

When There Is Nothing Left But Love

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I walked over and he pulled me down onto the bed beside him. He murmured, "I thought we were going to sleep in separate beds?"

"Huh, you're right." I stood up and continued expressionlessly, "Well, you have a good night's sleep then!"

With that said, I made to leave. His hand darted out to grab my arm as he complained, "Were your ancestors mules? Why do you have to be so stubborn?"

"You only realize that now?" I retorted while scowling at him.

Letting out a frustrated sigh, he reeled me back to the bed and pushed me down beside him. He pecked my forehead lightly, uttering, "Go to sleep now. You shouldn't be staying up so late."

His palm landed on my belly before he added lowly, "It's not good for him if you don't sleep."

It was not like I did not know that. But the problem was that a lot of the time, I could not control my emotions. That was the reason for the sleepless nights.

He settled down beside me, gesturing for me to close my eyes and sleep.

I lay there for a good long while. Even after shifting my position several times, sleep eluded me. I was uncomfortable, tired, and annoyed. At last, I sat up and growled furiously, "Ashton, I don't want this baby anymore! He's the reason I can't sleep!"

He chuckled and wrapped his arms around me. "Where are you feeling uncomfortable? Shall I give you a massage?"

"My arms and legs are incredibly sore and swollen. Not to mention the weight of my belly is so heavy I can hardly breathe!" All these were true statements. The baby had been growing

immensely in the past two months. Now, even walking was difficult sometimes. Quite often, I found myself out of breath because of the baby.

He snickered and had me turn on my side. Then, he began to massage my arms and legs for me.

Although his ministrations did not really help much, his presence was enough to soothe me into sleep not long later.

The next morning, I woke up feeling like I was suffocating. Usually, I liked to sleep on my back, which was why I would subconsciously move in my slumber to assume that position.

Hence, my massive belly would press down on me, causing me to run out of breath.

I rolled over onto my side until I could finally catch my breath. It was then I noticed that Ashton was no longer in the study.

When I went downstairs, Molly had already cooked breakfast.

Not really having much of an appetite, I did not eat much. She asked me anxiously, "Is the food not to your liking? What would you like to eat instead? You can tell me and I'll make it for you right away!"

I shook my head, not wanting to eat anything.

Heading out to the yard, I wandered around for a bit. Exhausted from not sleeping well the night before, I climbed into the hammock and was asleep within moments.

Just when I was sleeping rather soundly, I could vaguely feel something crawling up my leg. It felt soft and smooth. I shook my leg slightly but it was no use. The feeling remained.

Forced to wake up, I looked down to see what the thing was. Since it was an incredibly hot summer day, I was wearing a short dress. I instantly caught sight of the black and white snake slithering up my leg. The snake reared back its head and hissed, flashing its fangs at me. Goosebumps formed all over my skin.

My entire body was shaking with fear. I instinctively swatted at the snake, but the violent motion caused me to fall out of the hammock. I shrieked, "Get away from me!"

My scream attracted the attention of everyone in the villa. The doctor, housekeeper, and bodyguards rushed toward me. When they saw me on the ground, all the color drained from their faces.

Dr. Linnard, who had come with us from J City, swiftly ordered, "Call an ambulance! We have to get her to the hospital right now!"

Blinking in surprise, I looked down when I felt something wet beneath me. To my confusion, there was a large and growing patch of liquid. What is that?

I did not even get a chance to recover from my snake scare when I was shocked by the liquid seeping out of me.

I clutched Dr. Linnard's arm tightly, my voice high with panic, "Will the baby be fine? What's going to happen?"

She held me and gestured for two bodyguards to help me stand up. "Both of you will be fine. Relax. We're just going to the hospital for a checkup, okay? Does your abdomen hurt?"

I shook my head and replied truthfully, "No."

Nodding, she reassured me, "Then everything should be just fine. Don't worry and don't get stressed out!"

In no time at all, I was whisked off to the hospital where the doctor examined me carefully. Fortunately, I was not feeling any pain in my abdomen at all. Other than some secretions, everything was fine.

