

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 688-692

Chapter 688

Tessa paused for a moment and cried softly to add to the dismal topic. Her crying noises were low, but it was enough to make the atmosphere gloomy.

Although I couldn't see Ashton's expression, he was silent all the time, so I bet he could be paying attention.

Seeing how Tessa was just sobbing and didn't continue, he took the initiative and asked, "Operating room?"

"Yes." Tessa sobbed softly, "I didn't know how to tell you. Everything in the operating room was terrifying, and it's a total nightmare. They held us captive to make use of our bodies as transporting tools. It was agonizing when we were forced to queue up outside the operating room, waiting for our turn."

She wiped her tears before continuing, "Scarlett stood up and begged them for mercy, so she got into trouble."

I listened for a moment before doubting her thought process. Wait... So I got into trouble to save them?

Ashton commanded frostily, "Continue!"

The woman sniffled and said, "Scarlett could leave unscathed initially since she knew the Murphys. When the bad guys found us, they had decided to send her to the Murphys in Marsingfill. However, she didn't leave, and when she knew they were going to carry out operations on us, she went to beg Abe..."

I furrowed my brows because her version of the incident was quite different from what I knew.

However, I did nothing and continued listening to their conversation. The woman added, "Abe doesn't like women and forced Scarlett to accompany three men. If she agrees, he will think of letting us go."

What she said was so outrageous that I broke out in a cold sweat. When did those events even take place?

The woman continued, "I noticed Scarlett was unwilling to go with you yesterday. She might feel guilty for not being pure for you, so she left. I understand how she feels. It really isn't her fault."

The man didn't say anything in reply, while the woman had more to say. "Plus, the days in Venria were nightmarish to us, while Armond's presence gave warmth and hope to Scarlett. He even got heavily injured when he saved her. Later on, he took us to Western Europe and recuperated there. From their interactions, they seemed to get along with each other and looked good together."

She added while nodding, "If I didn't run into you guys yesterday, I would have thought Scarlett and Armond are a couple and they will be happy forever."

I was at a loss for words and felt amused.

Nora returned to the table and saw me smiling coldly. She lowered her voice and asked, "What did you hear? Why are you smiling like that?"

Wearing a faint smile, I said, "Nothing. I just heard a dramatic story, and it was quite interesting."

The woman in front of me narrowed her eyes slightly and whispered, "Don't tell me she's trying to appease herself in front of Ashton."

I smiled and stayed silent. Getting up in my seat directly, I wasn't going to hide any longer.

Tessa's repressed sobbing immediately halted when she saw me walking past their table. Widening her eyes in surprise, she opened her mouth, but words never found their way out of her mouth.

When Ashton saw me, his eyes were full of worry.

It seemed he more or less believed Tessa's words. From what I knew, Tessa added a lot of dramatic sauce into her version of the incident to make it seem like I had lost my purity. She was doing this to induce disgust in Ashton toward me.

As to why she deliberately brought up Armond, I figured she wanted to tell Ashton that I was a flirtatious woman and could make anyone fall for me.

However, I would've to thank her for giving me this chance to push Ashton away.

I looked at Tessa and smirked. "Tessa, to be honest, no man would fall for a woman like you. For real. You have nothing attractive at all, be it your figure or capabilities. If the woman sitting here is Nora or Tabitha, I'm willing to give my man to them, but you? You're unworthy."

"You..." She was so enraged that she couldn't utter a word.

I turned to look at Ashton while wearing a faint smile. "Ashton, she was trying to tell you I'm unworthy of you now that I have lost my purity. I bet you know the underlying message of this. An ugly woman with a disgusting heart is trying to get close to you, can't you see that?"

He reached out to me and pulled me into his arms without sparing a glance at Tessa. Gazing at me with concern and affection, he declared, "She's unworthy of me."

With that, he dragged me out of the restaurant. Joseph, who was behind him, didn't follow us.

When we exited the restaurant, I flung Ashton's hand away and looked at him indifferently. "That's enough. Let go!"

Chapter 689

Ashton frowned and stared at me. "Are you pushing me away because of what happened in Venria?"

