

## Unconscious 1151

### Chapter 1151

While the idea had been tempting, she couldn't quite walk down that road. Using Mitchel as a prop, especially if she couldn't accept him wholeheartedly, was unfair. It was a move that might end up wounding him.

She exhaled and typed another text: "Just kidding." Holden responded, "Quite the jest."

Navigating the chat waters with Holden after that felt like skating on thin ice, so Ariana made a few mundane comments before ending the conversation.

As she was about to set her phone aside, it buzzed with a call from Jayson. "Ariana, are you available recently? I'm in a bind and could use a hand," Jayson said, anxiety evident in his voice. "What happened?" Ariana inquired.

"I'm slated to film a parenting show, but one of the participants had a mishap during another project and is a no-show. I'm striking out left and right trying to find celebs with children. Either they're booked, or their kids are too old for our criteria. Can you swing by with Melon to join the program?"

After hearing Jayson's pitch, Ariana paused, deep in thought. Melon was still so young, and she was wary of how he might handle the limelight, especially with school right around the corner.

Sensing her reservations, Jayson said, "Look, we only need you for this one segment. We're on the hunt for another guest to take your place afterward. This gig is just for three days, so Melon's school schedule won't be affected. Plus, the music show is in five days."

Weighing Jayson's predicament, Ariana felt she could step in to help him.

Buy Me A Coffee: Dear Readers We Needs Your Support At This Time. Price Of Coffee Will Be Very Helpfull For Our Working Team. Paypall Account Given Below: [gasimmalizaf@gmail.com](mailto:gasimmalizaf@gmail.com) Make Sure Email Was Correct.

But she didn't agree immediately. "I'm okay with it, but I want to ask Melon about this. I'll loop you in soon."

"Alright, I'll wait for your reply."

Once off the phone, Ariana found Melon engrossed in playing toys.

Kneeling beside him, she ventured, "Honey, Mr. Spears has a cool TV project and wants us to be a part of it. We'd have to be away for three days. Fancy a mini adventure with Mom?"

Melon's eyes lit up. "Yep!" Always game for something new, he was onboard.

The following day, having juggled her commitments, Ariana brought Melon to the show's location.

On set, there were six celeb parent-kid duos, including them. Ariana recognized the other faces from entertainment headlines she had seen.

Melon was the youngest. And the eldest kid was eight.

Chapter 1152

With introductions done, the crew steered them to a fleet of vehicles destined for a grand farmhouse. This would be their set for the coming days.

Ariana's gaze swept over the farmhouse. It was a marvel, with age-old structures stacked like a pyramid. At the pinnacle stood a majestic villa, a relic from the previous century, whispered to be the landowner's prized possession.

Melon, awestruck yet a tad jittery, clung to Ariana as they walked around.

Suddenly, a mysterious character resembling a wizened old man sprang up and theatrically greeted them, "Hey folks! I'm your estate keeper, and I've got a juicy tidbit for y'all. This villa contains many forbidden areas, especially the third floor. Legend has it that there's a creature up there who wanted to

lock up and eat the nosy kids and adults. A handful have vanished in times gone by. So, kiddos, steer clear of floor number three.”

Melon, unsettled by the story, sought refuge behind Ariana. Ariana soothingly whispered, “Don’t worry. There are plenty of rooms here.

We don’t have to stay in that villa.”

As she spoke, the host beckoned everyone for the room draw.

Given Melon’s tender age, they were given the honor of drawing first.

Hand in hand, Ariana and Melon approached the container, drawing a slip each and presenting them to the host.

Adramatic pause later, the host proclaimed, “Well, isn’t this a turn of events? You two have landed the mountaintop villa!” Handing the key to a slightly overwhelmed Melon, the host added with a playful smirk, “Remember, tread carefully, and steer clear of the third floor!”

Melon looked up at Ariana with wide, anxious eyes. The two exchanged a look of shared astonishment and mild concern. Upon entering the venue, Ariana and her son followed the show's itinerary without comment.

The celebrity contestants were diverse, although fathers slightly outnumbered the mothers. Many challenges set up by the production team were designed to test physical prowess, such as fish-catching races. According to the rules, the individual who achieved the objective first would gain priority access to the ingredients for dinner. Given the limited quantity and variety of these ingredients, those who were last might face sparse meals.

Initially, the fathers, overflowing with confidence, felt they had an edge in these survival-themed challenges. They all assumed Ariana and her son would be the last.

