

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 1678-1682

Chapter 1678 Love

What?

I couldn't help but widen my eyes in surprise at his unexpected answer. Shouldn't he try his best to steer clear of it? Why did he admit to it right away? Did he no longer want to maintain the children's impressions of him?

Summer, on the other hand, was relatively calm. She listened to it silently without giving any opinions as though she would only have to accept it and didn't plan to judge him from the morality aspect.

In the end, she didn't care much about us. It proved that to her, Ashton and I were merely someone related to her by blood. Aside from that, we were no different from the outsiders. Hence, the issue of our relationship wasn't enough to cause her to lose her composure.

As the realization washed over me, I didn't know if I should be glad.

The house fell into a dead silence for half a minute before Ashton's low voice finally sounded. "She's my deceased friend's sister. I've always treated her as my biological sister, but I've cut ties with her now since she keeps crossing the lines and hurt your mom multiple times."

Summer remained silent even after that. However, judging from her expression, she did pay heed to his explanation.

Ashton then curved his lips and asked with an implicative tone, "You don't believe it?"

Eventually, Summer shook her head. "I do."

After pausing briefly, she raised her eyes and added, "I'll make her pay for what she'd done today."

"Okay." Ashton nodded. When something came to his mind in the next second, he remarked casually, "Ask the assistant to adjust your schedule. I need you to accompany us to J City tomorrow."

"All right," Summer blurted. After giving it a thought, she found his request inappropriate and voiced her concern. "But I'm afraid that if I'm away for a long time right after such a big deal happened to the club, they would..."

Yet, before she could finish her words, Ashton shook his index finger, cutting in, "Rest assured. Since they've achieved their goal already, they won't make a move for now. Thus, go ahead and make the arrangement."

"Got it. I'll do it right away." With that said, she bowed and left the room, not forgetting to close the door behind.

Once her footsteps receded away, I nudged him and asked, "Why are we going back to J City?"

With a hint of amusement in his eyes, he asked in return, "What do you think?"

Our hometown, J City, was full of our old acquaintances as well. Since Summer didn't live there for a long time and was still so young back then, she would most probably harbor no feelings toward it. In that case, there would leave only one possibility, and that was Macy.

"Indeed, we should be visiting her soon." Instantly, the realization caused a lump in my throat. Then, I lowered my eyes and continued mumbling under my breath, "And Grandpa as well. Audrey and Gregory haven't been to his tombstone yet."

Indeed, all the important people in my life got buried there.

At the thought of that, I couldn't help but realize how small and insignificant life was. It was like holding a handful of sand when we wanted to grab on something dearly. The stronger we tightened our grip, the faster we lost it.

When a barrage of emotions welled up, they were written all over my face.

Immediately, Ashton pulled me into his embrace. He then squeezed my shoulder twice with his large hand and comforted me, "As long as we are doing well, they'll be happy for us."

Despite knowing that he was attempting to console me, I couldn't help but feel emotional. As I leaned onto his chest, I sighed. "If it's possible, I want to return to how we were in the past. Even though we didn't love each other that much that time, at least everyone was still alive. They would not be the passerby in our lives that would disperse as soon as the wind blow."

Hearing that, Ashton took in a deep breath, causing his chest to rise and fall intensely. "You can only hold grudges against me then."

I got up and raised my head to look at his chin. "What nonsense are you talking about again? Didn't we make a promise before to never talk about what Nicolas Hall had caused before? So, why are you blaming yourself again?"

"That's not what I meant." Ashton chuckled. He then put his hand at the back of my head and pushed me back into his embrace. Gently, he brushed over my hair as he uttered, "It's because I can't bring myself to love you any lesser. Otherwise, we'll end up so much different today."

At his words, I felt calm washed through me at once.

Chapter 1679 Reunion

Perhaps he was right. Life and death were a part of nature, and everything had its destined fate. Should there be any wrong step in between, we would never be able to feel each other's warmth and heartbeat as what we were doing now.

Only after visiting the seniors of the Fullers and Winona did we depart to Macy's cemetery.

After years in and years out, the black-and-white photo of Macy at her best age at the tombstone remained undamaged.

Instantaneously, countless memories welled up inside my heart. I walked over, put the flower in my hand down, and crouched down. Then, I extended my hand to touch the tombstone with the hope of being able to feel her warmth again by doing so.

As I looked at the photo, I started to mumble uncontrollably, "It's been so long since I last visited you. I bet you must be mad at me, right? You should stay safe and live well in the other world. Stop worrying

about me. Ashton's nice to me, and we have got a pair of adorable twins now. I'm sure that you'll like them once you meet them."

