go, Daddy? You didn't come home last night. I thought you were at the office." Gavin rarely asked so many questions.

Patting the boy's head fondly, Benjamin replied, "I went to Xenhall yesterday morning and only just got back." Gavin was understanding, and he forgave him for not coming home the previous night.

Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, Jesse, and Tim looked at Benjamin. They also understood that he did not return home because he had gone on a business trip. Just then, Ethen came upstairs with a pile of presents in his arms.

"Mr. Graham." "Place them over there," Benjamin instructed, telling Ethen to set the presents down gently.

"I brought gifts for all of you!"

Ecstatic, the six children rushed to open their presents while Benjamin sat and watched them. His thin lips curved upward into a smile when he saw how happy they were.

"Wow! It's beautiful!"

"This is nice too!" There were six model airplanes of various colors, and they could even be flown in the air using remote controls. Oliver and Jasper were already flying their model airplanes while Zachary taught Tim how to use the remote control.

As Gavin and Jesse were figuring out how to operate theirs, the latter remarked with a sigh, "If only it were pink."

Ethen smiled. He had suggested that to Benjamin when they were buying the toys. However, the latter had immediately tossed aside the pink one.

As soon as Benjamin heard what Jesse said, he knitted his brows. "Boys who like pink will get laughed at by the other kids, Jesse." This kid likes pink too much. I need to correct that.

Jesse bit her lip and muttered, "Let them laugh, then. I like pink!"

Benjamin frowned. Ethen was aware that Jesse was a girl and knew it was not unusual for her to like that color. "Mr. Graham, shall we change it to a pink one for Jesse?"

Benjamin glared at Ethen, and the latter dared not say anything more. "We can buy some pink paint. I'll help you change the color," Gavin said, comforting his younger sister.

Her eyes brightened. "You can change it?"

"Sure. We can give it a new coat of paint and turn it pink!" Gavin responded with a grin.

"Awesome!" Overjoyed, Jesse began playing with her brothers.

Benjamin's frown deepened.

"Gavin, come over here."

The boy peeped at him, then walked over.

"What is it?"

"Boys should like colors that are appropriate for boys. Don't indulge in your brother's whims," Benjamin admonished Gavin.

Gavin looked up at him with a flicker in his eyes. "Daddy, Jesse is still little. It'll be different once Jesse is older."

Still furrowing his brows, Benjamin answered, "Interests and hobbies are nurtured from a young age. Do you want to see him still liking pink when he's older?"

Observing the stern look on his father's face, Gavin sighed inwardly.

"All right. I'll talk to Jesse."

Benjamin nodded.

Just then, Arissa came upstairs to wake the children, only to find them already up and playing with their model airplanes in the room. The atmosphere was very lively, and she saw that Benjamin and Ethen were also there.

Jesse ran up to Arissa to share her excitement. "Mommy, Mr. Graham bought us model airplanes!"

"Did you thank him?" Arissa asked as she smoothed the little girl's hair.

Jesse was momentarily stunned, then she quickly turned to thank Benjamin.

"Thank you, Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin nodded in response while gazing fixedly at the woman at the door.

Moving out of his line of sight, she gestured to the children. "Sweethearts, do you want to go to the hospital to visit Great-grandma?"

“Yes!”

The six children set aside the toys in their hands and dashed over to her.

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Chapter 769 Neither Of Them Spoke

“In that case, you should hurry down and have your breakfast,” Arissa said with a smile, motioning for them to go downstairs. “Okay!”

With that, the children sprinted down the stairs immediately. “Graham, Mr. Frank, come and have breakfast too,” she called out, then followed the kids downstairs. Sensing her aloof attitude, Benjamin frowned, and his handsome face darkened.

Ethen sneaked a glance at him. “Mr. Graham, let’s go down for breakfast.” Benjamin radiated an icy-cold aura as he rose to his feet and strode out of the children’s room. Ethen dared not utter a single word as he followed the former.

Once downstairs, Arissa rushed the kids through breakfast, then got ready to take them to the hospital. However, she was shocked to see Benjamin follow them. “Let’s go together.”

He shot her a glance before getting into the car. The six children’s gazes darted between the two of them. Then, they called out to Arissa enthusiastically, “Hurry up!”

“Okay.” Arissa leaned down and got into the car. The children sat in the middle. “Has Grand aunt’s condition been stable these past couple of days?” Benjamin asked. She did not respond.

The children gazed at them. After a while, Gavin said to him softly, “She has been in quite good spirits, and her appetite has been good too.” Benjamin nodded, then took his tablet and started working.

Arissa kept staring at her phone. Bradley still had not contacted her, so she was a little worried. “Mommy, what are you looking at?” Zachary asked, craning his neck to look at her phone. She turned to him and asked, “Have you been in touch with Mr. Hinton?”

Zachary shook his head. Oliver was also puzzled. “He hasn’t contacted us since we got back. We can’t reach him on WhatsApp either.”

Jasper nodded. “That’s so strange!”

“Mommy, you don’t think something happened to him, do you?” Jesse asked, also starting to feel concerned. Arissa’s heart sank. “I’ll give Mr. Griffin a call.”

Tim blinked and asked in surprise, "Is he still at Rutaceae Village?"

Arissa nodded. She felt quite uneasy, as Bradley had never been unreachable for several days. "Bradley is fine. It's just that the cell tower over there is down," Benjamin said while casting her a quick look.

Stunned, she turned to stare at him. "How do you know that?"

"Ethen contacted someone about building a house," he reminded her.

"Oh," she murmured, gazing at him.