However, Ariana surprised them all. Her capability to do outdoor tasks was evident, matching her strength with the men and demonstrating grace in her actions.

Angela's Library

Thanks to her fitness routine as a single mother managing a Lively child, she found the challenges relatively easy, consistently securing first place.

One contestant, actor Remy Dixon, grew increasingly frustrated. He was a tall figure with a physique that often typecast him as a menacing antagonist. Some of the younger contestants were even hesitant around him.

Upon witnessing Ariana's consistent lead, he snapped, "She's got to have better equipment! How else can she keep beating everyone?"

Ariana, maintaining her composure, merely chuckled. Handing over her tools, she offered, "Let's swap and see if that's truly the case."

Though he scoffed, Remy agreed. But as the subsequent challenge kicked off, Ariana once again surpassed everyone effortlessly.

Chapter 1153

Remy, watching her victory, was consumed by bitterness. His frustration was apparent, especially at being bested on camera by someone he had underestimated.

Ariana took a fleeting look at the evidently frustrated Remy.

She mused that petulance wasn't going to alter the outcome or make up for his shortcomings. His persistent bottom ranking seemed fitting given his outlook.

Seeing Ariana confidently walk away, Remy ground his teeth, muttering resentfully. His young son, eyes filled with confusion, remarked, "Dad, didn't you promise you'd win this one?"

A surge of anger flashed across Remy's face, and he shot his son a stern look.

After wrapping up the outdoor activities, as dusk painted the sky, the contestants retreated to their accommodations to prepare their evening meals. Despite his consistently poor performance, the compassionate contestants shared some of their ingredients with Remy, ensuring he wouldn't have to face hunger.

Remy replayed the day's defeats in his head, each scene magnifying his embarrassment. Ariana's effortless victories in the challenges were like salt in his open wounds.

Blinded by malice, he hatched a plan. When he noticed the camera crew taking a break, he stealthily made his way to the villa's main electrical breaker box. Ensuring no one was watching, he forcefully toggled the master switch, leaving Ariana's villa in darkness.

Inside, Ariana had just completed preparing dinner and was about to summon Melon to dine when an eerie silence followed by complete darkness enveloped them.

She hesitated briefly, pondering if this was an unexpected twist by the show's organizers, but the absence of the crew dispelled that notion.

Melon, seated at the kitchen table, looked around curiously.

Using her phone as a makeshift torch, Ariana tried to keep the mood light. "It seems this old villa has a whimsical electrical system."

ninjanovel.com After ensuring Melon was safe and calm, she cautiously ventured outside to check the breaker box. The main breaker seemed to be intentionally disconnected. Ariana attempted to reset it but found it strangely resistant.

While investigating the vicinity for clues, she noticed unmistakably large adult footprints in the soft mud.

Joining the dots, Ariana had a strong inkling about the mischief-maker. Suppressing her frustration, she resolved to alert the production team to handle the matter. But just as she was about to make the call, an alarming shriek echoed from the villa.

“Melon!” Heart racing with panic, Ariana immediately abandoned her earlier quest, rushing back to the source of the distressing cry.

Ariana barely reached the entrance when Melon burst out from the main hall, flashlight in hand and tears streaming. He latched onto Ariana, his voice shaking. “Mommy, there’s a monster!”

Chapter 1154

Ariana had brushed off the earlier tales as simple theatrics meant to entertain the audience.

But seeing Melon's genuine fear made her second-guess herself.

Holding Melon close, Ariana soothed him, saying, “It’s alright.

Mommy’s here, and there’s no such thing as monsters.”

Still, Melon’s teary eyes darted toward the stairs. “It was there, Mommy.”

ninjanovel.com

Melon’s grip around Ariana’s neck tightened, his small body shaking with fear. “Mommy, let’s leave. I’m scared.” Ariana, known for her unwavering courage, gently stroked Melon’s back.

“It's alright, sweetie,” she whispered. “Mommy's here.”

Confident in the notion that the program crew wouldn’t put them in genuine danger, Ariana aimed her flashlight toward the stairs, finding nothing out of the ordinary.

“Look, Melon,” Ariana said, trying to soothe him. “There’s nothing there.”

However, as the words left her mouth, an unexpected muffled cough echoed from the staircase, followed by rhythmic thumping, reminiscent of someone tapping the floor with a rod.