At the mention of the children, I raised my head to look at Summer before continuing, "Summer is fine as well. She's a Math genius and has started her business now. In the future, she'll surely be a lady boss of the bar that is much younger than you."

I sniffled to suppress my tears from rolling down my face. Next, I beckoned Summer to come over. "Come closer, Summer. Let Macy have a good look at you. Do you still remember that I brought you here when you were younger?"

"Yes." Summer nodded before approaching me and putting down the white Lily in her hands.

When she raised her head to look at the photo, a rare gentle smile bloomed on her face. Calmly and naturally, she continued, "I've never forgotten about it."

If Macy heard her remarks, she would surely feel comforted. Even if Macy couldn't live in Summer's memory as her mother, Macy would always have a special place in her heart.

Perhaps it was the telepathy between the mother and her daughter. After a mere two seconds, Summer touched the photo subconsciously and said absentmindedly, "Mommy, do I look a lot like Aunt Macy?"

I blurted out, "You do. You're basically a replica of her. When you were first born to this world, she adores you a lot, even making you her goddaughter. In fact, nothing is wrong if you call her mom."

Indeed, Macy had the right to hear Summer addressing her that.

Of course, it would solely depend on Summer's decision, as I couldn't force her into that. Moreover, I didn't want to hurt her by telling her about the old days. After all, those memories were too burdened for her.

Yet, surprisingly, Summer accepted my words without resisting.

As she cast her eyes on the photo, a smile lingered on her face, not fading even after quite some time. With a hint of wariness in her gentle voice, she called out, "Mommy, I'm here to visit you. Are you glad to see me?"

Despite the only reply she got was an endless silence, it was still a heartwarming sight to behold. How fortunate was the mother to reunite with her daughter to know that she was doing fine?

Macy could finally rest in peace down there.

At that moment, Ashton, who remained silent the entire time while standing beside, said suddenly in a low voice, "You've grown up and soon will have to stand on your own, so it wouldn't be appropriate if you keep bringing your teacher along with you as you go around. The others would mock you for being a dependent child. I've decided for you and dismissed Mr. Cress. He would be leaving to Epea by taking the flight this afternoon and won't come back anymore in the future."

Before I could come to my senses at the sudden news, Summer sprang up in a panic. With a flustered look, she stood rooted to the spot in a dilemma.

She was able to remain expressionless when the police stormed into the club before, yet, at Ashton's announcement, she frowned with her emotions written all over her face.

A few seconds later, Summer finally noticed Ashton's stare at her. The moment her eyes met with his, surprise gleamed across her eyes. Only after that did she attempt to control her emotions subconsciously.

Eventually, after a great effort, she managed to revert to her calm, obedient self.

However, it was futile. When she tried to find an excuse to slip away, she accidentally exposed her real inner thought once again.

“Daddy, I just remembered that I’ve something important that needs to be settled today in Wenville, so I want to leave first. Can I?”

Chapter 1680 She Knows

Summer was bold and honest as she said that. However, she instantly deflated upon meeting Ashton’s sharp and intelligent eyes after she ended her words.

Even I was scared by his look. Thinking that there was a misunderstanding between them, I immediately stood up and held his arm to get the situation in control. “Please, speak properly. Don’t scare the child.”

Yet, he seemed to not hear what I said. Instead, his eyes were glued on Summer the entire time as though he planned to see through her cover.

As the time ticked by, Summer finally admitted defeat. Looking dejected, she lowered her head.

“When did you know about it?” Ashton asked coldly.

“What?” I was perplexed and was still clueless after shifting my gaze from Summer to him.

Summer, on the other hand, drooped her head lower as she attempted to change the topic. “What do you mean? Are we done visiting all the deceased? If so, I want to go back first. After what had happened to the club yesterday, I don’t want an accident to also occur in Wenville, so can you let me off?”

“Up to this point, are you sure you want to keep being obstinate?” However, Ashton was persistent and didn’t plan to drop the matter at ease.

Even though I felt that he was being too overbearing, I couldn’t help but notice something was off. Thus, I chose to stand aside to see what Ashton planned to do next.

Nonetheless, Summer knew how I could sway Ashton’s decision at ease. Therefore, when she failed to persuade him, she changed her target to me.

“Mommy, both Wenville and the club are my businesses. I believe that you’ll support me, right?”

“Of course.” Without hesitation, I nodded in agreement. When I snapped back to my senses in the next second, I paused briefly before adding, “But your dad isn’t an unreasonable person. Judging from his serious look, he might really have something he needs to discuss with you. Although your businesses are important, your family should be your priority. So, why don’t you listen to what he plans to say first?”

