

Read Novel The More The Merrier Chapter 996

The More the Merrier Chapter 996—"I'm just looking at my wife," Benjamin replied.

His lips quirked into a smirk—a smirk so roguish that made her blush.

Arissa looked away and hastened to continue doing her makeup. She forced herself not to pay attention to the man.

However, when she was drawing her eyeliner, a sudden knocking on the door startled her. Her hands trembled, and she drew out of line.

"Oh no!"

Benjamin looked at her and asked, "What's the matter?"

He didn't notice the knocking on the door.

"My hands trembled, and now my eyeliner is out of line."

Arissa was dejected. "Go and see who's at the door."

She reckoned that it was her children.

Arissa was right. Their voices came through the door right then.

"Mommy, are you guys done?"

Benjamin got up and edged closer to Arissa. She turned around and said, "Hurry up and open the door. Don't let them shout at the door anymore."

"Let me help you clean that up." Benjamin's thin lips curved upward.

Arissa darted away when Benjamin was already ready to wipe away the out-of-line eyeliner.

"You don't know how to do it right. I'll do it myself. Go and open the door."

Benjamin furrowed his brows in response. Seeing as she was already working on it, he was left with no other choice but to open the door for the kids.

His five sons had already changed into their suits, and they all matched Benjamin's.

Jesse's eyes gleamed at the handsome sight of Benjamin and her five brothers.

"Mr. Graham, you look quite handsome!" Jasper said. His eyes twinkled with a smile.

Benjamin arched his brow and eyed the children. "Are you guys ready?"

"Yes!" the six children hummed in unison.

Kingsley, Ethen, and Jack were still standing by the six children's bedroom door. They were amazed by Benjamin's dashing look.

Even though they were quite good-looking themselves, they knew they were mere decoys standing by Benjamin's side.

"Benjamin, you cut a dash today!"

Kingsley gave Benjamin a thumbs up.

Benjamin glanced at them and said, "Are you guys going over to Old Manor or taking a rest?"

"We're going to head to Old Manor," Kingsley, Jack, and Ethen replied.

Benjamin nodded. "Head downstairs and wait for me first."

Then, he turned around to walk back inside the room.

The six children trailed behind him. "Is Mommy ready?"

"She isn't ready yet. Why don't you guys go play aside?"

Meanwhile, Arissa was still trying to fix her eyeliner.

"Hehe. Mommy, you look so pretty. Your dress is exactly like mine!"

Jesse noticed the dress Arissa was wearing and beamed with delight. The little girl took a spin around her mother in glee.

"Mommy is a big fairy, and you're a little fairy!" Jasper uttered.

Arissa couldn't help but grin.

Jesse was over the moon as well.

"Mommy is the prettiest girl I've ever seen," Tim said in wonder.

Gavin nodded earnestly. "Me too. I've never seen a girl prettier than Mommy!"

"Of course. If Mommy's not pretty, how can we be so handsome?" Oliver retorted.

His eyes were gleaming with pride.

Amused, Zachary burst out laughing. "Mommy is a pretty lady! She's going to look great in anything!"

"Yes, yes. Mommy is a pretty lady," Jasper agreed.

Arisa was elated by her children's compliments.

"All right. Please wait for me aside. I need some more time."

Fixing an eyeliner was tedious.

Noticing that Arisa was still struggling with her eyeliner, Benjamin approached her and said, "Let me help you."

He took over the tissue and lifted her chin.

Arisa's eyelashes fluttered. "Do you really know how to?" she asked anxiously.

"Well, it's still easier for me to help you."

Benjamin cast a glance at her and immediately helped her clean up the mess.

Isn't it just cleaning up the messed-up line? Nothing difficult about that.

Benjamin carefully wiped away the error.

Their six children surrounded them and watched.

"Mommy, why did you draw out of line?"

Arisa's eyes were closed. "Your knocking startled me. My hands trembled, and I drew out of line."

"Hahaha..." the six children giggled.