A wave of unease washed over Ariana, causing her to pull Melon closer. She wondered if the production team had added an unexpected twist to their stay. Was it possible that something malevolent lurked in the villa?

Pushing aside her trepidation and reminding herself of her rational beliefs, she took a deep breath, ready to confront whatever or whoever was causing the disturbance.

Suddenly, a gust of wind rattled the door, casting tree shadows into the room and enhancing its eeriness.

The unsettling sounds from the stairwell intensified, growing steadily louder. The dim light filtering from the outside revealed the silhouette of Ariana and Melon and an ominously stooped figure slowly approaching from the stairs.

Melon, terror evident in his voice, cried out, "The monster! It's here!"

Doing her best to remain composed, Ariana called out firmly, "Enough of this! Whoever's behind this prank, show yourself!" Although Ariana projected strength, inside, anxiety gnawed at her.

Eyes locked on the stairwell's corner, she remained rigid, unwilling to move an inch.

Suddenly, an unexpected touch on her shoulder caused her to shriek.

Ariana swiftly pulled Melon close. Melon's terror was evident, the boy echoing Ariana's fear, wailing, "Help! The monster's got us!"

The room echoed with the combined screams of Ariana and her son.

Amidst the chaos, a voice attempted to pierce the commotion. "Enough!

Please, stop screaming."

But Ariana's panic drowned out any semblance of reason. Holding Melon, her eyes clenched shut, their cries continued unabated.

Suddenly, with a click, the room was bathed in Light. Yet, the screams persisted.

Someone then hurried over, giving Ariana a brisk shake. Recognizing Ariana, the person's voice dripped with both astonishment and relief.

"Madam! It's you!"

Chapter 1155

Hearing a voice she recognized, Ariana's screams faded to silence.

She opened an eye tentatively.

The lights were on. She sharpened her focus and recognized Judy standing there.

Bewildered, Ariana took a moment before reacting.

Her gaze landed on the stairs, and there stood an older man. It was Rodney.

So, no monsters or ghosts.

Gathering herself, Ariana stood, still clutching Melon, and greeted them.

Melon, his eyes still glistening with fresh tears, seemed lost. He simply echoed Ariana's greeting, looking rather pitiful.



Judy's eyes landed on Melon, and her heart melted. The child, all rosy cheeks and innocence, was clearly related to Theodore. Unable to resist, Judy asked, "Can I hold him?"

"Sure thing." With a smile, Ariana passed Melon to Judy. Holding Melon close, Judy gently dried his tears, murmuring comforting words.

Rodney's throaty cough stole everyone's attention. With a pointed look at Judy, he asked, "Do the two of you have a history?" Judy replied, "Yeah, Miss Edwards used to be my boss before." Rodney responded with a simple nod and didn't press further.

He was aware Judy once worked for the Anderson family and had caught wind of the drama they faced five years back.

The Anderson family had hit rock bottom, and Rodney wasn't keen on dredging up those heavy memories. Furthermore, chatter about the Anderson family was now rare in Eleymond. Rodney motioned for Ariana to sit. They started chatting.

It turned out this vast estate was Rodney's. With the years stacking up and with his family often out and about, he found fun in adding some zest to his mansion. So, he lent it to the show's crew, watching them from the third floor.

It was quite a coincidence that Ariana and her son were the ones staying at this villa.

Chapter 1156

Just then, a bodyguard walked in.

"Someone messed with the circuit breaker. Want us to find out who?"

Rodney didn't answer and looked at Ariana.

With a history of seeing behind-the-scenes shenanigans, he saw this little trick as insignificant.

“Did you tick someone off?” he asked Ariana.

Ariana had her suspicions but brushed it off with a grin.

“Let's not make a mountain out of a molehill. It's one episode for me. No need for a big scene.”

Taking the cue, Rodney let it be.

Meanwhile, Judy was busy cheering up Melon. Her joy echoed a bit louder than the rest, catching Rodney's occasional glance.

Ariana felt they might have interrupted Rodney's peace and considered gathering Melon to make a quiet exit. Before she could say anything, Rodney's deep voice broke the silence.

“Hey there, kiddo. Come here. Feels like ages since | last saw this little rascal.”

“But I'm a sweet kid!” Melon said, with all the attitude a toddler could muster, his tiny hands on his hips. Nonetheless, he hopped down from Judy and made his way to Rodney.

Rodney, often known for his stern expressions, couldn't help but smile at Melon. He said, “Oh, you've turned into a sweet kiddo now, huh? Get closer, and let me have a look.”