However, due to my earlier fright, I had to be hospitalized for a few days for further observation.

It was already afternoon when Ashton arrived to visit me. Joseph came with him as well. After finding out what exactly happened, his brows knitted and he asked the bodyguard, "Why was there a snake in the villa?"

The bodyguard's expression was solemn as he answered, "We do a sweep of the yard every day to check for snakes and other dangerous pests. We also make sure to renew the pest repellants. There shouldn't have been snakes anywhere near the villa."

Ashton glanced at Joseph and commanded, "Get to the bottom of this!"

Joseph nodded in understanding.

Everyone left the room, leaving Ashton and me alone. I gazed at him and stated, "Ashton, I want to head back to J City!"

I really did not feel comfortable staying here in K City. What happened earlier today only made me even more unsettled.

He took my hand in his and comforted me, "Okay. We'll go back next week. I still have some matters to attend to at the company. Once everything is settled, we can return home."

Ashton was kept busy with company matters and so was unable to spend much time with me. I was bored out of my mind as I stayed at the hospital alone. By that point, I was close to eight months pregnant. I would be giving birth soon.

After three days of observation, I was discharged from the hospital. Since I could not find my phone, I borrowed Molly's to call Ashton. My original plan was for him to come and pick me up. Unfortunately, nobody picked up even after the phone rang for a very long time.

The second time I called him, he had turned off his phone.

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Left with no choice, I had Molly help me settle the discharge procedures.

"Mrs. Fuller, even though the doctor has agreed to let you leave, he wants me to remind you to be careful! You need to rest more!"

Molly chattered away as she packed my things. "Look at how much your belly has grown! The baby is due soon. If it weren't for you not wanting to stay in the hospital any longer, I would've recommended you to stay here. After all, it's much safer!"

I was silent while I listened to her nagging half-heartedly. My mind was occupied with thoughts about Ashton. I wondered why he was not picking up his phone and worried whether something had happened at Fuller Corporation. It would seem like things were not going as smoothly for the company as expected. After all, it wasn't an easy feat to establish a foothold here in K City.

He's been leaving early and coming back late these days. It's too bad that there's nothing I can do to help him in my current condition.

Molly sent the bodyguard ahead with my things as she stayed behind to support me. "Remember to eat your medicine when you get back home!"

I nodded to show that I heard her. While we were waiting for the elevator, her phone rang. She answered it, giving me a much-needed reprieve from her chatter.

The elevator doors opened to reveal it crammed full of people. I was about to enter when Molly stopped me while in the midst of talking on the phone. "Mrs. Fuller, let's wait for the next elevator. It's not safe to squeeze in with so many people."

I took a second look at the elevator and had to agree with her. Thus, we waited for the next round.

Molly ended her call right as the elevator came again. Holding my arm to steady me, she reported, "Mr. Fuller says that you shouldn't be in such a hurry to leave the hospital. He thinks that it's safer if you stay a few more days for further observation."

I shook my head to dismiss her words. "That was him just now?"

She nodded. "He tried calling your phone but nobody answered. I guess you must have left it at home."

I hummed in acknowledgment but did not say anything more as we entered the elevator.

The lobby was bustling with countless people. Worried that someone would bump into me, Molly stepped closer and lamented, "The hospitals here are nothing like the hospitals in J City. There are just too many people! If we aren't careful, someone might bowl us over!"

I eyed the frazzled-looking nurses manning the various stations before I nodded in agreement. All the private hospitals in K City had a lot of people coming every day, let alone the government hospitals.

"Hey, isn't that Ms. Moore? Why is she here?" Molly was looking in the direction of the Lab Department.

Following her gaze, I spotted Rebecca currently having her blood drawn. I stiffened in surprise. What's wrong with her? Why would she need to get her blood drawn?

"Mrs. Fuller, I'm going to head over and say hello to Ms. Moore." With that said, Molly guided me over to sit down in a nearby chair before walking toward Rebecca.

At first, it did not register in my brain that the Ms. Moore Molly was talking about was Rebecca. Then, I recalled that the latter had changed her name after being accepted by the Moore family.