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The More the Merrier Chapter 997-"Take a look and see if it's fine now." Benjamin tossed the cotton pad away and let her check the result.

Arisa opened her eyes, moved closer to the mirror, and was shocked.

She gazed at Benjamin in slight surprise. "You did a wonderful job!"

He didn't rub away the makeup on the other parts of her face or make a mess cleaning her countenance.

She truly didn't anticipate Benjamin's technique to be so good.

Benjamin leaned against the dressing table and smiled. "Do you want me to help you draw your eyebrows?"

"I think that's not necessary."

Arissa didn't believe he was skilled in that area, so she grabbed the eyeliner to touch up her makeup.

Benjamin fiddled with the eyebrow pencil while waiting for her to finish drawing her eyes. Then, he pinched her chin and turned her face toward him. "Let me draw your eyebrows."

Arissa's heart pounded rapidly and heavily against her chest as she gazed at his captivating, handsome facial features.

Benjamin focused on drawing her eyebrows meticulously.

Gavin looked at Benjamin. "Daddy, you're adept at doing this too?"

Tim was curious as well. Daddy seems to know everything. A hint of admiration flashed across his eyes.

Zachary glanced at Benjamin. "Mr. Graham, did you help other women draw their eyebrows too? Why are you so proficient in doing this?"

Staring at Benjamin, Arissa was also eager to know the answer to that question.

Benjamin swept his eyes across the kids who had gathered around. Then, he turned to Arissa and said, "That's not it."

After Arissa was momentarily stunned, her heart palpitated. "Have you really never helped other women draw their eyebrows?"

Benjamin bore his pensive eyes into hers and curved his thin lips. He was pleased to know that she cared about him.

"Which woman do you think I helped?" he teased her.

She pouted. "How would I know?"

He tapped her nose affectionately and uttered gently, "There isn't another woman. You're the only person who can enjoy this service from me."

Gavin grinned.

Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse were also delighted. "That's more like it!"

Arissa couldn't help but curl her lips into a smile. He only draws my eyebrows, but why is he so skillful? Don't tell me he used to do this to himself. "Then why are you such an expert?"

He cast a glance at her. "Putting on makeup was a technical skill taught in the army, so I learned it previously."

Hearing his explanation, Arissa was dumbfounded. "You even had to learn something like this?"

"Of course. Everyone had to wear camo makeup on their faces, especially during special training."

Benjamin described to her the things they needed to do during his special training in the past.

She nodded, but he held her face in place.

"Don't move unnecessarily," he said sternly.

She knew about the army's special training in the jungle as she had seen those scenes on television.

She even had a similar experience in doing that.

"I see. No wonder you're so skillful, Mr. Graham. Did you put on makeup for yourself all the time?" Zachary beamed at Benjamin and asked inquisitively, "Mr. Graham, why aren't you in the army anymore? It's such a privilege to become a soldier."

Benjamin's eyes glinted pensively. Sensing Zachary's interest in that subject, he asked, "Do you want to become a soldier?"

Zachary nodded aspiringly. "Who wouldn't want to become a soldier? They are so cool!"

Benjamin was pleasantly surprised. He didn't expect Zachary to be fond of that.

"Being a soldier is tough. You'll need to train every day. Do you really want that?"

“Enduring that hardship is insignificant since I can protect my homeland,” Zachary responded proudly as if he had already become a soldier.

Benjamin’s eyes shone in approval. “You can become a soldier when you get older.”

“Okay!” Zachary was overjoyed.

Arissa looked at him and smiled.

“Mr. Graham, you haven’t told me why you stopped being in the army?” Zachary stared at Benjamin intently while probing further.

“I was getting old,” Benjamin replied tersely.

Zachary wasn’t convinced. He pouted and said, “Getting old is a good thing. Those with advanced age get to become generals.”

Benjamin was amused. Zachary has such great ambition. That’s not bad.

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The More the Merrier Chapter 998-“Work hard to become a general in the future. You have my full support,” Benjamin encouraged Zachary with all seriousness instead of providing a perfunctory response.

