

## The More the Merrier Chapter 786

### Chapter 786 Teach Me A Lesson

Benjamin kept his eye on her, his gaze deep and somewhat mystifying. “Get over here and wipe my back!”

Arissa twitched her mouth slightly as she glared at the man in disbelief. Argh! How much more shameless can he get? I can’t believe he wants me to wipe his back for him!

“In your dreams!” she huffed before hightailing it out of the room, her heart still pounding in her chest. Quickly, she gathered her laptop and bag and walked toward her room.

Benjamin furrowed his brows but said nothing more as he dropped his pants and stepped into the bathroom. Once she was back in the comfort of her room, Arissa buckled down and started working.

Meanwhile, the joyous shouts and laughter from the six children rang out from time to time. As soon as he had finished showering, Benjamin promptly walked out to the balcony and looked downstairs.

After spending a few minutes watching Darius and the children romp happily around in the garden, he changed into a fresh set of clothes and stepped out of his room.

Following his instincts, Benjamin turned on his heel and headed toward Arissa’s room.

Sure enough, he found her so immersed in her work that she didn’t even realize he had entered the room.

Shortly after, Benjamin was standing behind her and peering over her shoulder. The next second, he leaned down and pointed to an area on the document. “The data here is wrong.”

Arissa nearly jumped out of her skin as she turned around and found herself staring at the face of her surprise visitor. “W-When did you come in?”

Benjamin studied the shocked expression on her face and harrumphed softly.

“I’ve been here for a while.”

With him standing so close to her, Arissa could feel his warm breath tickling her skin whenever he spoke.

On top of that, Benjamin’s freshly showered fragrance was so overwhelmingly enticing that she felt her heart pounding away again.

She quickly averted her gaze and shifted aside.

“What do you want, Graham?”

Benjamin gazed intently at Arissa and smirked when he saw the blush creeping up her cheeks. “Didn’t I tell you not to work overtime?”

“I’m not used to leaving work unfinished.”

“You want the kids to teach me a lesson? Is that it?” Benjamin asked as he casually leaned against the table with his hands in his pockets.

Arissa stole a glance at the man, and even she had to admit he looked incredibly charming.

“Oh? Are the kids capable of doing that?”

“Gavin and Zachary have been waiting for a chance to get back at me,” Benjamin scoffed. “What do you think?”

Upon hearing that, Arissa couldn’t help but chuckle inwardly.

“Put your work away!” Benjamin ordered.

Arissa, however, remained in her chair and stared back with pleading eyes. “There’s only a bit more to go. I’ll be done with it soon!”

“Arissa York, can you be more obedient?”

Seeing how furious Benjamin was, Arissa flinched. Dear God! He’s such an emotional man.

“Are you ignoring my orders?” Benjamin added as he pinched her cheeks.

Arissa blushed and quickly slapped his hand away. “I’d appreciate it if you could move your ass away, Graham!”

Benjamin raised his brows and shot her another glance before doing as instructed.

With that, Arissa hurriedly gathered her documents and put them neatly away.

Meanwhile, Benjamin had lain on her bed, feeling relaxed as he placed his hands behind his head and stared at her.

When Arissa finished tidying up her table and turned around, she met the man’s piercing gaze.

"I'm going down," she mumbled.

Hmph! Since I'm not allowed to work, I'll spend my time with the kids.

Seeing that Benjamin didn't respond, she shot him another look. "Are you coming?"

To her surprise, Benjamin walked up to her and pulled her into a hug.

Not knowing what he was up to, Arissa gave him a puzzled look.

"Yes. Let's find Gavin and the rest," Benjamin replied gently.

Arissa smiled. "I suppose you seldom spent time with the little one in the past?"

"Yes," Benjamin said as he glanced at her. "I've always been busy at work."

Upon hearing that, Arissa furrowed her brows. No wonder Gavin always said his father was busy. The poor boy has missed out on so much fun!

Realizing she was feeling sorry for her son, Benjamin hurriedly explained, "But there were times when I'd bring him along to the office!"

