

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 547-552

Chapter 547

He let out a sigh and turned toward Rebecca. "You can choose to either leave K City forever or get arrested for breaking and entering."

Rebecca went pale and shook her head in disbelief. "You can't do this to me, Ash! You promised my brother you'd take good care of me!"

Ashton shot her a fierce glare and said coldly, "You mentioning your brother now only disgusts me further. In fact, his biggest failure in life is having a sister like you."

Rebecca had barely steadied herself after getting up from the floor when his words hit her like a sledgehammer and sent her falling back down again.

Ashton stared down at her as he continued, "For Parker's sake, I'm willing to pay you any sum of money as compensation, but you tried to hurt my wife today, and I will not let it slide. You're looking at three years in prison for first-degree burglary. Of course, you do have the option to take the money and leave K City, under the condition that you disappear from our sight forever!"

The murderous intent in his cold voice was palpable.

Rebecca had broken down completely and sat motionless on the floor while Joseph arrived with the police shortly after.

There were no security cameras in the villa, but Rebecca still had the knife in her hand when the police came in. Given Ashton's power and influence, getting her jailed for burglary was no problem at all.

However, he didn't say a word, and the police simply took Rebecca in for interrogation as per the normal procedure.

We were both quiet on the drive home. As I stared blankly out the window, I thought about what happened earlier. When did he get there? How much of our conversation did he overhear? Oh, this reminds me... He once told Rebecca that she could only give but not ask for love. That makes sense... After all, love that you only receive by asking isn't worth anything.

Right then, he stopped the car by the side of the road, snapping me out of my train of thoughts. I looked at him in confusion and asked, "We're not home yet?"

Ashton nodded, got out of the car, and disappeared behind a corner on the street.

A while later, he came back with a box of chocolates in hand. "Here, try it!" he offered while holding it out to me, but I just stared blankly at the box without responding.

He then took my hand and whispered into my ear, "You can scold me all you like. Don't keep quiet like this."

His hand feels so warm... Maybe it's because mine is icy-cold...

I looked up at him and said in a hoarse voice, "She didn't break into the house. I was the one who brought her in."

He started the engine and nodded as he placed the box of chocolates into my hand. "I know."

"Why'd you let the police take her away?" I had no appetite for anything at all.

He let out a sigh and looked at me. "She has to learn her lesson, Scarlett. I won't always be around to protect you, you know? What do you think would've happened if I wasn't around earlier?"

"I would've gotten stabbed," I replied in a matter-of-fact tone.

He raised an eyebrow at me. "Is that all?"

"And I might have died."

He let out another sigh. "I've waited four years for you, and this is what I get in return? Having to live a life where you only exist in my memories?"

Upon hearing that, I kept quiet.

"I have to do something to prevent her from hurting you again, Scarlett. I can't guarantee that I'll always be able to save you in the nick of time if she comes after you, nor can I predict when such an incident will occur again. The only thing I can do is get rid of her completely."

"What do you plan to do next?" I asked after a brief pause.

He had a cold look in his eyes as he tightened his grip on the steering wheel. "Either have her leave K City forever, or sue her and have her spend three years in prison."

I frowned. "The hatred and resentment in her will only build up and give rise to new conflict. We can't punish her for something she hasn't done."

"That's why I'm planning on forcing her to leave instead," he said with a stern look on his face.

I... Fine, I guess this is the best possible solution...

It was quite late when we got back to the villa. I had eaten while I was in the mall earlier, so I wasn't really hungry.

Summer was munching on a slice of cake that Flora had baked. "I want some chocolates too, Mommy!" she said while staring at the box in my hand with those innocent-looking eyes of hers.

I let out a sigh and handed her the box. "You mustn't eat too much of it or you'll get cavities, okay?"

Summer nodded with a huge smile on her face.

Ashton shot me a glance and said with a chuckle, "Looks like I've got some competition for your affection."

Ignoring his comment, I sat down on the sofa as I asked, "How much of my conversation with Rebecca did you overhear?"

There is no such thing as a pure and beautiful soul, and anyone who appears that way is simply putting on a facade. When you get to know them, you'll eventually see their hideous side.

He sat down on the sofa in front of me. "Just a little."

"You must think I'm pretty evil, huh?"

He flashed me a grin and edged closer toward me. "Do you want to let her bully and humiliate you, then?"

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I shook my head. "No, I don't."

