

## The More the Merrier Chapter 781

### Chapter 781 Did You Argue

Just then, Zachary piped up, “Mommy, what about the walls upstairs?”

“That sounds great! We can paste your future achievements there!” Arissa smiled and nodded. That way, the children could see the display every time they used the stairs. She turned to Benjamin to seek his agreement. “Does that work?”

“I’m fine with anything!” Benjamin did not have any strong opinions on the matter. Nodding to acknowledge his response, Arissa then said to the children, “Sweethearts, we’ll paste your future certificates on the walls upstairs!”

“Okay!” The children nodded in unison. Once they arrived at the hospital, Benjamin and Arissa alighted from the car and led the children to visit Mary.

The elderly woman was flabbergasted by the entire Graham family’s visit to her ward. Anxiously, she asked, “Aren’t you both still working? You can go ahead and leave the children here! I’ll look after them.”

“We’ve knocked off work already, Grandaunt,” Arissa reassured her with a smile.

“So early? Don’t people usually get off work at six?”

She thought Arissa had left work early over the past few days to fetch the children home from school. She was surprised to learn that Arissa had already clocked off work.

“The company has shorter working hours,” Benjamin explained helpfully.

Mary nodded in relief and invited the family to sit.

Shaun entered the ward just then and smiled when he saw Benjamin. “You got off work so early?”

Benjamin nodded in response.

Then, Shaun greeted Arissa before turning his attention to entertaining the kids.

Arissa promptly wiped Mary down just as Edwin arrived with dinner for the elderly patient.

“Gavin, Tim, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, Jesse! Would you like to eat with your great-grandaunt?”

Mary invited the children to eat with her, but they shook their heads after seeing that Edwin had only brought enough food for one.

"It's okay, Great-grandaunt! We're not hungry!"

Arissa coaxed, "Please eat, Grandaunt. We'll bring them home for dinner in a bit!"

"All right!" Mary nodded before calling out to Benjamin, "Why don't you share some of this with me, Benjamin?"

Smiling, Benjamin said, "Don't worry about me, Grandaunt. I'm going to have a chat with Shaun outside."

Then, using his gaze, he signaled the doctor to leave the ward with him.

Shaun hastily followed him out of the room.

Arissa glanced at them before helping Mary with her dinner.

The six children were in Edwin's good hands. The butler declared, "I knew you were all here, so I brought you all some snacks!"

"Yay! You're the best, Mr. Whitley!"

They immediately plopped themselves on the couch and munched on the snacks that Edwin had brought.

Outside the ward, Benjamin asked Shaun, "When can Grandaunt have her operation?"

"She has been doing well for the past few days. If her examination tomorrow goes smoothly, we can fix a date for the operation!"

Benjamin nodded. "All right. Do as you see fit!"

"Don't worry. We're holding a meeting tomorrow after Mdm. Mary's examination. If we can get her a slot in the surgical theater, we can operate soonest two days from now."

Suddenly, Benjamin suggested, "How about performing the operation when the children are in school?"

He was concerned that Tim would worry excessively over Mary's operation.

Shaun smiled and agreed readily, "That works too. We're looking at nine in the morning. It'll coincide with their schooling time. Oh, by the way, I forgot to ask you a question this morning. Where were you yesterday? Why didn't I see you here?"

Sticking both hands into his pockets, Benjamin glanced at the doctor and replied, "I went to Xenhall for a business trip!"

Shaun scrutinized him and said carefully, "Mrs. Graham and the children had dinner here last night. Is everything all right between the two of you?"

Something flitted through Benjamin's eyes as he questioned, "They had dinner here?"

"Yes!" Shaun even smiled as he added, "I joined them!"

Benjamin's gaze instantly cooled by several degrees.

His displeasure delighted Shaun to no end.

Kingsley was right. Benjamin is jealous even when Arissa and the kids ate with us.

Shaun asked, "Did the two of you fight or something?"

Alas, Benjamin was looking elsewhere, deep in thought.

