

When There Is Nothing Left But Love

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He curled his lips and raised his eyebrows while giving me an extremely seductive stare. "Do you want to try?"

Darn it.

"Ashton, I'm too tired. I can't!" This man was really trying to take advantage of me whenever there was an opportunity.

It was as if he didn't hear what I had said. With a heavy breath, he asked, "Can't or won't?"

Won't!

However, I couldn't say that.

After a moment of consideration, I pulled myself away from him and uttered seriously, "Ashton, I think you should purchase a blow-up doll. That way, you can do it whenever you want."

He squinted while pinning me down. "How would you know if it'll be convenient? Have you tried it?"

I...

"It's late, we should sleep!" I avoided him instantaneously while moving my body away.

Upon seeing that, he stared at me and sighed. "Scarlett, when are you going to treat me as your husband?"

For a moment, I was stunned and didn't know how to respond to him. I wriggled my body and buried myself underneath the blanket.

When I realized he had held onto my ankle, I couldn't help but furrow my eyebrows. Upon lifting up the blanket, I saw he was already fully clothed. He placed my ankle on his lap and squeezed it gently.

I held back even though it hurt a little. It should heal after a while because it was just a sprain.

When he saw that I was looking at him, he frowned. "Is it painful?"

I nodded. "It's alright, I'm fine!"

It hurt a bit more when he applied pressure. The sprain area was swollen, that was why it hurt when he massaged it.

I took a deep breath instantaneously and bit my lip slightly while enduring the pain.

He stared at me and with an uncertain tone in his voice, he asked, "Is it painful?"

I pursed my lips and replied softly, "I'm fine, it's alright now. It'll get better in a few days. Ashton, it's late already, quickly go to bed!"

His expression suddenly changed while he stared at me and said, "Scarlett, you're so dull. What do you mean by fine? Just be clear if it hurts or not. What's the point of you holding it

in? Since I'm your husband, will it kill you just to cry out in pain or be loving with me? Why are you acting like a widow all the time?"

I was taken aback. I opened my mouth instantly, but couldn't utter a single word.

Upon seeing his angry face, I replied softly, "It's painful!"

He took a glance at me while regaining his composure. Then he said, "There's no need for you to act tough in front of me next time. The reason for me marrying you is to make you my wife, not a Barbie."

I pursed my lips. What kind of metaphor is that? After a while, I nodded my head. My heart fluttered with joy.

It was quite swollen around my sprained ankle. Ashton stopped massaging after noticing I was in pain.

After that, he applied some medicine on it and gently rubbed my ankle. He stared at me and said, "It's better for you to stay indoors tomorrow. Focus on your recovery."

I nodded and looked at him. "Ashton, thank you."

All these years, I had never been cared for in such a way. Deep down in my heart, I knew he was amazing.

He frowned while packing up the medicine box. "Do you have to be so formal with me?"

I was stunned and recalled the moment when he said there was no need for such formality between a married couple.

After I had paused for a moment, I bent down and held his face in my hands. I gave him a kiss on the forehead and said, "Ashton, I'm not being overly courteous with you but I really just want to thank you for taking such great care of me."

He stared at me, held my hands, and kissed me so passionately that left me feeling weak at my knees.

Not long after, he let go of me and said, "Alright, if you really want to thank me, then stay at home for a few days. Don't go out."

I wanted to agree with him initially, but after remembering so much had happened to the White family and Fuller Corporation, it wouldn't be possible for me to stay at home and do nothing.

I looked at him and said, "I can ask Mrs. Eriksen to accompany me while I go out. It would be fine as long as I'm being cautious."

His face darkened. "Who has the final say, you or me?"

This man was overbearing. He single-handedly destroyed his perfect image that I had built.

I remained silent while he packed up the first aid kit. He removed his coat and glanced at me. "Rest well and don't think too much. I'll go for a shower."

I ignored him and snuggled under the blanket. At that time, I had trouble falling asleep and I couldn't find my cell phone. Then I saw his phone was on the bedside table.

I turned towards the bathroom and exclaimed, "Ashton, can I use your cell phone?"

"Spot check?" Half of his body was out of the bathroom, and he smiled. "Just use it; you know my password."

I gave him a glare and said, "It's not a spot check, I just want to use it for fun."

He raised his eyebrow and went back into the bathroom.

I grabbed his phone and clicked the video application I had downloaded for him. He didn't delete it, so I thought he would have at least taken a look at it. Upon opening it, I only found out that not only did he not watch it, but he also hadn't registered at all.

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Since I was bored, I registered his phone number on his behalf.