Melon giggled and got closer to Rodney.

Rodney laughed, lifting Melon and giving his belly a playful tickle. Their laughter was infectious.

Watching the duo, Ariana felt a mix of shock and amusement. She had never seen the usually stoic Rodney warm up to anyone this quickly.

Then again, Melon had that effect on people, a fact that made Ariana's heart swell.

As the night grew darker, Melon had clearly charmed Rodney. Holding onto Rodney's leg, Melon asked, "Can | have a sleepover in your room?"

Holding back a smile, Ariana responded, "What if you give him those famous flying kicks of yours when you're asleep?"

Chapter 1157

She was well-aware of Melon's energetic sleep routine.

But Rodney simply shrugged it off.

"Let him. A little company wouldn't hurt."

Seeing the bond, Ariana just nodded. With a happy Melon in tow, Rodney headed upstairs.

Up in the vast bedroom on the third floor, Melon, wearing his pajamas, snuggled in a cozy chair. Rodney, next to him, tried reading from a storybook, but the print gave his eyes trouble.

Spotting this, Melon said, "How about | read it to you?"

Melon, holding onto his beloved book, spun a vivid tale, adding his own twist with hilarious voices for each character. He got on his feet for the thrilling bits, making Rodney chuckle.

As Melon animatedly narrated, Rodney's thoughts drifted to memories of his own son Amiri when he was young. That old, deep ache in his heart resurfaced; a pain he never quite got over.

Once Melon's eyelids became heavy and sleep took over, Rodney made sure he was tucked in tight. He then moved to the neighboring sitting room, looking through dusty photo albums. Flipping through, he found a picture of his son, so young, so alive. Tears welled up as he whispered, "Oh, Amiri. Today, | met a boy who's a spitting image of you."

One photo showed a Little boy, eerily similar to Melon.

Right then, Judy walked in, holding a sweater for Rodney. Catching the wetness in his eyes, she approached. Rodney pointed to the picture.

“Doesn't Melon look just like my Amiri?” Looking closely, Judy nodded, a shiver running down her spine.

“There's a strong likeness. | guess there's something universal about beautiful children.”

They kept flipping pages, immersing in memories.

Suddenly, a baby picture caught Judy's eye.

Atiny tot in just a diaper lay on her side, flaunting a unique pink birthmark on her Lower back. That birthmark seemed familiar. Judy frowned.

“Sir, who's the baby in this photo?”

Chapter 1158

Rodney sighed heavily, his eyes filled with grief as he stared at the photograph in his hands. “She's my granddaughter,” he said, his voice heavy with sorrow.

“Years ago, my son, his wife, and their 2-year-old daughter fell victim to an ambush by my enemies seeking revenge. My son and his wife were killed on the spot, and their little girl disappeared in the chaos. For years, | searched tirelessly for her, even confronting the culprits and asking for any information about her. But they callously claimed they had taken my granddaughter's life with their own hands.”

Rodney's voice trembled with anguish as he recounted the tragic events.

Judy, moved by his heart-wrenching story, offered words of comfort and refrained from probing further. In the dimly lit room, Ariana lay awake, restlessly shifting in her bed.

The vast room felt unfamiliar and lonely. The fear from earlier still lingered within her.

Exhausted but unable to find sleep, Ariana tossed and turned. Her frustration grew as she pulled the blanket over her head in resignation. She squeezed her eyes shut, attempting to will herself to sleep, but her efforts only made her feel more awake.

With a resigned sigh, she reached for her phone.

She scrolled aimlessly, hoping to find someone else who might be awake for a chat. Almost instinctively, her fingers moved toward her chat box with Holden.

Ariana hesitated briefly, reminding herself not to contact him again.

However, just before she could close the chat box, a new message from Holden appeared. "Are you asleep?"

Ariana contemplated ignoring it. But after a moment's thought, she replied with a simple emoji.

To her surprise, Holden immediately called her. Ariana hesitated briefly before accepting the call.

"Why aren't you asleep yet?" Holden's voice, both comforting and familiar, held a note of concern.

"Insomnia," Ariana replied briefly. An awkward silence settled between them.

Attempting to break the silence, Ariana asked, "And you?"

"Insomnia," Holden echoed. Then, without hesitation, he added, "Hey, I want to show you something. Can you do video?"

Ariana murmured yes. Holden switched to video mode, revealing a starry night sky before panning to a cityscape at night.