Sometime later, he said, "I answered a phone call, and she overheard the conversation!"

## The More the Merrier Chapter 782

### Chapter 782 Who Is More Important

Shaun asked Benjamin curiously, "What phone call?"

Benjamin's silence spoke volumes. The doctor stared at his silent friend. Realization dawned on him, and he asked cautiously, "Did you answer Rosetta's phone call?"

Benjamin pursed his lips in response. His actions immediately confirmed Shaun's suspicions. He approached Benjamin and asked, "Are you still hung up on her?"

No one had dared to mention Rosetta's name in Benjamin's presence since she went overseas. Today, however, Shaun had broken the sacred rule.

Benjamin remained silent and stared into the distance. It was impossible to gauge his thoughts.

"Rosetta's back at the worst time. I mean, it's your choice if you choose to be with her. But as your friend, I feel obliged to remind you that Arissa's an excellent woman. She single-handedly raised four kids out of the six she birthed for you. It was a dangerous situation, and it mustn't have been easy for her to pull through. Mrs. Graham's a

sensible woman, and I'm sure she'll understand once you share your thoughts with her. Don't do anything stupid to hurt anyone, or you'll regret it for the rest of your life!"

His and Kingsley's observations told them that Benjamin truly cared about Arissa.

However, with Rosetta's untimely return, it was difficult to tell which woman held a more important place in Benjamin's heart.

Shaun sighed, wondering if Benjamin had absorbed even a smidge of his lengthy advice.

At last, Benjamin announced, "I'm going in to see if they're done!"

He abruptly turned and entered the ward, trailed by Shaun.

Arissa had finished feeding Mary, and the children were presently joking with the patient, who was beaming with joy.

When Mary saw Benjamin coming into the ward, she smiled at him and said to Arissa, "Why don't you all head back? There's nothing else to do here, and I have plans to catch something on the TV with some fellow patients!"

Arissa teased, "Wow, Grandaunt, how many friends have you made in the hospital?"

"It's boring here, and Dr. Bailey was kind enough to wheel me out so I could meet some patients. They all live on the same floor and invited me to watch television with them tonight!"

Arissa was relieved that Mary had settled in well at the hospital. A short while later, she went home with Benjamin and the children.

Sensing that the children missed Mary dearly, Arissa cajoled, "You can video call your great-grandaunt tonight if you miss her!"

"Okay!"

Satisfied with their mother's suggestion, the six children held hands and entered the elevator together.

Benjamin held Arissa's hand and strode toward the elevator.

Arissa pulled her hand out of his grasp, and her surprise only grew when she met Benjamin's gaze.

He merely held her hand again and said, "Come on!"

Is he extending an olive branch to me right now? Arissa's heart churned with conflicting emotions.

Still, it seemed unlikely given Benjamin's serious demeanor.

Amid her musings, Jasper raised his head and looked at Arissa. "Are we going home, Mommy?"

Arissa stared at her son and asked, "Where else can we go?"

He smiled cheekily and exchanged knowing glances with Zachary and the others.

Then, he whined, "Mommy, you haven't brought us out to play in a long time!"

So he wants to play. Arissa smiled fondly and looked at the other children. "Do the rest of you want to go out too?"

Oliver and Jesse nodded, while Gavin and Zachary shook their heads.

Tim appeared bewildered, unsure of his response.

"Everyone has different opinions!" Arissa laughed at the scene.

Jasper glared at Gavin and Zachary, accusing, "Didn't we agree?"

"That was last time!" Zachary flicked his brother on the head. "Mommy's so tired after work. We shouldn't go out!"

Gavin nodded his agreement. "Yeah. We can go out another day!"

Pouting, Jasper looked at Arissa. "Bring us out to play this weekend, Mommy!"

Touched by her children's thoughtfulness, Arissa immediately agreed to Jasper's request.

"Fine. Mommy will bring you out to play this weekend. Sorry, we're a little tight on time today."