Zachary was thrilled.

“Sweetheart, you’ll need to be exceptionally excellent to become a general. Therefore, you must study hard and ensure you don’t screw up your education,” Arissa reminded him with a smile.

“Don’t worry, Mommy. My grades will never decline.” Zachary patted his chest confidently.

“I also want to become a soldier. Is that possible?” Tim asked.

He had always thought those young men in his village who joined the army were impressive.

Arissa answered him with a soft voice, “Of course. Once you’re off age and fulfill the requirements, you can join the army.”

“Mommy, what are the requirements?”

Tim gazed at her with gleaming eyes.

“Uhm. You need to have a specific height and weight, be free from any illnesses, and not have specific scars on your body...”

After Tim heard that, the lights in his eyes dimmed. I have scars on my body. Does that mean I’m no longer qualified?

Sensing Tim’s dejection, Zachary asked, “What’s wrong?”

Arissa and Benjamin looked over and noticed Tim’s sorrowful expression. Their hearts clenched at once.

Arissa immediately turned around to hug Tim. “What’s the matter, Sweetheart?”

“Mommy, I-I’m fine,” Tim lied.

Arissa knitted her brows, and her heart ached when she sensed Tim hiding his troubles from her.

“You can talk to me. Perhaps I can give you some constructive suggestions. Your daddy and siblings are also here for you. Don’t hide your problem from us, Sweetheart. Otherwise, I will overthink and be worried about you.”

Tim glanced at her and whispered, “Mommy, I have scars on my body, so I cannot become a soldier anymore.”

She caressed and consoled him, “You’re still young. The scars will fade by the time you grow up.”

“But the scars are still there after so long.” Tim bit the corner of his lip.

“Where are the scars? Let me take a look at it.” Benjamin patted Tim’s head.

Gavin added, “Tim, I think your scars shouldn’t be an issue.”

“That’s right. I also have scars on my body!” Zachary agreed with Gavin and comforted Tim, “The scars won’t be visible when we grow up.”

Jasper patted his chest and uttered confidently, “Tim, don’t worry. I’ll help you remove the scars after I invent the medicine.”

“That’s right, Tim. Don’t be sad. Nowadays, scars can already be removed with current technology,” Jesse piped up as well.

“Let me have a look at your scars,” Benjamin asked again.

They wouldn’t know where Tim’s scars were if he didn’t tell them.

Tim sneaked a look at the others before he took off his clothes.

Arissa's throat tightened when she saw the scars of various sizes on Tim that she had never noticed previously. This child must have suffered a lot in the past.

Benjamin's gaze darkened. I didn't expect the reason Tim had always avoided letting us change his clothes to be because he was hiding these concealed scars from us.

The colors of the marks varied, and the degree of injuries sustained was also different. Tim's petite figure was riddled with scars.

Upon closer inspection, Benjamin noticed some scars had to be removed via interventions to disappear completely.

"Tim, these scars won't be visible anymore when you grow up if you remove them now. Your dream to enlist in the military won't be affected."

Tim's eyes lit up. "Really?"

"Yes. I'll never lie to you." Benjamin stroked Tim's head and explained, "These aren't problems that cannot be solved. However, you'll have to undergo scar removal therapy. Are you afraid?"

"I'm not scared. As long as I can become a soldier, I'll listen to the doctor and be compliant with the treatment." Tim was elated.

Benjamin grinned. "The treatment won't hurt. I'll talk to Mr. Bailey about this tomorrow."

Tim nodded. "Thank you, Daddy."

"You're welcome."

Benjamin caressed Tim's head. Noticing Arissa, eyes reddened, keeping quiet, he pinched her nose.

"Sit still. Your eyebrows are not done yet."

Arissa glanced at him before lowering her head to ask Tim, "Sweetheart, how did you acquire these scars? Did you fall, or—"

"Mommy, most of the kids in the village have scars because we fell by accident. Don't dwell on this." It was Tim's turn to console her.