Chapter 1159

Ariana recognized Holden was in the tallest Ferris wheel in Eleymond.

Though both were aware of each other's intentions by now, Holden kept his face hidden, preserving the delicate pretense that still hung between them. Ariana chose not to say anything about it.

In that quiet moment, they both silently appreciated the night view together. After a prolonged moment of silence, Ariana gently asked, "Are you feeling down?" Holden responded with a soft, affirmative sound before opening up.

"I've been experiencing a sense of disorientation lately. It's as if I'm navigating a vast maze with my eyes blindfolded. I used to think I had it all figured out, but now I realize I know nothing at all.

I can't even distinguish between what's real and what's fake." "Sometimes, the line between reality and illusion blurs," Ariana offered.

The two continued their candid conversation late into the night, sharing their thoughts and experiences from both the past and the present.

ANGELA'S LIBRARY As Ariana gradually grew drowsy while talking to Holden, she succumbed to sleep, comforted by the soothing sound of his voice.

Listening to her steady breathing over the phone, Holden chuckled softly but chose not to end the call. He kept it connected as he returned home and placed his phone on the table. Then, he went to take a shower.

Meanwhile, Sadie sneaked into the bedroom wearing provocative lingerie. To her delight, she found Holden in the shower and decided to enhance the mood by pouring some wine.

While fetching the glasses, Sadie noticed Holden's phone still engaged in a call.

Who could Holden be talking to at this hour?

Sadie's eyebrows knit together, curiosity piqued. She reached for Holden's phone, but before her fingers could graze it, she felt a sharp tug on her collar, yanking her backward.

Startled, she spun around to meet Holden's frosty stare. He quickly ended the call and slipped his phone into his pocket.

"Why are you snooping in my room?" His voice was frostier than a winter morning.

Trying to play it cool, Sadie glided her fingers suggestively down her neck. But Holden didn't bite. Instead, he took a step back, making sure to keep his distance.

"If you don't have any legit reason to be here, you should leave," he said, his voice dripping with detachment.

Feeling cornered, Sadie played her trump card. She jangled the bracelet on her wrist, letting it shimmer in the dim light.

Chapter 1160

"I stumbled upon this while cleaning today. You remember gifting it to me for my birthday five years back, right?"

Holden eyed the bracelet, taking it off of her and examining it carefully, seemingly lost in thought.

Sadie's heart raced as Holden's unflinching gaze bored into her. She hadn't banked on him examining the bracelet so closely. In an attempt to lighten the atmosphere, she chuckled, a tad too breezily.

"Funny, I was heartbroken thinking I'd lost this gift from you. Finding it again feels like, I don't know, destiny or something?"

She fell silent, noticing that Holden's attention was solely on the bracelet. It was as if her words had fallen on deaf ears. The drawn-out silence made her more anxious, but at last, Holden broke it with his words.

“This design? It’s from a collection that was out about three years ago. How did five years suddenly shrink to three?” Holden said, his voice light but his gaze piercing. Without waiting for Sadie to respond, he handed the bracelet back, pressing it into her trembling hand.

ninjanovel.com

“If you aim to deceive me, you’ll need a better act than that,” Holden added.

Sadie’s heart raced.

She had chosen that bracelet from a nondescript brand that had gone bankrupt and vanished from the market the previous year.

She had assumed it would be safe, thinking Holden wouldn’t recognize or care to investigate such an obscure item. But to her dismay, he did.

All her rehearsed explanations dissolved. She was caught off guard, unable to form a coherent response.

Holden looked at her, his expression chilly.

“Has life been too easy for you of late, making you careless? Or do you simply enjoy parading your schemes before me?” Sadie’s palms grew clammy. She couldn’t bring herself to meet his piercing gaze and fought to maintain her composure. “What are you insinuating?”

Holden didn’t bother to engage further.

“I have little patience for deceit. Reflect on your actions.”

With that, he turned sharply and left the room, leaving a shaken Sadie grappling with her mounting anxiety.



Sadie paced, replaying his enigmatic words. What had he discovered?

Torn with uncertainty, she made her way to her own room, craving its solace.

But once there, she felt no relief. An unsettling feeling gnawed at her. She needed to speak to Zayden. After a few rings, Zayden's nonchalant voice came through the phone.

"yihat's up?"

In arush, Sadie said, "Holden's onto something. | need your help now more than ever. I'll do whatever it takes!"