He nodded. "So why would you be bothered about that when you were simply defending yourself? Black and white are not the only colors in this world, you know? It is impossible to classify someone as good or bad based on their actions alone."

Hmm... That is indeed true. Fine, I'll admit that he's right.

I stood up and said, "I've already eaten with Aunt Sally in the mall earlier, so you can have dinner with Summer instead."

"That was in the afternoon. You will join us for dinner later," he said in a firm and commanding tone.

I glared at him. "Are you ordering me around?"

He paused for a moment before reaching out and pulling me back toward the sofa. "I mean... Dinner just isn't complete without the whole family at the table, right?"

What kind of logic is that?

I pouted at him and repeated, "Hmph! You were ordering me around!"

"How about you do the same to me, and we'll call it even?" he asked with a smile.

I rolled my eyes at him. "No, thank you!"

"What will you have me do, then?"

“You’re not allowed to sleep in the bedroom tonight,” I said after giving it some thought.

He leaned in closer and whispered in my ear, “But that’s a little too much for me to handle... Can you come up with something else instead, hmm?”

His deep voice sounded incredibly sexy, but I shook my head firmly and said, “Nope!”

At that moment, Summer had chocolate all over her face as she climbed onto Ashton’s lap and said, “You can’t just hug Mommy, Mr. Fuller! You need to hug me too!”

As I moved a little bit to the side to make space for Summer who had just interrupted us, I cleared my throat before changing the topic. “Ahem... So, New Year’s Eve is just around the corner. When will you get off work?”

Ashton grabbed a piece of tissue and wiped the chocolate off Summer’s face. “After we conclude the end-of-year meeting, I guess.”

I nodded and kept quiet after that.

Summer seemed to have grown quite attached to Ashton after spending a lot of time with him.

“Dinner is ready, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller!” Flora called out to us while setting the table and serving up the food.

Summer ran over the moment she heard that. Seeing the scrumptious dishes on the table, her mouth watered as she called out to Flora in a sweet voice.

Flora picked her up and gave her a kiss on the cheek before assisting her with the dishes. “Mr. Fuller, I noticed that the snow in the yard out back has begun to melt, and the flowers have all wilted. Shall we grow some vegetables there? You’ll be able to enjoy the harvest come spring.”

Ashton nodded and replied, "I'll leave that to you, so do as you see fit."

The yard in the main house was filled with all sorts of flowers and plants, which would be replaced each season for the sake of aesthetics. On the other hand, the yard in the rear house was kept empty so they could plant anything they wanted whenever they pleased.

Ashton topped up my plate when he saw me staring into space. "Don't space out while eating. You're not a kid anymore, you know?"

"Mommy is a big kid, and I'm a little kid! Poor Mr. Fuller, you have to look after two kids!" Summer said with a giggle.

I felt my face burn up a little but could only shoot Ashton a glare with Summer around. Damn it, I know he said that on purpose!

"Yup! Your mommy will always be my kid!" Ashton told Summer with a smile.

Summer looked at us both and asked, "Is Mr. Fuller my daddy as well? My classmates say their parents live together, and you two are staying in the same room too! Does that mean you're my parents?"

Oh, the innocence of children sure is beautiful...

I tensed up slightly and glanced at Ashton.

"Do you want me to be your daddy, Summer?" he asked while topping up her dish.

Summer was a little confused but nodded seriously anyway. "I do!"

After giving it some thought, she continued, "Are you my biological father too?"

“I’ve always been your daddy, Summer. It’s just that... I did something wrong which made your mommy really angry, so she brought you with her all the way to R Province. That’s why you’ve been living there with her for so many years and only returned home now.”

“Then why didn’t you come to look for us, Mr. Fuller?” Summer asked.

Children sure are capable of coming up with all sorts of weird questions... I quickly replied while adding more food to her plate, “There is no why, Summer. Didn’t I tell you not to talk when eating?”

“Oh, right!” Summer winked mischievously at Ashton and finished the rest of her meal in silence.

After tucking Summer in, I saw Ashton come out of the shower when I returned to our bedroom.

“We’re good to go today,” he said in a deep voice.

After staring blankly at him for a few seconds, I realized what he meant when I noticed the weird look in his eyes.

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“T-The doctor said I shouldn’t move about too much before I fully recover!” I stammered while blushing.

With his hand on the wall behind me, he trapped me between him and the wall. “But you’ve been recovering for a really long time now.”

He then leaned in and nibbled on my ear, giving me goosebumps all over.