After that was done, I lay on the bed and went through some of the videos. Then someone called his cell phone.

It was Joe.

Ashton was still in the shower as I could hear the water running. I told him about it and he asked me to pick up the call.

Before I could say anything after the call was connected, Joe started yapping away. "Ashton, what are you doing? Why haven't you picked up my calls earlier?"

I wanted to tell him that Ashton was in the shower, but he interjected further.

Joe continued ranting, "We need to go to the hospital because there are some stuff we need to settle, especially the one at K City south district. There's a patient who had passed away two months ago, and the hospital is still asking for payment which is almost five million. This matter is escalating as of now. The patient's family is creating a ruckus at the public health department. We need to sort this out as soon as possible and we are having problems dealing with the media too."

"Yes, I'll let him know shortly!" I replied. I couldn't help but wonder, how did Jared create such a huge problem?

"Scarlett?" Joe was shocked. "Why did you pick up Ashton's phone? Where is he?"

I was sleepy and gave out a yawn while replying, "He is showering. I will relay your messages to him. If there's nothing else, I'm going to hang up now."

He might have thought that I was eavesdropping on the call, so he exclaimed angrily, "Scarlett, how could you be so nonchalant after eavesdropping on someone else's call? Do you have any principles? Not only did you steal someone's man, but now you even want to spy on other people's matters. How can you do such a thing? Initially, I thought the main reason for Ashton marrying you was because of his grandfather. From the looks of it, you must have deceived him as well."

I became quite speechless. "Mr. Quinn, have you been reading too many novels? How can your brain think of such things? Even Ashton wouldn't go around talking about our marriage, but you have been talking non-stop about it. Do you like Ashton or what? If you like him and hate me so much because I've stolen him, I wouldn't mind if you and him have an underground relationship. Also, let me be clear with you. Ashton told me to pick up his phone. Please be clear about the situation next time."

He stammered and said, "Scarlett, what nonsense are you talking? I'm referring to Rebecca, don't you know Ashton's heart is with her all this time? You're still trying to sound logical even though you've ruined their relationship."

Ha-ha!

I couldn't help but feel amused. "Mr. Quinn, what do you mean by ruining their relationship? How in the world can you tell that Ashton's heart is with Rebecca? Isn't it just some booty call? Based on your logic, it seems that you care for Rebecca. Does that mean your heart is with her as well?"

"Scarlett, y-you..." he stammered even more.

I paused for a while before saying, "You what? Please stop acting as if you understand other people very well in the future. You have a brain, so don't rush into things or make things up. Whether Ashton has true feelings for Rebecca, I don't have a clue. But please, manage yourself better before talking about others."

After saying that, I hung up the phone immediately.

When Ashton came out from the shower, his hair was still wet and he was wearing a pair of shorts. He dried his hair with a towel and looked at me. "Was it Joe?"

I nodded and stared at him. "You'll sleep in the guest room tonight."

In a moment of shock, he raised his eyebrow. "Why? What did he say?"

"Nothing!" I wasn't in the mood to use my phone anymore, so I threw it to one side and buried myself underneath the blanket.

Ashton pulled the blanket away and embraced me in his arms. His hair was still dripping wet. I resisted a little, pushed him away with my arm and said annoyingly, "Don't touch me!"

He pursed his lips and frowned. "What did he say?"

"Nothing!" I was displeased and wanted to ignore him. After that, I lifted my hand and pinched his waist.

He allowed me to do whatever I wanted without protest. Then he said helplessly, "Are you more relieved?"

I stared at him and pursed my lips.

He sighed. "Joe's temper has always been quirky. I'll let him know next time. Why are you angry at him?"

What did he mean by me being angry at him?

I was uncomfortable because the water on his body started dripping onto me. I couldn't help but complain, "Ashton, let go of me. You're wet."

He was dumbfounded. "I'll just dry it then. Why are you lashing out? If you're still annoyed, you can continue pinching me. If that doesn't help, you can hit me!"

I ignored him because I felt utterly down. I covered myself with the blanket and said coldly, "You'll sleep in the guest room tonight."

Upon seeing that I was inconsolable, he picked up his cell phone helplessly and phoned Joe.

In no time, the call was connected.

Ashton lowered his voice and asked, "What did you say to Scarlett?"

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He had the call on speaker. Joe took a few seconds before he replied in an aggravated manner, "Ashton, what else could I possibly say to her? She lashed out and scolded me earlier. Don't tell me you're calling me to yell at me too?"

Ashton let out a cough and said in a deep voice, "It is understandable for her to scold you. I was even beaten up because of you. Find an opportunity to apologize to her."