Hearing that, Summer knitted her brows further, knowing that we wouldn’t change our minds at that point.

I felt sorry upon taking in how distressed she was. Hence, I urged Ashton to quickly ask his questions to spare her from this awkward situation, “You always stop speaking halfway recently. Summer might be independent, but she’s still not an adult yet. Don’t treat her the same as you treat your business partner. It’s quite a hassle to guess your words, so why don’t you be straightforward and spit it out already?”

He seemed to be considering my advice as he narrowed his eyes.

Sadly, he decided to dismiss my words after a moment of consideration. When he once again opened his mouth, his voice still sounded cold.

While pointing at Macy's tombstone, he inquired, "Do you really not recognize the person lying there?"

At that, Summer's expression turned even bitter. The silence went on for a few more seconds before she suddenly bowed at us. "I'm sorry, Daddy and Mommy. I'll need to return to K City now."

With that said, she turned around and left. Her footsteps grew faster as she walked farther and farther away from us.

Just before she started to run, Ashton suddenly raised his voice, yelling, "Jared Crest doesn't plan to leave! No one is going to leave!"

As soon as his remarks ended, Summer halted in her tracks but refused to turn around.

Ashton took in a deep breath. Next, with a hint of helplessness, his attractive voice sounded in the quiet cemetery. "Just because Scarlett isn't your biological mother, no matter how good she does, you always keep your distance. Yet, when it comes to him, you lose your composure the moment you know that he's going to leave you. Summer Stovall, do you really feel no guilt at all?"

Worried that he would reveal the incident years ago, I quickly tugged at him with a disapproving look. "Ashton Fuller! Do you know what you're saying now?"

After saying that, my mind went blank for two seconds before the realization hit me hard. Dumbfoundedly, I turned to look at Summer, asking, "Y-You knew?"

Ashton would never say something he wasn't sure of. Hence, it could only mean that Summer had really known about her identity.

To hide what happened between Macy and Jared from her is a silent rule that everyone obeys. In that case, who is the one that wastes all our efforts?

Before Summer could answer him, he reminded again, "If you still acknowledge us as your parents, you better be honest."

Chapter 1681 Explain

He was too overbearing. Previously, I would have already taken Summer's side and gone against him. Yet, at that point, I could only frown as I waited silently for the way everything would turn out later.

Fortunately, Summer's true nature was a kind girl. Knowing that we wouldn't hurt her intentionally, she decided to reveal to us her secret obediently.

"Two years ago, Mr. Cress accompanied me to the entrance ball of my college. Everyone who saw us together thought that he was my father. I'd never examined our looks, but from that day onward, a seed of suspicion got planted in my mind."

She then abruptly stopped as though she felt bad about it.

However, even if she didn't finish her words, what happened afterward was predictable.

With her strong talent in Math, she started to recall how Jared stuck close to her all the time. As a result, everything Jared did before, which she thought was the care from a teacher, had evolved into the hidden affection from a father.

Silence enveloped the cemetery. The three of us stood in front of Macy's tombstone, lost for words.

A long while later, I finally managed to regain my composure. I struggled to appear calm as I tried to talk to Summer. "How much do you know?"

Feeling that the question was a bit inappropriate after giving it a thought, I rephrased it. "Tell us everything that you know."

I believed that with Summer's intelligence, she could find out the truth with ease. However, there was always a possibility that Jared would take advantage and twist the truth. To help her out, I had to know the process of her investigation.

Summer nodded calmly. "I only took his and my hair to conduct a paternity test. That was the only thing that I did. He doesn't even know that I've found out that he's my biological father."

"That's all?" I breathed a sigh of relief inwardly at her answer. It's better than what I imagined.

She repeated my words as she continued, "That's all. I know that there is a reason for Mr. Cress and the both of you to hide the truth from me, so I don't dare to investigate it publicly. I didn't want you to worry."

"Do you think that we won't be worrying now?" Ashton spoke coldly, clearly reprimanding her.

I could understand his feeling. After all, he had been through the same before, getting torn by the biological relationship that he couldn't make his own decision. How could he not be upset now that Summer was going to take the same path, isolating and distancing herself from us because of Jared?

"Let me talk to her." I intentionally lower my voice, hoping to comfort him.

Thankfully, he chose to do me a favor, turned around, and stepped aside to give us time to converse.

Peace washed over me as I gazed at his muscular back. When I turned around to take in Summer's darkened face, I decided to take my time instead of starting the conversation right away.

After staring at Macy's photo for two seconds, I bent down and sat on the stairs beside her tombstone to pretend that we were sitting side by side.