Almost immediately, Arissa conjured up images of Benjamin bringing Gavin to work. When she imagined the boy wailing his head off and Benjamin frantically trying to coax him, she couldn't help but burst out laughing.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 787

### Chapter 787 Spending Time With My Kids

"Why are you giggling?" Benjamin lowered his gaze at her. Arissa gave him a look and asked, "Were you the one who coaxed Gavin when he cried?"

Benjamin arched his brow. "Isn't that obvious?"

"Graham, it never crossed my mind that you know how to coax a child!" Arissa smiled. Benjamin's expression turned dark all of a sudden. What does she take me for?

"Did you think that you're the only one who knows how to console a child? Fine, I'll send all the crying children to you from now onward."

Arissa continued smiling. "Perhaps the kids love being coaxed by Daddy!"

Benjamin harrumphed softly.

Right then, Edwin came out of the kitchen to serve them food. His eyes lit up when he saw the couple come down the stairs arm in arm.

Did Mr. and Mrs. Graham make up?

“Mrs. Graham, could you please help me bring the food out to Old Mr. Graham and the children?”

“Is dinner ready, Edwin?” Arissa asked as she received the food.

“Just a little while more.” Edwin cast a glance at them before returning to the kitchen.

Arissa passed the food to Benjamin and instructed, “You bring this to the kids. I’m going to help in the kitchen.”

Shortly after watching her leave, he turned around and walked away.

When Darius saw Benjamin heading in his direction, he turned toward the six kids, who immediately called out to him in their cutesy voices.

“Daddy!”

“Mr. Graham!”

“Mr. Graham!”

“Hey!” Benjamin glanced at them. “Come and have some snack.”

The six kids darted toward him. Subsequently, Gavin took one for Darius.

“Here you go, Grandpa!”

“Thank you, Gavin.” Delighted, Darius stroked his head dotingly.

The thoughtful Zachary also grabbed some for Tim, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse before enjoying the snack himself.

As Gavin ran back to Benjamin, the latter passed him another one and said, “Sit down and eat.”

Hence, the six of them each took a seat and munched their snacks away.

“You should have one too, Mr. Graham.” Zachary stared at Benjamin.

“Take a seat, Mr. Graham,” Oliver chimed in.

“Okay.” Benjamin did as told.

“Where’s Mommy, Mr. Graham?” All six children turned to look at him in unison.

Jesse looked exceptionally adorable when she blinked. Her lashes were long and thick.

Benjamin fixed his gaze on her and answered, “Mommy is in the kitchen.”

“I bet she’s making delicious food for us.” Jesse grinned from ear to ear.

Her five brothers, too, were anticipating the food with great excitement.

Darius watched them with a smile on his face and commented, “Your mommy is a great cook indeed.”

Upon hearing Darius’ compliment, Zachary expressed his gratitude smugly. “Thank you, Grandpa.”

“Mommy can make an array of delectables. Grandpa, please visit more often. Then, you’ll get to taste them all,” Jasper said.

“Sure!” Overjoyed, Darius turned and looked at Benjamin.

The latter then poured each child a glass of water. He reminded them, “Don’t just keep eating. Have some water.”

“Thanks, Daddy!” Gavin said sweetly.

“Thanks, Mr. Graham,” Tim chimed in as well and followed by the other four kids.

Chuckling, Darius teased, “You haven’t gotten their approval?”

Benjamin side-eyed his father and said nothing.

“You seem to be quite free today. Are you done with work, Benjamin?”

“I’m spending time with my kids,” he replied placidly.

Not only was Darius taken aback by his answer, but the children were also astounded.

Tim asked softly, “Mr. Graham, are you going to coach us on our studies now?”

“There’s no hurry. I’ll help you all with your homework after dinner.” Benjamin tousled the boy’s head. “You like the snacks?”

Tim nodded vigorously. “It’s so yummy!”

He had been eating very slowly because he could not bring himself to finish the delicious food.

It pained Benjamin's heart to see him acting that way. "Go ahead and eat as much as you like. Edwin has made lots of them."