Joe frowned. "What for? I didn't even provoke her. Why should I apologize?"

"If you don't apologize, I will have to sleep in the guest room. Do you think you should apologize now?" Upon hearing Ashton's words, I became speechless instantly. It sounded as if I had mistreated him.

Joe paused for a while then said, "Ashton, you... Are you in love?"

Without any hesitation, Ashton nodded. "Yes, she is my wife."

"Alright, I'll set a time and invite Jared as well. Let's have a meal and I'll apologize to... your missus!"

"Yes!" Ashton hung up right after.

I hid under the blanket and couldn't see what he was doing. A few seconds later, he turned off the lights and plopped onto the bed.

He tugged the blanket a few times. "Scarlett, it's winter now. K City's way colder than J City. If you don't share the blanket with me, you might need to help me dial for an ambulance tomorrow morning."

Soon, he stopped tugging and lay quietly next to me.

Listening to his shallow breathing, I thought he might have fallen asleep. I wriggled out of the blanket carefully and saw his upper body laying bare beneath the dim light.

Normally, he would sleep in his pajamas. It was obvious that he slept without clothes on purpose that night.

After some time, his body was cold to the touch. Upon seeing him fast asleep, I removed the blanket that was wrapped around me and placed it over him.

Suddenly, he grabbed my hand and slithered under the blanket. With his arms pulling me into his embrace, I could feel the coldness from his body surrounding me.

"So you're worried that I might catch a cold? Hm?"

I wanted to kick him instantly. However, he held me down swiftly and said, "Your leg is still hurt, don't move too much."

"Ashton, you bastard!" I couldn't help but yelled. Then I pursed my lips and stared at him sullenly.

He pulled me into his arms again and uttered, "Joe didn't do that on purpose, and it's my fault for not handling it well. Initially, I should have made our relationship known to the public, but I had some work to manage in K City. Many people are eyeing on K City too. If someone catches our weakness, I'm worried I might not protect you well then."

He let out a sigh and hugged me tightly.

I was speechless for a moment. I knew he had a lot on his plate, and that was why I had never forced him.

I had a good sleep that night. After many rainy days in K City, the sun was bright when I woke up the next day.

Ashton wasn't in the bedroom. As I stretched my body, my ankle was still hurting. I got out of bed and was getting ready to wash up.

Mrs. Eriksen brought some breakfast to the room while Ashton and Jared followed her from behind.

Upon seeing that I was awake, she placed the breakfast on the bedside table and said, "It seems like a good day today. I think it'll start snowing these two days. Letty, go ahead and wash up. After your breakfast, come downstairs and we'll admire the winter roses in the courtyard. They have just bloomed yesterday, how beautiful."

I was surprised. There weren't winter roses or snow in J City. Based on what she had said, it would start snowing in just a few days. I beamed. "Yes, yes, that'll be great!"

After Mrs. Eriksen went downstairs, Ashton had Jared examine my sprained ankle.

"Her ligaments were strained. She should be fine after applying medicine and having a few days of rest." While saying that, he removed his rubber gloves and threw them into the trash bin.

Ashton nodded. Then he looked at me and said, "Rest up after you have your breakfast. I have something to discuss with Jared in the study. Call me if there's anything, alright?"

I nodded obediently.

Since I had just woken up not too long ago and hadn't washed up yet, I got out of bed and headed for the shower after they left bedroom.

The moment my foot touched the ground, a sharp pain shot through my entire body. Fortunately, I could get used to it after taking a few steps.

After a brief shower, I returned to bed, panting. It seemed like I had overestimated myself, and it would be difficult for me to go to work that day.

I reached out to grab a glass for some water. However, I lost sight for a moment and dropped it on the floor instead. The glass shattered instantly.

While I was on the floor picking up the glass pieces, the bedroom door opened. Ashton frowned angrily and said, "Did you scald yourself?"

He walked towards me and carried me onto the bed. While doing so, his lips were tightly pursed and his gaze was intense.

I felt as if I had done something wrong. "No, the glass shattered."

He lifted his head and gazed at me. "Do you want some water?"

I nodded.

He got up and poured a glass of water for me. Meanwhile, he told Mrs. Eriksen to help with the cleanup.

Upon remembering he had a discussion with Jared, I said immediately, "Go back to the study. Dr. Crest must be waiting for you."

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He placed the breakfast that Mrs. Eriksen had brought earlier next to me. "No worries, he can wait."

After he had accompanied me for breakfast, Ashton went back to the study.