But how does Molly know her? Not to mention they seem quite familiar with each other too.

The two of them were all smiles as they chatted with each other. Once Rebecca was done getting her blood drawn, she pressed a cotton ball to the needle site. Her gaze then flickered over to me.

She said something to Molly before they headed toward me.

"Scarlett, long time no see!" A smug smile played across her lips.

I had no idea why she was suddenly feeling so superior. Barely dipping my head in a nod, I focused my attention on Molly. "It's getting late so we should be going."

Molly seemed completely oblivious to my impatient tone. She smiled broadly and exclaimed, "You know Mrs. Fuller, Ms. Moore? What a coincidence!"

"Rebecca Larson, please head to Counter 4 for your ultrasound results," the speakers crackled with an announcement from the Ultrasound Department.

Rebecca glanced at Molly with a smile. "Molly, could you help me get my results? I haven't seen Scarlett in a very long time and I was hoping we could talk!"

Molly beamed at us and replied, "Sure, no problem!" With that, she trotted away to get Rebecca's ultrasound results.

Since I had nothing much to say to her, I merely gave her a cold look before ignoring her entirely.

She did not seem to care about my aloof attitude. Moving over to sit down beside me, her gaze landed on my distended abdomen. Her smile widened. "Judging from the size of you, you're due to give birth soon, right? I guess that means Ash won't be bringing you with him to my birthday party."

Birthday party?

"Just tell me what is it you want!" I snapped in a frosty tone.

There was no love lost between the two of us. Whatever she wanted to say must definitely have something to do with Ashton.

My response caused her to frown. However, she did not get angry. Instead, she grinned and drawled, "What's the hurry? Technically, we could be considered old friends. It's not very nice of you to be so repulsed by me. Who knows, our children might end up having to call each other siblings in the future!"

"What do you mean by that, Rebecca? What siblings?"

She merely chuckled, not saying anything more.

At that moment, Molly rushed over with a delighted expression on her face. She handed the ultrasound results to Rebecca. "It was only a short while back that I heard you were engaged, Ms. Moore, yet you're already with child! Congratulations!"

She's with child?

Rebecca took the results, her expression blissful and joyous. Thanking Molly, she turned to look at me. "Let's catch up another day, hmm? I still need to tell my fiancé the good news!"

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I watched Rebecca prance off happily before fixing a blank look on Molly. "She's pregnant?"

Molly nodded. "Two weeks! It would seem like Ms. Moore has finally found someone to live out the rest of her life with."

I nodded distractedly. Rebecca's earlier words echoed in my mind: Our children might end up having to call each other siblings.

We climbed into the car and I gazed out the window moodily. After a long moment, I turned to Molly. "Molly, have you known Ms. Larson a very long time?"

Molly paused before replying, "Do you mean Ms. Moore? Well, not really. I used to look after the elderly Mr. Moore. After he passed away, I remained with the Moore family. However, they already have a lot of housekeepers. So when word got out that Mr. Fuller was hiring a housekeeper here in K City, Ms. Moore recommended me to him."

"Rebecca recommended you?"

The older woman nodded and grinned, saying, "I thought only Mr. Fuller and Ms. Moore knew each other. I had not expected you to know her as well!"

After a few seconds of silence, she continued, "By the way, it's going to be Ms. Moore's birthday soon. This will be her first birthday party after being accepted by the Moore family. I heard that Mr. Moore is going to have an official ceremony for her acceptance. It's definitely going to be a huge event! Mrs. Fuller, you and Mr. Fuller will be going, right?"

I shook my head and answered, "Most likely not. I shouldn't be running around when I'm so heavily pregnant."

She nodded. "That's true. Did you know that you and Ms. Moore have the same birthday though? I think it might be likely that Mr. Fuller won't go either."

To be honest, I had completely forgotten about the fact that I had the same birthday as Rebecca.

Laughing, I replied, "We'll see. It's still too early to say."

I hesitated briefly before probing, "You said Rebecca was engaged. Do you know to whom?"