"Are you busy with something later, Mommy?" Gavin stared intently at his mother.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 783

“Once we get home, I still have to do some cleaning around the house, don’t I?” Arissa replied. She didn’t want to tell her son the truth about her working overtime, lest he storm off to reprimand his father again.

Benjamin, however, had his doubts and gave her the side-eye. My goodness. Has she really taken work home with her?

“Mommy, we have Mr. Whitley to help keep the house pick and span, so there’s no need for you to do anything else. Just spend time with us and have a good rest,” Gavin insisted, not wanting his mother to tire herself out.

After a while, Arissa finally gave in to her son and nodded. “Very well, then. I shall do just that!” Upon hearing that, Gavin beamed with joy.

As Arissa smiled and gazed at her six children, she couldn’t help but pull them all in for a hug and kiss. “Tell me, my sweethearts, what did you all learn today?”

The six children began sharing everything they had done in school that day. Arissa listened attentively, complimenting them when they did something good and correcting them when they made mistakes.

Even though Benjamin said nothing as he checked his emails and listened in on their conversation, that moment undoubtedly brought him a great sense of fulfillment.

As soon as they got home, the six children eagerly pulled Arissa out of the car. “Be careful!” the latter chided while trotting behind her little ones.

When the six children entered the house and saw Darius, their eyes immediately lit up. “Grandpa!”

Arissa flinched. Huh? Old Mr. Graham’s here?

“Come on, let’s head inside,” Benjamin said as he took her hand and led her into the house.

The moment he felt Arissa staring at him, Benjamin, too, turned to meet her gaze.

“Why do you seem so surprised? Try to act natural, so we look like a normal couple,” he reminded.

Those words quickly snapped Arissa back to her senses, but at the same time, she felt her heart sink.

She had thought Benjamin was showing her his love, so it was no wonder she was disappointed when she found out it was all just an act.

Despite that, Arissa did as instructed and curled her lips into a smile. “Will this do, Graham?”

“Don’t smile that much!” Benjamin scoffed.

With that, the smile on Arissa’s face instantly faded away. “In that case, why don’t you show me what to do, Graham?”

The next thing she knew, Benjamin had pinned her against the wall and kissed her.

Having never expected such a bold move from the man, Arissa was so shocked she almost stopped breathing.

Just then, a child’s voice broke the silence. “Ah!”

The couple hastily turned in the direction of the voice, only to see Tim and Oliver staring wide-eyed at them.

The two boys ran off the next second, with Oliver chanting, “Mr. Graham kissed Mommy!”

Naturally, that caught the attention of the other kids as they ran up excitedly to join their brothers. “What? What happened?”

By then, Arissa had turned beet red from being caught in the act by her children. She quickly pushed Benjamin away and buried her face in her hands.

Benjamin, however, merely smiled and pulled her into the house.

Gavin, Zachary, Jasper, Jesse, and even Darius couldn’t help but stare at them with a glint in their eyes.

Although she was still embarrassed, Arissa managed to greet Darius with a smile. “Hello, Old Mr. Graham!”

“Ah, welcome home!”

Darius’ gaze remained fixed on the couple, and when he noticed Benjamin holding Arissa’s hand, his smile widened even more.

“Why are you here again?” Benjamin asked as he glanced at his father.

Darius snorted softly, his expression suddenly a lot sterner than before.

“Why can’t I come? Are you afraid that I’d disturb the two of you? Anyway, you can carry on with your date if that’s what it was. I just want to play with my grandchildren.”

Before Benjamin could say anything, Darius had beckoned for the six children to follow him out to the garden.

Of course, the little ones were more than happy to oblige.

“Mommy, we’re going out to play with Grandpa!” Zachary shouted before his siblings chimed in.

“All right!” Arissa replied with a smile. “Don’t be too playful!”

“It’s good to be playful! Otherwise, they’ll end up like Benjamin, who’s always so quiet and solemn!” Darius teased.