I couldn't sleep even if I wanted to because I had a good slumber the night before. I was bored after being on my cell phone for some time.

I wanted to spend some time in the study reading books, since my ankle wasn't hurting much after Jared had applied some medicine on it.

Slowly, I motioned towards the study. As I was about to knock on the door because Ashton and Jared were in the room, I heard them talking in hushed voices. "How is she now?"

"She has been having high fever and is absent-minded most of the time. The Moore family found a doctor for her and she is well-taken care of. Since Cameron was transferred away, she doesn't have the time to be there for her."

There was a silent pause before Jared asked, "Are you planning to visit her?"

"No. She didn't have anyone when Parker died, but now she has the Moores. She will be fine."

Jared nodded and said, "It seems like things have progressed for you and Scarlett compared to before. Are you serious about Scarlett?"

"She is my wife. I'm not too sure if serious is a word to describe a marriage." Ashton's voice was rather calm yet slightly arrogant. "What about you? Have you moved on after so many years?"

"Moved on from what?" Jared seemed unhappy.

"Since you have, it's time for you to find someone else to settle down together," Ashton said firmly.

"Damn!" That was the first time I heard Jared swearing. "Ashton, there must be something wrong with you. Are you worried that I might intervene in your marriage, that's why you're focusing on my personal life? Why don't you ask Joe to get married!"

"He is in love with someone. It's only a matter of time before he gets married. As for you, what's going on with Macy? I thought you're serious about her when you sacrificed your life to save her during the accident. Why aren't you doing anything about that lately?"

That was the first time I thought of Ashton as someone who was meddlesome. Jared opened the door while saying, "I think you should just set up a matchmaking agency."

The moment they saw me at the door, they were stunned. Ashton raised an eyebrow. "What's the problem?"

I shrugged. "I'm here for some books!"

Out of curiosity, I turned to Jared and asked, "Dr. Crest, what's going on between you and Macy? Haven't you been in contact?"

Jared was taken aback. He replied after taking a pause, "I don't know!"

Upon hearing him uttering those three words nonchalantly, I almost lashed out at him. I thought he would treat Macy differently based on the conversation he had with Ashton earlier.

But why did he sound so nonchalant about it!

I left after picking up some books, then I took a glance at Ashton. "Send me to White Corporation if you're not busy."

Mrs. Eriksen was right. K City started snowing in just a few days. I wasn't able to head out because of my injured leg.

During my recovery, I gained more weight because I was either reading books or sleeping in the villa.

Upon seeing that my ankle had almost fully recovered and thinking that I could finally go out for a walk, K City snowed heavily.

I loitered on the balcony while admiring the snowy white scenery. Ashton was busy with work and didn't have the time to accompany me.

At that moment, I recalled something Macy had said. When we were younger, she wanted to find a city that would snow so she wouldn't miss out on every winter.

In just a blink of an eye, new year was around the corner. I recalled when Jackson said he would return with Macy by the end of the year.

I reached out to grab my cell phone right away and phoned him. The call was connected after a few seconds.

I could hear Jackson's hoarse voice on the other end. "It has started snowing in M Country. What about K City?"

I nodded. "Yes, it has already started snowing since two days ago and the snow level is rather high. The whole world has turned white. So are the both of you coming back anytime soon?"

I paused for a moment before expressing my thoughts. "I miss the both of you."

Jackson seemed to have caught a cold as his voice was rather hoarse. "I was planning to go back initially, but it's not even three months and now it's already winter. I have been pondering if I should go back but I'm worried my body wouldn't be able to keep up with everything. I might need to wait until early spring."

"What about Macy? Why hasn't she called me or returned my calls for so long? I really miss her." My heart shrank as I stared at the snow falling outside the window.

"She is taking an afternoon nap with the baby. I'll let her know to return your call once she wakes up."

My brows instantly furrowed. "Jackson, be honest with me. Has something happened to her? If not, why wouldn't she reply to my messages? I would understand if it's once or twice, but it has been three months now. Why isn't she responding?"

After a prolonged silence from Jackson, I couldn't help but asked anxiously, "What happened to Macy? Are the both of you alright?"

"She... She's alright. It's because she hasn't fully recovered after giving birth and I brought her to M Country for rehabilitation. She wouldn't allow me to tell you whenever you call." Nothing seemed strange when he said that.

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We were miles apart. I wasn't too sure if Jackson was being honest, so I said, "Jackson, give me your address in M Country. I'll come over for a visit in a few days. I want to see your child."