At that instant, Gavin served his brother some more. "Come on, eat faster, or else we're going to finish them all. More mouth-watering food is coming our way later!"

Jasper looked at his two older brothers and guffawed. "You guys are the slowest!"

Then he stuffed the snack into his mouth and gobbled it down.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 788

### Chapter 788 I Am An Extra

Benjamin thought that the way the little guy ate his food was exactly like Arissa. He could not help but correct his son. "Don't scarf down your food, Jasper. Chew longer before swallowing."

Darius found it amusing. "Slow down. There's still a lot more. They are prepared just for you lot." Jasper smiled and stuck his tongue out cheekily.

"You're eating as if you're in an eating competition," remarked Oliver. "Hmph! I'm worried that you'll steal my food!" Jasper protested defiantly.

Their silly antics made everyone burst out laughing. "It's a miracle that you didn't take mine!" Oliver pushed his glasses up and pinched Jasper's cheek. Zachary glanced at them and advised, "Stop fooling around. Hurry up and finish your snacks."

Immediately, the boys went silent. Darius looked on dotingly at how commanding Zachary was. He was acting like a little boss among his siblings. "Sweethearts, join me in the Old Manor tonight, all right?"

Tim had never been there. So, he waited for his brothers and sister to make a decision. When the kids heard about visiting the Old Manor, they instinctively glanced at Benjamin, seemingly checking his approval.

Gavin, for one, never liked going to the Old Manor.

Seeing his older brother remain quiet, Zachary followed suit.

Similarly, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse refrained from expressing their opinions.

Darius let out a half-amused, half-exasperated laugh. "Would you tag along if your mommy goes?"

Gavin sneaked a glance at his grandfather and said, "Mommy isn't free."

Darius' lips twitched when he heard that. He stared at his frowning grandson and thought he looked very much like his father.

"She's occupied these few days," uttered Benjamin in order to spoil Darius' plan.

"Why? You haven't brought her to the Old Manor for a meal since your return!" Darius started getting upset.

"There's no difference whether we dine here or at the Old Manor. You can come here whenever you want to have meals with Arissa."

Benjamin refused to go back to the Old Manor.

Darius was well aware of his concerns. He sighed and said, "Well, Benjamin, it's necessary for the children to meet up with other relatives. You can't keep delaying that."

"Haven't you arranged for an ancestral ritual? They can meet up then."

Benjamin scoffed. There's no need to meet those few irrelevant people!

"Grandpa, we don't want to eat with them since they don't like us. I doubt we could enjoy a meal together. We might have a problem digesting our food too!"

Gavin pulled a long face and supported his father.

"That's not true. They love you." Darius tried to convince the little fellow.

"No, they only put on an act before you, Grandpa," Gavin complained contemptuously while snapping his brows together.

He was always a boy with few words. He had never spoken about that openly or shared his feelings at length.

Darius knew he was not fond of the people living in the Old Manor, but he did not know why.

When he learned about it for the first time, he was stunned to the core.

Tim, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse had their eyes fixated on the grandfather and grandson duo.

They had never seen the relatives Darius mentioned. Hence, they did not dare to make any comments.

“Did they bully you?” Darius pursued the matter further, worried that the boy had experienced a bad encounter.

Gavin turned to Benjamin, who stroked his head in response.

Then, the latter retorted, “Isn’t it obvious? They won’t do anything unfavorable to their reputation in your presence. However, you have no idea about the words spoken behind your back.”

Darius furrowed his brows and questioned Gavin, “Tell me, Gavin. Who gave you a hard time?”

“It’s Aunt Susanna. She scolded me and said that I’m unwanted in the family. I’m an extra!”

As Gavin revealed the truth, tears welled up in his eyes. He could still remember vividly how Susanna had made him feel when she hurled insults at him.

Benjamin narrowed his almond-shaped eyes, and they glinted sharply.

He recalled the dreadful incident when the boy came home in low spirits after visiting the Old Manor. He even refused to speak for several days, and nothing everyone did could cheer him up.

Benjamin’s expression darkened. “How brazen is that woman to say that my son is an extra in the family!”