"No. Us employees don't really involve ourselves in the private matters of these big families. We just hear rumors every now and then, not all the details."

I nodded and stopped asking.

When we arrived at the villa, Ashton was not home yet. I scrolled through my phone only to see that I had several missed calls, the majority of which were from Nick.

It was then I remembered Nick saying he would be coming to K City. It had been a while since I was here and I had not contacted him during that time.

I dialed his number, the call going through in just a few rings.

"Scarlett, if I hadn't called you, would you have treated us like we were dead?" a male voice complained.

I blinked at his choice of words. "We?"

There was a brief pause before he clarified, "Macy and Jackson!"

I giggled and continued, "Wow, Nick, your sweet words truly left me speechless! I don't know how to reply to that!"

"Bull****! Send me your address later. I'm in K City too, so I'll come and visit you!"

We continued to chat for a bit before I sent him the villa's address.

Next, I checked through the rest of the missed calls. A few of them were from John but I did not bother calling him back. Turning off my screen, I sat in the living room and stared off into space.

By the time Ashton came back, it was already afternoon. Seeing how I was daydreaming in the living room, his brows furrowed.

He placed a blanket over my knees before pulling me into his embrace. Pressing a kiss to my forehead, he questioned, "Why didn't you stay in the hospital for a few more days?"

I lifted my head to take in his face. The stubble on his chin was getting out of hand while the terrible eyebags made him look exhausted.

"I didn't want to stay there one moment longer. Have you been very busy recently?" It's only been a few days since we last met. What happened to him that made him look so sallow and haggard?

He shut his eyes and rested his chin on my shoulder. Letting out a hum of agreement, he fell silent, presumably falling asleep.

The words that had been building in me lodged in my throat at the sight.

In the end, I continued to stare at the coffee table blankly.

Suddenly, a melodious tune cut through the peaceful silence. It was coming from Ashton's phone. I jerked my shoulder to try and wake Ashton. When he did not even twitch, I called out, "Ashton, your phone is ringing!"

He moaned before saying tiredly, "Answer it for me."

With that said, he shifted into another position and resumed sleeping. It was obvious he was absolutely drained.

I fished out his phone from his pocket and checked the caller ID. Upon seeing it was Rebecca, I tensed in surprise. I did not answer the call as I told him, "It's Rebecca."

His eyes snapped open and he took the chiming phone from my hand. He shot me a glance before stating, "I'm going out to take this call."

He did not wait for me to reply before he left.

Strangely enough, I was not angry as I watched his retreating back. All I did was stare dumbly until he was out of sight.

Molly was busy making some soup in the kitchen. After a while, she came out and reminded, "Mrs. Fuller, you'll be giving birth very soon. You shouldn't be sitting so much. You need to exercise a bit more; it'll be good for when you go into labor. Wouldn't want you to be too weak to push the baby out, eh?"

I nodded and got up, intending on taking a walk in the yard. But then, memories of what happened a few days ago flashed through my mind. I shuddered as the hairs all over my body stood on end.

Giving up on that idea, I headed upstairs to the bedroom.

I stood by the windows, noting how the skies were gradually darkening as evening approached. Realizing that Ashton had probably left the villa, I remained in the room, pacing restlessly.

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In the end, I put on a pair of flats and went back downstairs.

Upon realizing I was about to leave the house, Molly cried out, "Mrs. Fuller, are you going out? No, you can't! Mr. Fuller gave specific instructions not to let you leave the villa alone. Give me a moment and I'll go with you!"

With that said, she hurriedly cleaned up in the kitchen.

I told her, "There's no need. I won't be going far. I'll probably just walk around the neighborhood for a while."

Dr. Linnard, who had come over to give me a checkup, suggested, "Why don't you let me go with you instead?"

Molly paused and said uncertainly, "Is that okay?"

That question was clearly aimed at me. I nodded. "Sure."

With how pregnant I am, having someone with me is probably a good idea.

After exiting the villa with Dr. Linnard, we did not take the car. Instead, we took a leisurely stroll around the neighborhood.