I instinctively grabbed onto his bathrobe and said, "I'm going to take a shower first..."

"You can do that later!"

Before I knew it, Ashton scooped me into his arms and placed me on the bed.

I found myself spacing out a little when I felt his familiar scent and domineering aura.

"Still spacing out at a time like this? Looks like you really are dissatisfied with my performance, eh?"

"No, I... Mmph..." He smothered me with a barrage of passionate kisses before I could finish.

Had I not cried and begged him for mercy, I probably wouldn't have gotten any sleep that night.

When I saw Ashton the next morning, I tried to run away, but he was faster and pinned me against the wall. "Why are you running from me?"

I swallowed nervously and hesitated for a bit before saying, "Ashton... I think we should sleep in separate bedrooms..."

I won't survive sleeping with him every night...

He arched an eyebrow at me. "What kind of married couple would do such a thing?"

"There are lots of them who do that, actually."

He pulled me into his arms and said with a smile, "Well, not us."

"It's time for you to go to work," I reminded him, closing my eyes.

"Oh, I've still got some time for a quick one..." He began running his hands over my body as he said that.

I was dumbfounded.

"But I'm a little tired, Ashton..." I said while brushing his hand off, but he simply ignored me and hit me with another wave of kisses.

With our warm bodies firmly pressed against each other, the temperature in the room rose and formed a great contrast with the cold winter outside.

I sometimes wondered if I would literally die in bed if he weren't able to control himself.

Fortunately, this one didn't last very long as he had to leave for work in a bit.

"Will you be heading out in the afternoon?" he asked with a satisfied smile as he came out of the bathroom, wiping himself dry with a towel.

"Hannah is done with her postnatal care, so we're going shopping," I replied while lying on the bed, feeling somewhat tired.

He nodded. "I'll have Joseph give you two a ride, then."

While he continued to dry his hair, I couldn't help but notice his chiseled abdominal muscles, which made him look incredibly sexy. Man, he probably would've made a fortune being a model if he weren't the chairperson of Fuller Corporation!

I was snapped out of my trance when he tossed his towel at me and asked, "What, you haven't had enough?"

Did he catch me staring?

I climbed out of bed and shot him a glare. "That's it! We're sleeping in separate beds, Ashton!"

I then stormed into the bathroom without waiting for his response, only to hear his devilish laughter outside the door.

By the time we came downstairs, Summer had already been sent to school. Flora noticed the cheeky smiles on our faces and said, "I made you two some beef stew. It'll help to replenish your strength!"

For some reason, I found myself blushing hard when I heard her say that.

As I cleared my throat awkwardly, I shot Ashton a glance, and he simply flashed me a gentle smile in response.

After breakfast, he left for work immediately as things were pretty hectic in the company. "Make sure to come back early for dinner, okay?"

I nodded in response and saw him off at the front door.

Meanwhile, Joseph stayed behind and looked at me as he said, "I'll give you a ride afterward, Mrs. Fuller."

I shook my head and declined his offer politely, "It's okay, I can drive there myself later. Don't worry about me. Just go on ahead!"

"But Mr. Fuller has specifically instructed me to take you there."

“I know, but I think I can manage this one on my own. A talented personal assistant like yourself shouldn’t be wasting your time on something like this. Now then, off you go!”

Seeing as he was still hesitant to leave, I grabbed some broccoli from the refrigerator and handed it to him. “Here, you can tell Mr. Fuller that I had you bring this to him.”

Joseph stared at me in confusion. “Broccoli?”

I nodded. “Yes, now get going!”

There weren’t any flowers at home right then, so that was the closest I could get my hands on. I mean... It is technically a flower, after all!

Joseph hesitated for a little while before leaving with the broccoli in hand.

I then got myself a change of clothes and tidied up the bedroom before driving out of the garage.

Hannah and I were supposed to meet up at noon. It was still a little early when I arrived, so I decided to kill some time in a nearby restaurant.

As I had appeared on television several times before, the waiter who attended to me was able to recognize me.

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At first, he looked a little shocked but was quick to regain his composure and smiled politely at me as he asked, “Good day, Miss. What can I get you?”

I shook my head and smiled back at him. “I’ll just have a glass of water for now. I’ll order the food when my friend gets here.”

The waiter returned moments later and handed me a glass of water. "Here you go, Miss. Just let me know if you ever need anything."

With a nod, I thanked him in response.