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The More the Merrier Chapter 999-Arissa noticed Tim's injuries were not only from falling but also from bullying. Her heart twisted in pain at the thought of Tim being hit behind her back. The rim of her eyes turned red. Tears pricked the back of her eyes as she pulled him into a hug.

Suddenly, she felt a large hand gently patting her head, comforting her.

As she raised her head, her eyes locked with Benjamin's worried gaze.

"Okay, Arissa?"

Benjamin caressed her head again, hinting at her to regain her composure.

Stamping down the sadness she felt, Arissa let go of Tim.

"I'm really fine, Mommy. Don't be sad," Tim comforted her when he noticed her red-rimmed eyes.

Arissa smiled faintly before pulling him into another embrace and giving him a peck.

Guilt surged within Tim. He wouldn't have shown his injuries to Arissa if he knew it would upset her.

Benjamin patted Tim's head. "Wait downstairs for us, kids. Your mommy will take a while to finish packing."

Gavin knew Benjamin wanted to talk privately with Arissa, so he obediently led his brothers and sister out of the room.

"Tim, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, Jesse, let's head downstairs."

Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse glanced at Arissa. "Mommy, we'll be downstairs."

"Okay."

Arissa flashed her kids a smile. "You guys head down first. I'll be there in a minute."

Biting his lip, Tim looked up at her. "Mommy, don't be sad."

Arissa nodded. Gratification swept over her at his concern. "I know."

Tim studied her face intently as if to discern whether she was telling the truth.

"I'm fine," Arissa said apologetically. She felt terrible about letting the kids worry.

"Mommy, we'll wait for you and Mr. Graham downstairs."

Tim shot Benjamin a glance before he followed his brothers and sister out of the room.

Arissa's gaze trailed after the kids.

After the children left, a man's belt buckle came into her line of sight.

She tilted her head back to look.

Benjamin's gaze dropped to her. Pinching her cheek lightly, he said, "The kids will be worried about you if you act like this."

Guilt welled up within Arissa. "I can't help it."

The thought of her children suffering from being hit had her upset.

Benjamin was aware of her feelings as they reflected his.

"A little bit of hardship at his age is a good experience for him. It'll be beneficial for his growth, so think about it from the good side," Benjamin gently caressed her head as he advised.

Arissa nodded.

She straightened her back and urged, "Hurry up and help me with my makeup."

The corners of Benjamin's lips curled into a smile as he bent down to draw her eyebrows.

Looking at the curve of the eyebrow he drew, Arissa smiled at how good it was.

She couldn't resist teasing him, "Benjamin, you'll be popular if you change careers to be a makeup artist."

Benjamin arched his brow at her comment before dropping his burning gaze to meet her eyes. "Won't it be better if I'm your personal makeup artist?"

Arissa's heart softened. "Well, it looks like it's a win for me."

Such a handsome makeup artist, and he's all mine.

"Looks like? You know it's a definite win for you."

Benjamin pinched her nose playfully.

Arissa reached for her lipstick and lined her lips. She pursed her lips into a line at the end to blend the color.

“Done!”

“Wait!”

Arissa jerked her head over her shoulder to see Benjamin had a brocade box in his hand.

Opening the box, he revealed a set of expensive-looking jewelry.

“When did you prepare this?” Arissa was surprised.

“Do you like it?”

Benjamin’s intense gaze traveled around her features, not wanting to miss even a second of her expression.

Arissa nodded. “I like it, but it must have cost a lot!”

“It wasn’t that bad.”

The price was the last of Benjamin’s concerns as long as Arissa liked it. He carefully removed the diamond necklace from the box and walked over to her, helping her put it on.

When he was done, he helped her adjust its position from the front.

Arissa stroked the pendant—a strawberry-shaped ruby with diamonds embedded in it. It was stunning as it shone brightly.

“How much does it cost exactly? What happens if I lose it?”

She curiously looked at the man behind her through the mirror.