“Don’t listen to her spewing nonsense! Gavin, you’re not an extra.” Darius was furious when he learned that someone had lashed out at his precious grandson.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 789

Chapter 789 Seeing You Cry Makes Me Tear Up “Gavin, you’re not an extra. You’re our eldest brother! That wicked woman is the one who’s unwanted in the family,” Zachary snarled as he hugged Gavin.

Tim, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse also hurried over to show their big brother some love. “You’re not an extra, Gavin!” “Yeah, Gavin. Don’t be sad.” “We’ll teach her a lesson when we see her, Gavin!”

“Who says that you’re irrelevant here? You’re Mommy’s little sweetheart, Gavin! Don’t get so upset over it.” Darius was saddened and enraged at the same time. He felt so sorry for his grandchildren.

Hastily, he whipped out his phone and called Bryan. "I want all of you to come to Benjamin's house at once!" Benjamin's gaze turned cold when he heard that.

"Don't make a scene at my place!" He was so loud that Bryan could hear him from the other side of the line. Sensing his anger, Darius bellowed, "Head to the Old Manor now!"

After hanging up, Darius hugged his six grandchildren and assured them, "Gavin, I'm going to set things straight for you." At that, he gestured William and left for the manor swiftly.

When Arissa heard the car engine revving up, she popped her head out of the kitchen to check, only to realize that Darius' car had sped off.

Puzzled, she went out to check. "Did Old Mr. Graham leave?" she asked Benjamin when she could not locate Darius.

"Yes." Benjamin turned to look at her.

Arissa noticed his grim expression and the children's downcast faces. She froze and wondered why.

"What's wrong with all of you?"

The moment Jesse saw Arissa, she cried and ran toward her, complaining, "Mommy, Gavin told us that Aunt Susanna reprimanded him and even commented that he's an unwanted child."

Arissa's frown deepened into a scowl. She stroked Jesse's head gently and then walked up to Gavin to give him a hug.

"Sweetheart, you're my precious boy, my pride, and my joy. Nothing matters more than you. Let's not care about what other people say, especially when their intention is to hurt us."

Gavin's silence worried Arissa. She kissed his forehead gently to comfort him.

"Mommy..."

Suddenly, he wrapped his arms around her neck and bawled his eyes out.

Arissa tucked him in her arms and patted his back. She repeatedly stroked the back of his head, trying to make him feel better.

"Sweetheart, if anyone bullies you again, I'll be sure to teach the person a lesson."

What is Susanna thinking? How could she scold Gavin? What a wicked soul!

She looked at Benjamin and asked, "When was that?"

"Some time back. It happened last year."

His glare turned malevolent. Bryan and his family are seriously asking to be punished!

Arissa was shocked. "It's been a year?"

She lowered her head to gaze at her son. I can imagine how aggrieved Gavin must have felt to carry the hurt for such a long period.

"Gavin finally shared this incident when Dad mentioned he wanted to bring the kids back to the Old Manor just now. When it happened back then, the poor boy had refused to speak for several days."

Benjamin felt bad as he recalled the past. He regretted not asking his son more questions to find out why. Since then, Gavin had rarely visited the Old Manor.

Arissa rubbed the boy's back to console him.

"Don't cry, Gavin."

Tim went up to them and stroked Gavin's head.

"Don't cry, Gavin. Seeing you cry makes me tear up too."

Jasper's eyes started to turn red.

Zachary bellowed, "How could that woman say such cruel things to Gavin?"

"We must give her a hard time when we see her. She's terrible!" Oliver criticized angrily.

"She's not our aunt because she bullied Gavin!" Jesse cursed as she wiped her tears away.

Seeing so, Benjamin leaned over and picked her up.

When Gavin realized that all his siblings, including Arissa, were on his side, loving and comforting him, he felt much better.

He pulled himself from Arissa's embrace, sniffled, and wiped his tears dry.

"Mommy, I'm sorry for making you worry," he muttered sheepishly.

"It's okay, Sweetheart." Arissa tousled his hair dotingly. "Tell me, what else did she say or do to you?"