He began whispering with his colleagues upon returning to the till, and I noticed them occasionally glancing in my direction. Huh... So they're talking about me...

I pursed my lips and sipped on the water while staring out the window. Ever since Ashton came down hard on White Corporation, everyone's focus had been on their stock prices which could fall at any time.

I knew that very well, and yet I couldn't do much about it as Marcus was consumed by his hatred and resentment that had been amplified by the traumatic incident years ago. Although I hoped that he would learn to let go of the past, I had no right to say anything about it.

There's no way of telling who's right or wrong in life. It doesn't matter if Rebecca's feelings toward Ashton are that of obsession or true love because there's no going back anymore. Devotion and undying loyalty won't work on everyone. With certain people, it's best to just let go instead...

I was snapped out of my train of thoughts when I realized I had finished the glass of water. Then I glanced at my phone and saw that it was already noon, but there was still no sign of Hannah.

Right as I was about to put my phone away, Hannah's call came in all of a sudden.

She apologized profusely the moment I answered the phone, "I'm so sorry, Scarlett! The baby's got a fever, and I'm at the hospital right now. I'm afraid I won't be able to go shopping with you today. I'll treat you to something next time, okay?"

I nodded. "It's okay. Don't worry about it."

After hanging up the phone, I glanced at the empty glass on the table and decided to order some food now that I was already there.

My phone began ringing again halfway through the meal. It was an unknown number which was calling from K City.

I answered it politely and asked, "Hello, may I know who's calling?"

"Hey, Letty! It's me!" The loud and husky voice of a middle-aged man sounded from the other end of the line.

I recognized it as Zachary's voice almost immediately.

"Oh, hello there!"

Zachary seemed to be finding the right words to say as there was a moment of silence before he continued, "Are you busy? It's New Year's Eve tomorrow. Your mother and I are planning on visiting you and Summer so we could do the countdown together!"

This middle-aged man used to be a ruthless business magnate, and yet here he was being extremely cautious when talking to his own daughter. Somehow, this made me feel kind of sad.

I took another sip of my water and said, "Sure, that'd be great!"

He breathed a sigh of relief, sounding like a happy child as he said, "Okay! Your mom and I will come over a little earlier tomorrow. What do you like to eat? We'll shop for the ingredients and whip up your favorite dish! Oh, and what does Summer like? Should we get her a Barbie Doll? Or maybe..."

He's being a little too enthusiastic about this... This isn't like him at all...

I cut him off, “That won’t be necessary. We have everything we need at home, so you two can just come over.”

“No, that simply won’t do! Go ask Summer what she likes to eat, and I’ll make some for her tomorrow.” That was Cameron’s voice, which meant they were right next to each other at the time.

“Like I said, that really isn’t necessary. If we really need anything, Ashton can just get someone to buy it for us.”

I then heard a beep from my phone and saw that it was the low battery reminder. “Anyway, my phone is about to die, so I have to go now!”

After hanging up, I let my mind wander for a bit as I sat there, staring into space.

When we were younger, Macy and I used to swear that we would never get married and that we would both work hard to buy a house of our own where we could both live happily ever after. Well, I suppose we all change as we grow up... When you reach a certain age, having a family is all that matters to you.

For some reason, those thoughts reminded me of Sally, and I quickly texted Ashton to invite her over tomorrow as well.

My phone died right after the text was sent, and the waiter came over with the food I ordered.

When I heard a commotion at the restaurant entrance, I looked up to see Marcus coming in through the door with a group of men following behind him.

He seemed a little pale and worn out, which was probably due to the crisis that White Corporation was facing.

Marcus had always been an aloof person in general, and his slender figure made him stand out from the crowd even more.

Someone must have told him I was here, as he looked right at me shortly after entering the restaurant.

Ugh... It's probably the restaurant manager standing next to him. Oh, well... We were both victims of scandals, so people tend to talk about us whenever they see us. I should've left sooner...

After meeting his gaze, I lowered mine and carried on eating my food.

Thankfully, he just sat down with his group of people without coming over.

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I wasn't really hungry to begin with, and seeing him here made me lose my appetite completely.

The weather was already chilly during the winter, and the heavy rain outside just made it even colder.

Damn it... I just had to forget my umbrella, huh? Well, my car isn't too far away, so maybe I could just run through the rain...

But the moment I stood outside the entrance of the restaurant, the biting cold discouraged me.

Suddenly, a man held an umbrella over my head, and I didn't have to turn around to know it was Marcus.