Upon hearing that, Arissa chuckled.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 784

### Chapter 784 Do Not Overthink It

“What are you laughing at?” Benjamin grumbled as he pinched Arissa’s hand. The latter merely shot him a glance before pulling her hand free and making her way to the couch.

After staring at his now empty hand, Benjamin walked over and sat beside her. That, unfortunately, earned a glare from Arissa. “Old Mr. Graham’s outside. You can stop following me!”

Benjamin frowned as he stared at her. “Since when am I following you?”

Speechless, Arissa moved aside and poured herself a glass of water. “As long as Old Mr. Graham is out of sight, we can stop with the act, can’t we?”

Benjamin’s expression instantly darkened. Argh! This woman sure knows how to get on my nerves!

The next second, he grabbed her glass and finished the water in one gulp.

Arissa drew back in surprise, wondering if she had misspoken.

She snuck a peek at Benjamin and immediately felt a chill running down her spine when she met his angry gaze.

“D-Did I say something wrong?”

Benjamin said nothing as he gritted his teeth. Oh, so now she’s testing me, huh? How I wish I could teach her a lesson!

Despite that thought, he furrowed his brows when he realized the wound above Arissa's lips had reopened.

"Edwin!"

Without further ado, Edwin came running out of the kitchen.

Not knowing what Benjamin was up to, Arissa continued staring at him until his instructions to Edwin made her heart skip a beat.

"Fetch me the first-aid kit!"

Edwin looked at the couple and quickly nodded. "Right away!"

After seeing the butler run off to carry out his order, Arissa stole another glance at Benjamin. "What do you need the first-aid kit for?"

Does he want to apply the medication for me?

Benjamin shot her such an intimidating glare that she quickly looked away.

As soon as Edwin returned with the first-aid kit, Benjamin dismissed him and personally took out the ointment for Arissa.

"Sit over here!"

Upon hearing his order, Arissa froze. Oh, no! He's really going to apply the medication, isn't he?

Seeing that Arissa had yet to move from her spot, Benjamin frowned and shifted himself next to her. Then he lifted her chin and began examining her wound.

When Arissa looked around and realized Darius was nowhere in sight, her heart started racing. "Graham, I think I'll do it myself!"

"Shut up!" Benjamin ordered before proceeding to disinfect the wound and apply a thin layer of ointment.

He scrunched up his brows in deep concentration, and the more Arissa stared, the faster her heart pounded.

What if he's only helping me, and I'm the delusional one who misunderstood his intentions?

Sharp-eyed as ever, Benjamin soon noticed how tense Arissa had become and how her eyes were darting around. "Is it because of that phone call?"

Arissa froze and turned to him. "What phone call?"

Benjamin's gaze deepened as he met her eyes. "The one from the other night! You went straight to the kids' room when I answered it!"

Arissa instantly lowered her gaze. I never thought he'd be the first to bring that up, but now that he has, I may as well be honest. I'm not one to beat around the bush, anyway!

"Yes!" she exclaimed.

Benjamin's gaze flickered, and needless to say, he was surprised at how much Arissa had dwelled on the matter.

"It was just a call," he explained. "Don't overthink it."

Arissa turned around and was greeted by the sight of Benjamin packing up the first-aid kit. "Are you close with that woman?"

No one will believe there's nothing more to the relationship when a woman calls a man in the middle of the night. Besides, he sounded so gentle too!

"Yes."

Arissa bit her lip, only to quickly release it when she felt a jolt of pain.

Once again, that didn't go unnoticed by Benjamin. "Stop biting your lip!"

"Fine!" Arissa snapped before shooting another glance at the man. "Have you dated that woman before?"

After a pause, Benjamin replied, "I guess you could say that."

Arissa merely gaped at him in bewilderment. "What? How can you not know if you've dated her before?"

"I don't know how to put it!"

That baffled Arissa even more.

Huh? What lousy reply is that?

## The More the Merrier Chapter 785

“How do you know all this, anyway?” Benjamin asked with a frown, wondering which blabbermouth had spoken to Arissa.