Dr. Linnard looked at me and commented, "I can see that you're the same as me, you don't seem to be too used to the fast-paced lifestyle of the bigger cities, huh?"

I nodded. "While J City is considered quite a developed city, the lifestyle is just not as rushed as K City."

"You know, the first few days after I came here, I took the time to wander around and scout out the neighborhood. I stumbled upon a quaint and quiet cafe that sells delicious desserts. It's a good spot to listen to the rumors and gossips of the various influential families here in K City. Interested in checking it out?"

"Sure!" I was bored out of my mind anyway.

I had thought the shop would be a distance away. To my surprise, it was right next to the villa neighborhood. The shop was a villa that had been converted into a cafe. The atmosphere inside was indeed very peaceful and quiet.

"What do you think? Not bad, right?" Dr. Linnard asked me.

I bobbed my head in agreement, my spirits lifted by the soothing atmosphere. While she was busy chatting with the waiter, I took the opportunity to take in our surroundings.

"The view on the second floor is amazing. Let's go!" She ordered a few desserts and took our table number. Then, she dragged me up to the second floor.

Going up a wooden revolving staircase, she searched out an empty table for us.

A few seconds later, she came back and tugged on my arm. "Hey, um, let's go to the first floor instead. There aren't any empty tables for us."

I was bewildered at her words as I could clearly see several empty tables scattered around. Why did she...

It was then that my gaze landed on a couple sitting by the window. For a moment, I was stunned. So, the reason Ashton didn't come back after so long is because he's here having tea with Rebecca!

"Mrs. Fuller, shall we go downstairs?" Dr. Linnard queried nervously.

I shook my head. "No need. You said so yourself, the view here is amazing. So let's just stay here!" With that, I headed for a table by the window as well.

Dr. Linnard came over and sat down opposite me. Her tone was awkward when she asked, "Is there anything else in particular that you want to eat?"

"No." From my current position, I had an unobstructed view of Ashton and Rebecca's table.

Our own table was not exactly in a hidden corner either. If Ashton were to lift his head, he would immediately see me. I wonder what they're talking about.

Based on Rebecca's stony expression, I could tell that the conversation was not going in her favor.

Probably getting thirsty from their chat, Ashton lifted his glass of water to take a drink. It was then his eyes locked onto mine.

In an instant, his brows knitted deeply before he set down his glass. He seemed alarmed to see me.

I shot him a bland smile in greeting. At that moment, the waiter appeared with our desserts, so I turned away from him. Lowering my head, I focused on tasting the desserts.

After taking a few bites, I smiled at the doctor. "No wonder you recommended this place – the desserts are superb!"

She returned my smile. I could see how she kept throwing uneasy glances behind her, clearly feeling uncomfortable.

I did not blame her. After all, Ashton and I were already married, yet, here he was, currently enjoying tea with another woman. And not just any woman either. Rebecca and his relationship had been a hot topic of debate even back in J City.

"Mrs. Fuller, maybe we should go say hi to Mr. Fuller? I'm sure his discussion with Ms. Larson is going to end soon. We can all head back together then!" she suggested awkwardly.

What a way of phrasing it! A discussion, huh.

I took a few more bites of dessert before raising an eyebrow and answering, "There's no need for us to go over. Mr. Fuller is coming here."

Right on cue, Ashton came to a stop beside our table. He chastised me with a frown, "You only just got out of the hospital. Why are you running around already?"

I propped my chin on one hand and looked over at Rebecca. Her expression was incredibly stormy. I wonder what they talked about that has her looking so furious.

Of course, it could be possible that she just did not want Ashton to realize I was there.

"Aren't you afraid she'll get mad that you just came over like that?" I fixed my gaze on Ashton before narrowing my eyes.

He scowled and snapped in displeasure, "Scarlett!"

His tone had me straightening up in my seat as annoyance swelled in me. "You don't have to be so loud. I can hear you just fine." Eyeing the desserts on the table, I found that my appetite had left me.

What a pity.

I shot Dr. Linnard an apologetic look. "I'm afraid your good intentions have gone to waste. I don't really feel like eating these anymore. Perhaps we should bring them back home?"