"Did you drive here or take a cab?" His voice sounded as cold as the weather.

I looked up at the heavy downpour and said, "I drove here."

Marcus nodded. "I'll give you a lift."

"No, thank you," I declined his offer immediately.

"Haha... I know you hate me and all, but you don't have to avoid me like that! I'm not going to kidnap you or anything!" he said with a wry, self-mocking laugh.

I pursed my lips as I looked at my shoes that were completely drenched by the rain. "I didn't mean to give you that money, you know? You and Ashton are both amazing men! You shouldn't be hurting each other over a nobody like me!"

A mutually beneficial outcome is always the best one when it comes to business, after all.

"Who are you worried about? Me or Ashton?" he asked with a sneer.

Marcus sure is a stubborn one...

"I just think it isn't worth it, that's all."

"That's not for you to decide. We all have to fight for what we believe in. I chose to go all in, and I accepted my defeat." His tone sounded really harsh when he said that.

I let out a helpless sigh and decided to keep quiet because there was nothing I could do about his stubbornness.

Seeing as the rain had let up a little, I tried making a run for it. "Come on, I'll give you a lift!" he called out to me again.

“No, thanks!” I declined his offer in a much firmer tone, but he refused to take the hint.

“Even so, you could at least take the umbrella with you, right?” He reached out and offered me the umbrella.

When I refused to take it, he grabbed me by the arm and shoved it into my hand.

I paused and shot him a cold glare. “If the pictures get uploaded online, Ashton will only come down harder on you. You might even end up in prison after the fall of White Corporation.”

He sneered. “So what? That’s just how it is when it comes to business. I’ll admit that I can’t beat him, but I won’t give up on you, Scarlett!”

I tensed up and got a little angry when I heard that. “I know you have things that you want in life, but so do I. I too will fight hard for what I want. Although I’m not sure what it is that you want, I know exactly what I want.”

“And what is it that you want?” he asked while staring right into my eyes.

“A family with Ashton!” I replied without any hesitation.

At that moment, we were hit by a strong gust of wind, and the umbrella was blown away.

He let out a wry chuckle, seemingly in pain from the biting cold of the wind. “Scarlett... Do you know what heartache feels like?”

I kept quiet and began walking toward my car.

Our fates have all been decided from the moment of our birth. I’m not a greedy person. All I want is to be with Ashton for the rest of my life.

When I saw Ashton's black Maybach at the intersection in the city center, I pulled over by the side of the road. It felt like he had intentionally come looking for me.

Ashton got slightly wet from the rain as he came out of his car and got into mine.

I handed him a tissue and asked, "You came all the way here just to pick me up?"

The bodyguards that Ashton had assigned to me did what they could to avoid making it too obvious, but I knew they were following me around the whole time. Although bumping into Marcus was purely coincidental, I figured the bodyguards had already reported it to Ashton. Well, not that it made any difference since I wasn't trying to keep it a secret from him to begin with. Besides, knowing how nosy the media can be, pictures of our encounter were bound to reach Ashton anyway.

"Would you believe me if I told you I just happened to be passing by?" he asked while wiping himself dry.

I shook my head. "Nope!"

He chuckled. "Where are you headed next?"

"Hannah's child had a fever, and since I wouldn't be of much help even if I visited her, I was planning on heading back to the villa at first. But then I remembered that it's New Year's Eve tomorrow, so I figured I'd do a little grocery shopping on my way home. What about you? Are you done with work?"

He reached out and pulled me into his arms. "We can do the grocery shopping later in the evening. It's freezing cold and raining right now, so how about you go to the office with me instead?"

I figured it was pointless to refuse, so I nodded and drove straight to the basement parking lot at Fuller Corporation.

Had Ashton not been with me, I would never have parked my car here, especially after what happened before.

Fuller Corporation was a really huge company with lots of employees, but we were able to avoid the crowd by taking Ashton's private elevator to his office.

As he had a meeting to attend, I could only wait for him inside his office.

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After a bit of browsing, I managed to find myself a magazine to help pass the time. I was just about to sit down for a read when I heard a knock on the door. "Come in!"

A young woman came in through the door shortly after. She seemed to be in her early twenties and had an amazing figure to go with her beautiful face.

When she saw me, she paused for a few seconds before saying in a gentle voice, "Hi, I'm looking for Mr. Fuller."