“I was in the office cafeteria when I saw the news of your ribbon-cutting ceremony. Everyone was talking about it, so I heard a little here and there.”

This time, Benjamin’s frown deepened as a fresh swell of rage rose in him. “What did they all say?”

“They said the two of you were talking about marriage,” Arissa replied candidly.

“And you believed them?” Benjamin muttered, pursing his lips. Is that why she’s been distancing herself from me for the past two days?

Arissa looked him in the eye, unable to shake off the flicker of irritation buzzing through her.

How could I not have believed it? Photos of him and Rosetta were even trending on social media!

“Is that not the case?”

A glint flashed across Benjamin’s eyes as he leaned in. “Have you been throwing a tantrum because of that?”

“W-Who’s throwing a tantrum?”

“How dare you deny it!” Benjamin retorted while playfully pinching Arissa’s cheek.

The latter, however, ducked away and pretended not to care. “So, are you two discussing marriage or not?”

Benjamin raised his brows. “What do you think?”

Arissa felt even more frustrated, but when she turned around and noticed Benjamin staring back cheekily, a warm blush rose to her cheeks.

“Forget it, then!” she fumed before standing and marching up the stairs.

To her surprise, Benjamin got up and followed suit, his piercing eyes still trained on her.

Feeling her pulse quicken, Arissa whipped around to face the man. “Why are you following me?”

“This is my house,” Benjamin said with a chuckle. “Can’t I go upstairs?”

Stumped for words, Arissa stood aside and beckoned him to go before her.

Even though Benjamin was standing on the lower step, he was still taller than her.

The next second, he placed his arms on the railing behind her and locked her in his embrace. "Are you jealous?"

"No, I'm not!" Arissa answered, her eyes darting around.

Seeing how flustered she was, Benjamin beamed with delight.

All the gloominess that had accumulated over the past few days seemed to vanish in that instance.

He leaned down suddenly and kissed her on the cheek. "I've never talked about marriage with her."

With that, Benjamin turned and continued up the stairs, leaving Arissa with butterflies in her stomach.

She touched the spot where his lips had just been and felt herself getting all warm and fluttery.

Yes. They aren't talking about getting married!

Seconds later, she turned and chased after Benjamin. "Benjamin Graham, do you like her?"

Benjamin froze in his tracks and slowly turned to face his anxious inquisitor.

"What do you mean by like?"

For a moment, Arissa was stunned. Huh? I can't believe he just asked that! Then again, it doesn't seem like he's being difficult. He really looks like he's clueless about it!

"Don't you know what it means to like someone?"

To think he's dated that woman before!

A trace of awkwardness instantly flashed across Benjamin's face. "Well, do you?"

Arissa blinked as she stood blankly in the hallway and watched him walk into his bedroom.

If he doesn't know what it means to like someone, why is he so sweet and gentle toward Rosetta? Or has he not realized his feelings for her?

Eager to know the answer, she strode into Benjamin's room, only to find the latter stripping.

"Why are you taking off your clothes?" she asked as she hastily turned around.

She could feel her face burning up, and no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't shake off the image of Benjamin's toned figure.

After all, he had a perfectly chiseled body, and the sight of him being topless was irresistibly alluring.

Benjamin looked up at Arissa and continued to unbuckle his pants.

"How am I supposed to shower if I don't take off my clothes?"

"You could've said so earlier!" Arissa grumbled before getting ready to rush out of the room.

"Why do I need to inform you when I'm stripping in my own room?" Benjamin retorted as he stared fixedly at the woman trying to escape. "Come here!"

Arissa's heart lurched. My goodness. Why does he always have to shout like that? He'll give me a heart attack one of these days!

"What do you want?" she muttered with her back still facing him.

"I want you to get over here!"

Benjamin's voice was deep and authoritative, and Arissa didn't dare defy him.

Left with no choice, she turned and stared at him from the door.

"Well, what is it?"