## The More the Merrier Chapter 790

### Chapter 790 They Were Literally All Over Him

“They would stare daggers at me behind Grandpa’s back. Sometimes, they pinched my face real hard,” Gavin complained. “Did you tell Daddy?”

Arissa was certain that Benjamin would never allow his son to be bullied. Lo and behold, Gavin shook his head. “Daddy is always busy. Moreover, Grandpa would be sad if he found out.”

Arissa’s heart ached when she learned about it, and she gave him another kiss on his forehead. “Who are they?”

“Uncle Bryan, Uncle Nick, and their family members.” Arissa was dumbfounded. Do they hate my son so much?

“Just ignore them.” Benjamin caressed Gavin’s head. “Okay!” Gavin nodded. “I shall glare at them when I see them.” Staring at his exasperated expression, Arissa gently pinched his puffy cheeks. “That’s right! Let’s give them the cold shoulder.”

“Got it, Mommy!” Gavin was slightly cheered up. Arissa smiled and kissed his cheek. “Remember to tell me or Daddy if anyone bullies you, okay? We’ll show him who’s boss.”

“All right!” The boy nodded happily. While Arissa was coaxing the child, Benjamin walked away and gave Ethen a call. “Is Bryan working on a huge project lately? Steal it from him,” instructed Benjamin coldly.

Arissa turned to him when she heard that. “Go now and play by yourselves, Sweethearts!”

She rubbed Zachary’s head, seemingly requesting his help to get the rest of the children to go have some fun. “Let’s go play, Gavin. Lead us to the backyard.”

Zachary grabbed Gavin’s hand, gesturing for him to take them to the garden. “Sure!”

Gavin nodded, then informed Arissa before leaving with his siblings. When the kids had disappeared from her sight, Arissa withdrew her gaze and walked toward Benjamin, who had just ended a call.

“If Old Mr. Graham knew about this, would he—”

“They have already gotten on his nerves when they bullied Gavin at the Old Manor!”

To Darius, Gavin was like a precious jewel, his most cherished asset.

Benjamin was in a bad mood. He was downright displeased that the matter was only revealed a year after.

Arissa nodded in agreement. She was well aware of how much Darius loved Gavin.

“Don’t get so worked up. We’ll be more vigilant in the future.”

Benjamin looked her in the eyes and nodded. “You too, don’t worry too much. Have you eaten?”

“Not yet. The soup is still on the stove. Are you hungry?”

“Nope.” Benjamin glanced at his six children, who were frolicking in the garden, and heaved a sigh of relief. “I’ll go check on them.”

Arissa smiled. Subsequently, she headed back to the kitchen to help Edwin.

Shortly after, Benjamin brought the kids inside the house.

When Arissa saw them, she was shocked to the core.

Oliver and Jasper were leaning on Benjamin’s left shoulder, whereas Jesse was sitting on his right shoulder, hugging his head.

They were literally all over him. The three older children were in his arms; two on the right and one on the left.

Arissa could not help but let out an amused chuckle.

“Get down now.”

Embarrassment inundated Benjamin, and he quickly requested the kids to stop their silly antics.

“Hang on!” Arissa stopped them.

Whipping out her phone, she snapped a few photos of it at lightning speed.

Benjamin frowned and asked impatiently, “Are you done?”

“Yes, yes.”

She giggled as she waved at the children.

“Come on, Sweethearts. Dinner is ready!”

One by one, the kids got off Benjamin's back and went to wash their hands happily.

"Not bad, Graham. You're looking more and more like a father." Arissa shot him a cheeky look.

Benjamin furrowed his brows. "Do I not look like one before this?"

"Haha! You were too serious. Hence, the kids never dared to approach you. If you want to hang out with them, you need to be friendlier."

Nonetheless, she was glad that he had gotten much closer to the children.

"I wonder who was the one who was afraid that I would get too close to the children."

Arissa blushed. "Well, I was afraid you'd snatch them away from me. It's a different context altogether."

Benjamin quirked an eyebrow in interest.

"How are they different? You're not afraid anymore?"