"He's in a meeting at the moment. Should be out in a bit, though," I replied with a smile.

She nodded and eyed me from head to toe. "Got it, thanks!"

Then she walked out of the room, and I couldn't help but chuckle as I went back to my magazine.

Ashton's charm sure is something!

Joseph came in moments later to deliver some documents. "Let me get you a glass of fruit juice, Mrs. Fuller!" he said when he saw me.

"Thanks! By the way, is Fuller Corporation planning on developing AI technology as well?"

"Yes, it is a global trend these days. Fuller Corporation is growing stronger by the day with the help of both engineering and technology. However, there's no way to guarantee that these things wouldn't suddenly be replaced by something new someday in the future. That's why Fuller Corporation has invested a part of its funds in all types of AI technology just in case."

I nodded. "Who's in charge of the AI project here? I used to work in White Corporation for a bit, and I know Richard from OrbitTech, so I have developed some understanding on this subject."

"It's a talented individual who just came back from Ustrana. She has conducted intensive research in the field of AI and is considered to be a professional," Joseph said while placing the glass down in front of me.

I took a sip of it and said, "I assume this individual is a fairly young one, then? Must have a bright future ahead."

Joseph nodded. "Yeah, she's twenty-five, performs well, and has a decent attitude at work. Mr. Fuller had personally made a trip to Ustrana just to invite her over. I've met her a couple of times, and she seems to be a great talent, given how decisive and capable she is."

I suppose she must be really amazing if Joseph is praising her this much.

"What's her name?"

"Rachel Zimmer. She's a Chanaean residing in Anglandur."

I figured it would make me look nosy if I were to continue asking about her, so I decided to end the conversation there and said, "I see... Okay, you can carry on with your work now. I'll just go back to reading my magazine until Ashton comes back."

Rachel Zimmer, huh?

An hour had passed by the time Ashton returned from his meeting.

I was starting to doze off when I felt something on my shoulder and opened my eyes, only to meet Ashton's that were only inches away.

"Will you be able to fall asleep later at night if you take a nap at this hour?" he asked with a grin.

I sat up straight and closed my eyes as I leaned against his shoulder. "Yup!"

"Sleeping too much is bad for you," he said with a chuckle.

I hummed in response and continued leaning against him without saying another word.

He then adjusted his posture to make it more comfortable for me.

Knock! Knock!

"Come in," he said in a soft voice.

I heard the sounds of high heels approaching, followed by the sweet voice of a young woman. "I've completed the initial draft for the new product, Mr. Fuller. Please have a look and let me know if any changes are required."

Ashton was so gentle and graceful in his movements that I could barely feel anything as he flipped through the document.

“It looks fine to me. You can have the engineers take a look and discuss the details with them before proceeding.”

Ashton kept his voice low so as to not wake me up.

“All right, I’ll get to it right away,” the woman said, and the sounds of her heels faded as she walked out the door.

I was still leaning against Ashton’s shoulder and pretending to be asleep until his deep voice rang in my ear.

“She’s gone. You can wake up now.”

Realizing it was pointless to keep up with the act, I rubbed my eyes and looked up at him awkwardly as I said, “Are you planning on continuing the research and development of AI technology after acquiring White Corporation?”

He raised an eyebrow and said with a nod, “That’s part of the reason I acquired it.”

Then he paused for a moment before continuing, “How did you know it was AI technology?”

I shrugged. “I saw the documents she was holding when she dropped by earlier.”

He smirked and leaned in closer as he asked, “And you asked Joseph what her name was, right?”

I figured there was nothing wrong with what I did, so I nodded and gave him an honest answer. “I’m sure any woman would have a reason for concern when faced with such a beautiful and talented young lady.”

He wrapped his arm around my waist and chuckled. “Why don’t you put in a little more effort if you’re that insecure about me?”

I raised an eyebrow at him. "A little more effort?"

"I mean... Broccoli? Seriously?" he asked while shifting his gaze toward the broccoli on the desk.

"Would you believe me if I told you that I just grabbed whatever I had lying around at the time?" I thought Joseph would've brought them home and eaten them himself! I can't believe he actually gave them to Ashton! What a blockhead...

Ashton's smile deepened. "Oh? Whatever you had lying around, you say?"

Right, it's time to change the subject!

"Look, I'll get you a bouquet of flowers next time, okay? By the way, are you finished with work yet? It's getting late, and we should hurry on to the supermarket. You know how upset Summer gets if we come home late, right?"