"The weather is too cold so just stay at home since you usually fall sick easily. M Country is way colder compared to K City. You wouldn't get used to it here. Just wait until Macy has recovered and the baby grows older, then we will come back," Jackson said hurriedly. At that moment, I heard the baby's cries on the other end. "The baby is crying. I need to go now. I'll send you pictures of the baby shortly. I'm going to hang up now."

He hung up the call right after. I was stunned for a moment with the phone in my hand.

Since Ashton was busy with Fuller Corporation's hospital and I wasn't able to help him in any way, I decided to not bother him further.

It was snowing heavily when Sally arrived at the villa. Her body was covered with snowflakes in just a few minutes when she got out of the car and entered the villa.

Mrs. Eriksen was shocked to see her. "Ms. Fuller!" Sally was familiar with Mrs. Eriksen because she had been working for the Fullers for many years.

Sally was stunned for a moment. "Mrs. Eriksen, why have you come to K City?"

"Because of Mr. Ashton and Letty. These few days, Letty hasn't been feeling well and Mr. Ashton told me to come over and take care of her. How... are you these years?"

Sally smiled and looked over while I was preparing to get up and greet her.

"Scarlett, where is Ashton?"

After asking Mrs. Eriksen to prepare some tea, I looked at her. "He has a lot of work to do at the office and hasn't been home for a few days. Why are you looking for him, Ms. Fuller?"

Upon sensing the animosity from the way I'd addressed her, she frowned. "Scarlett, are you still mad at me about what happened previously?"

I smiled and gestured her to take a seat. "You're overthinking. I was just addressing you without thinking twice."

She let out a gentle sigh. "Scarlett, I hope you won't hold a grudge towards what had happened in the past. I'm the daughter of the Fuller family and now we are in the middle of

a crisis. Your Aunt Helen couldn't be able to conceive anymore because of her previous injuries. You are aware of my current situation and know that I might not bear children anymore. We were hoping for Ashton to provide an heir to the family. At that time, when you had a miscarriage. Rebecca came to me, saying that she was pregnant with Ashton's baby. As an elder, it was impossible for me to not do anything and abandon an heir who belongs to the Fuller family. Who would have thought... Ah!"

Her face looked drained. Even though her clothes were thick, it was obvious that she had lost quite a bit of weight. Furthermore, some wrinkles could be seen on her face that was once flawless and well taken care of.

Compared to the last time I had seen her, she had aged considerably.

At that moment, I didn't think it was necessary to continue with that topic, so I changed the topic. "Is there anything you would like to talk to Ashton about? I'll give him a call."

I picked up the cell phone and was about to call Ashton when she quickly said, "No, you don't have to call him. I'm here for you."

"Me?"

She nodded while her pale lips moved slightly. Then she uttered, "Letty, as you know, the Whites have been dealing with a lot of problems lately. We don't have many family members to start with. Now that Benjamin and Sharon are dead, I'm the only one remaining in the family. Your uncle hasn't been buried yet. There are too many tasks concerning the Whites, and I can't handle all of them myself. Since you're married to Ashton, you're also part of the Fullers. I understand he is busy with his company. I can't be much help in regards

to that, so I wouldn't want to burden him even more. Since you don't have much to do now, can I ask you for help?"

So this is why she came here today. I paused for a moment, then I uttered, "Initially, Ashton and I wanted to help you after finding out what has happened to the White family. However, I was injured recently and something came up with Ashton's company, that's why we got delayed. If there's anything you need our help with, let us know."

The most difficult thing to organize in the world was a funeral. Even though the White family was prestigious, they didn't have many family members. Furthermore, as a young widow, it was normal for Sally to be responsible for many tasks.

Initially, it was Marcus' responsibility to manage everything. However, before he could fully grieve after Benjamin's death, Sharon died, too. Now he would need to handle both his parents' funeral. It must be very traumatizing for him.

Sally felt more relieved by my assurance. "It's really not too big of a deal, actually. I was just thinking that the White residence is too huge and it's usually empty since Marcus left. It's really lonely for me to stay there alone. Therefore, I was thinking if you would want to move in to the house and accompany me for a few days until Benjamin's funeral is over."

I noticed the dark circles beneath her eyes. It must be due to the lack of sleep for the past few days. Since I gave my word earlier, it wouldn't be appropriate for me to reject her.

After a moment of consideration, I replied, "Alright, but I need to have a talk with Ashton before that."

"No need for that!" Sally exclaimed hurriedly. "I will inform him. It must be hectic for him at work these days, and he wouldn't have the time to take care of you as well. You should bring Mrs. Eriksen along with you. In that case, he would be relieved knowing that someone is taking care of you."