Then she turned back to the front. No wonder I haven't been able to get in touch with him.

Arissa wanted to ask how long the cell tower had been down. However, she stopped when she saw him with his head lowered over the tablet and working away.

"Don't worry, Mommy. Mr. Hinton will definitely contact you as soon as the cell tower is fixed," Gavin said reassuringly.

She nodded.

When they arrived at the hospital, Benjamin followed them upstairs to visit Mary. The elderly lady was delighted to see that he had come too.

They stayed at the hospital for a short while before sending the children to school.

Benjamin and Arissa took the kids to the school gate and waited until they entered the school campus before leaving for the office.

Neither of them spoke in the car, and Ethen felt under immense pressure as he drove.

He would sneak a peek at the two people in the backseat through the rearview mirror from time to time, and he hardly dared to breathe because the air was so thick with tension.

Arissa was scrolling through her phone when she stumbled upon a blog post exposing what happened at the school. It was already trending.

She frowned and tapped on it to read the post, only to find it condemned the principal and her children for bullying others.

She was infuriated.

It's evident they hired a ghostwriter!

Holding her phone in front of Benjamin, she asked, "Do you know about this?"

His eyes flashed when he saw the trending article. Then he narrowed his eyes as they glinted coldly.

"Ethen, sue those parents for defamation."

"Got it," Ethen replied, making a mental note.

Arissa shot Benjamin a look. "That's it?"

The children are already getting dragged through the mud even though they're innocent!

He glanced at the fury etched across her face, then said solemnly, "I'll take care of it."

She looked at him. Trusting his words, she nodded.

"Sorry to trouble you."

The More the Merrier Chapter 770

Chapter 770 Bonus Deducted For Tardiness

Benjamin's eyes narrowed, and his gaze became piercing. "What did you just say to me?"

Arissa froze. I only said, "Sorry to trouble you." What's wrong with that?

His expression turned grim, and anger surged within him when he saw her distancing herself from him. He growled in a low voice, "The children's affairs concern me too, so why did you say that?"

"I misspoke!" Taking back her phone, she lowered her head and scrolled through the nasty remarks, feeling upset. She even posted a few replies refuting the angry comments.

Benjamin's eyes flashed. He wanted to say something to her, but he noticed her angling her body away from him. Hence, he took out his phone and began tapping away on it.

Before Arissa even had time to post the surveillance footage, she noticed that the tides had turned. It was only after refreshing the page that she realized someone had leaked the footage of the other children mocking her kids.

However, that was not the only video. Even the clip of the parents at the school bullying Arissa's children had also been revealed. Except for the blurred-out faces of her children, those of the parents and their children were clear for all to see.

Hence, the actual perpetrator and victim of the situation were evident at a glance. Those who got all riled up immediately turned on the parents and their children, lambasting them even more harshly than how they had berated the principal and Arissa's kids.

She turned back toward Benjamin and met his dark gaze. The corners of her mouth twitched, but in the end, she did not say anything.

These are all things he should do. I don't need to thank him.

Hence, she looked away and continued monitoring the situation online.

His handsome face turned as black as thunder at her cold attitude toward him, and the tension in the air became even more palpable.

Suddenly, Arissa said to Ethen, "Mr. Frank, please stop the car there. I want to get out."

Ethen's gaze flitted to the rearview mirror. Noticing Benjamin's darkening expression, he swallowed hard.

"We're almost at the office. Why don't you get down there?"

"That's all right. I feel like walking."

The oppressive atmosphere inside the car is a little too much for me to bear.

"Stop the car for her," Benjamin thundered.

Left with no choice, Ethen could only pull over at the side of the road.

Arissa grabbed her bag, opened the car door, and climbed out of the car.

As soon as she closed the door, Benjamin told Ethen to drive off.

She started walking toward the office after watching them drive away and happened to bump into a colleague from the same department on her way. "Ms. York, didn't you drive?"

"No, I didn't," she replied, smiling awkwardly.

At that, her colleague offered warmly, "Hop on, then. Otherwise, you'll be late."

Arissa accepted the offer and quickly climbed into the colleague's car.

Meanwhile, Ethen glanced at his boss through the rearview mirror, about to say something on Arissa's behalf. However, the words stuck in his throat when his eyes met Benjamin's gaze.

Upon arriving at the office building, Benjamin got out of the car and strode in with a frosty expression.

"Good morning, Mr. Graham!"

As some of the employees watched Benjamin enter the building, they felt a chill run down their spines.

Mr. Graham isn't in a good mood.

When their gazes shifted to Ethen, he shot them all a warning look. Then, he turned back to glance at the road one would have to take to get to the office.

He had just instructed a bodyguard to go and pick Arissa up when he saw her get out of a car and walk toward the office.

Feeling relieved, Ethen hurried into the building.

Once upstairs, he saw Benjamin standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling window. He could see that Benjamin's frustration was evident even just by looking at his back.

A bone-chilling aura shrouded him, deterring others from approaching.

Turning his head, Benjamin instructed frostily, "Arissa will also have her bonus deducted for tardiness."

Ethen adjusted his glasses and said cautiously, "Mr. Graham, Ms. York has already arrived at the office."

She arrived right after us and was only a minute late. That's definitely not tardiness.

Benjamin's brows drew together when he heard that. She's already at the office?

He tugged at his tie irritably, then asked, "How did she get here?"

I don't believe she can walk that fast. After all, it's approximately five or six hundred meters from where she got out to the office.

"She caught a ride with one of her colleagues," Ethen replied softly.

Instantly, a chill descended over the office as the tension in the air intensified.