By doing so, it was as though Macy was present beside me at that instant. The thought caused a sincere smile to crawl onto my face. I then cast my eyes down and mumbled, "Your daughter isn't a bit like you at all. She's so good at keeping secrets, even managing to keep me in the dark."

Summer didn't react as she remained standing silently at the side. However, her rolling eyes gave her away, proving that she was in deep thought at the moment.

Seeing that, I changed my tone to make it more targeting, as I wanted to get her attention this time. "I'm such a disqualified adoptive mother that she didn't dare to call you mom in front of me. What a failure. Don't you think so, Macy?"

At last, Summer didn't stay indifferent anymore as she muttered in comfort, "Mommy, it isn't like that. You treat me well. I'm the one..."

She seemed to be suffering. Yet, no words could describe her feeling at the instant, so she could only shut her mouth after a while of struggling with her words.

After treating her as my biological daughter for years, how could I feel good when she was sad?

Anyways, whoever had started the trouble should end it. Perhaps only the truth could smooth out all the uncontrollable variables.

Hence, I said, "I'll tell you everything that happened in the past in front of your mother today."

Chapter 1682 The Truth

"From my perspective, the process of falling in love between Jared and Macy had always been a meticulously-designed scheme. Initially, I thought that you were a product of their drunken stupor that one night. After all, an accident was inevitable when two adults satisfied their needs. I was fully supportive of Macy of her decision to give birth to you since she wanted to have a child of her own."

Then, I said, "I got her belonging from the lawyer after she was dead, and through her WhatsApp chat history, I found that Jared had already taken the initiative to acquaint himself with her back when I first knew Ashton. Yet, they had never mentioned it throughout the years. Do you know that the reason Jared stayed by Ashton's and my side previously was to take revenge on us? Thus, it was apparent why he approached Macy. His principle was that he would do whatever it took to achieve his goal. It wasn't righteous but wasn't enough to be disdainful as well."

After taking a deep breath, I said, "The most despicable thing was his trampling on Macy. Just like me, she was an orphan. What orphans craved the most was the sense of security. Jared's appearance was like a ray of light in Macy's life. He appeared when her classmates gave her a hard time, supported her every decision, and contributed half to her dream and the money to open the bar. He was such a fine man, yet he treated Macy, who was merely an ordinary woman, with immeasurable gentleness. Moreover, he was never absent in every crucial stage of her life. Despite not having a proper status, she was willing to dwell on the continuous companionship."

Slowly, I continued, "For Macy, they would still be as close as before when he stood in front of her after not meeting for a long time. However, he didn't want their firstborn. Macy listened to his words, aborted the baby, and crushed her hopes. From that day onward, she knew there was no future between them. Unfortunately, Jared took that incident as proof of her unwavering love for him that she could even give up on her child for him. He was sure that Macy would do everything for him. Finally, he exposed himself, his purpose, and the impurity of their relationship in front of her. When she asked him to give up on his revenge, he refused, and they ended up splitting their ways."

Rage surged through me as I went on, "If it ended here and he let Macy off, I would still be willing to regard him as a man. Nevertheless, since then, he started to torture her. He was always a scum in front of her. Again and again, he slept with her while calling out to another woman. Since he couldn't be happy, he wanted her to drown in sadness with him by destroying Macy's happiness as well. As for you, do you remember the time when you had a major illness? You nearly lost your life that time, and it was all because of him. He had kidnapped you and trapped you in the chemical plant, inflicting physical and mental torment on you. Moreover, he even destroyed hundreds of innocent families for his opinionated truth."

At that, I let out a deep breath and licked my dried lips. Then, I looked up at Summer with a bitter smile plastered on my face. "Now, do you still want to get close to him? Do you still want to keep him close to your side?"

Summer pressed her lips together and looked up for a long time as she immersed herself in her thought.

Indeed, how could she accept it with ease in such a short time when a father-like figure suddenly became the culprit who caused her mother's death and hurt her?

At such a moment, she would feel better to have some alone time.

"You try to calm yourself down. If you have any questions later, feel free to ask me anytime. Regardless of who your biological mother is, you would forever be my daughter and always be one of the Fullers."

I inhaled sharply to compose myself. Then, I walked toward Ashton, preparing to ask him to leave the cemetery together.

However, he seemed to be listening to our conversation the entire time. Before I could say something, he turned around and wrapped an arm around my shoulder. His lips curved upward as comfort before reverting to the original position.

He then looked at Summer and said, "I still have high hopes for you, so please don't disappoint us."

With that said, he motioned me to leave with him. Without resisting, I followed behind him and left.