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The More the Merrier Chapter 1000-Benjamin bent over to reach for the earrings and clasped them on her earlobes. “They’re just ninety million.”

Arissa’s jaw dropped at the astronomical price. “Just ninety million?” she repeated with shock.

She swallowed the lump in her throat to calm her shock. I accept he’s filthy rich, but I still think this close to one hundred million worth of jewelry is too expensive. What should I do if I lose it outside? How many tens of thousands will I lose if I lost it?

Benjamin swept his gaze across the shock on her face. With a smile, he assured her, "It's fine if you lose it. I'll find it."

Arissa looked at him with confusion. "How are you going to find it?" she questioned.

Benjamin explained, "There's a GPS tracker in the pendant."

Arissa couldn't believe it as she lowered her gaze to the pendant. She didn't see anything unusual about it after perusing it for a while. "There's a GPS tracker in this?"

"Yes."

Benjamin was having some difficulty in helping her put on her earrings.

"Let me do it."

Arissa took them over as she slightly turned her body to the side to look into the mirror.

"I know the necklace can be found if it's lost, but what about these?"

I'm sure these earrings won't be easy to find. After all, if someone found them, they could just pocket them.

Seeing her being careful with her every movement, Benjamin uttered as he helped her with her hair, "Don't fret. I'll find them if you lose them."

The corner of Arissa's lip twitched at his unconcerned look. She figured she would lock them away after wearing them that night.

I have to keep them in a safe place. They are so expensive, but they look pretty. She checked herself in the mirror.

"Stop moving around."

Benjamin held and steadied her moving head.

Arissa flashed a smile at him and saw there was a bracelet in the box too. She took it out and examined it. The colorful ammolite was beautiful.

She put it on her wrist excitedly.

Benjamin's smile widened when he caught her fondness over the bracelet.

"I'll be heartbroken if I lose them. I'll just wear them tonight and lock them away once I return," Arissa muttered.

"Be more careful then if you're worried about losing them." Benjamin chuckled. I already told her not to worry, but she's still anxious. I shouldn't have told her the price. She's such a worrywart.

Arissa looked up and met his intense gaze. Her cheeks blushed at his straightforward gaze.

Benjamin inched closer to her. With his hands on her shoulders, he landed his burning gaze on her while looking at the mirror.

His husky voice sounded close to her ear, tugging her heartstrings.

"You're gorgeous, Honey."

Arissa's heart skipped a beat before racing madly, pounding against her chest fiercely.

Her blush darkened, adding to her beauty.

Benjamin's eyes darkened. He pulled her face close and met her lips halfway.

"My lipstick..." The rest of her words couldn't be discerned.

Arissa tried to withdraw, but he deepened the kiss.

Benjamin swooped her up into his arms and sat her on his lap. He couldn't stop after having a taste of her.

His passion was dragging her into a haze of lust. Her mind was completely blank other than the need to share his fiery feelings.

If it wasn't for the ringing of Benjamin's phone, they might continue dwelling in the passionate moment.

It was a call from Darius.

Benjamin let go of Arissa and reached for his phone.

"Dad."

Benjamin connected the call with a frown, displeased at being interrupted.

"Have you departed?"

Darius' voice rang out from the other end of the line.

Arissa was trying to slow her breathing as she rested her head against Benjamin's chest. With her being so close to the phone, she heard Darius' question, and embarrassment flooded her.

"We're leaving now," Benjamin replied.

"It's already past eight. Come over as soon as you can. You can have breakfast here if you haven't had any. Remember to get here as fast as you can. Don't dilly-dally."

After a round of urging from Darius, Benjamin finally ended the call. It sounded crowded at the other end.

As he kept his phone, a glint flashed across Benjamin's eyes. His gaze was fixed on the woman in his arms with a flushed face and red, swollen lips. The intensity burning in his gaze went up a notch.

Arissa averted her gaze.

Checking her makeup in the mirror, she noticed her lipstick was all gone, so she hurriedly retouched her lipstick.

"This is all your fault! Look, all my lipstick is gone!"