I nodded and said, "I was lucky. I didn't suffer from the surgery, but I went through everything else. Ashton, I have my choices."

"What did you choose?" He wore a grim expression. "Scarlett, you never told me anything and pushed me away. Do I seem so unworthy of your trust? You went to ask for help from a man you've just met for a few times, and not me. What exactly am I to you?"

I pursed my lips as I didn't know what to say. It's just as he said. I was indeed looking for reasons to push him away.

"No?" Nora came out of the restaurant and was completely baffled. "What are you guys quarreling about? You're Ashton, right?"

She was only 1.6m in height, while the man who was 1.88m was rather tall for her, so she could only raise her head to look at him. "Mr. Fuller, you can manage your billions of assets, but you can't even be rational in relationships? You actually believed everything that busybody told you and started questioning Scarlett even before asking if it's true. Hey man, think about it. Does this make sense?"

Her showing up got both of us stunned. Ashton frowned slightly at her and asked, "What do you mean?"

"I meant what I said!" Nora was rather furious and dragged me away. "Let's go. Don't waste your time on a no-brainer like him."

I was dragged away by Nora while Ashton quickly caught up to us. He held onto my arm and asked, "Scarlett, can we make things clear before you leave? Is that okay?"

In the bustling city, his tall figure and good looks made us stand out among the crowd.

Nora was a hot-tempered woman, so she couldn't back down. "What is there to talk about? You yelled at her before knowing everything. That alone is enough to prove that there's nothing to talk about."

After pausing for a while, she continued, "Besides, Mr. Fuller, don't think that you can do whatever you want because you're good-looking."

I...

I've got a feeling that Nora hasn't figured out the situation yet.

I couldn't help but utter, "Nora, can you wait for me in the car. I have something to discuss with him."

The woman nodded and turned to Ashton. "Mr. Fuller, no matter what Tessa told you, you mustn't believe a word she said. She's always feigning kindness, but she is ugly inside."

"Nora, what nonsense are you spouting?" Tessa exited the restaurant and charged at Nora with no hesitation.

The two women didn't care about their image and started throwing punches at each other.

Nora was wearing heels, and she took it as a weapon. Hurling the tip of her high heels at Tessa, she roared, "Tessa! If you dare to badmouth Scarlett, I won't let you go. I've seen many pretentious b*tch, but this is my first time seeing an ugly one. Let me remind you. Be thankful that Scarlett saved you. Or else god knows what will happen to you."

The fight between the two women went on and attracted a crowd.

Tessa was no pushover either. She pulled Nora's hair and snarled, "She saved you guys too! Nora, do you think she will treat you well if you become her dog? What wishful thinking! She's just using you."

The two of them kept on hurling insults and punches at each other. As no one interfered and asked them to stop, the crowd grew and everyone was watching the show.

I turned to look at Ashton. He was staring at me indifferently, totally ignoring the ruckus.

"Can you ask Joseph to stop them?" I asked as I was concerned about Nora. Although she was bold, her stamina couldn't catch up. If this goes on, she'll be at a disadvantage.

Ashton glanced at Joseph and dragged me into the car.

His movements were too fast, and before I could struggle, I was pinned to the seat.

"Ashton, you..." I gritted my teeth.

"Shut up!" He spoke with a low voice while focusing on driving.

He drove the car toward the city and kept on speeding. I was scared to death, so I held onto the seat for dear life.

It was quite a while before he stopped the car by the roadside. He parked and exited the vehicle before dragging me out.

"Ashton, why are you bringing me here?" Unwilling to be dragged away, I tried to break free from his clutches.

He was walking rather quickly. I wasn't able to catch up with him, so I stumbled along the road and almost fell down a few times.

I was unfamiliar with my surroundings, so I panicked.

Thankfully, after dragging me for some time, he brought me to a rest area by the roadside. There was a river beside the area.

When we headed toward the riverside, he pinned me to the handrail while his dark eyes gleamed. "Tell me everything. Give me an explanation."

Chapter 690

I was stunned by Ashton's command. Anger was written all over his good-looking face. Failed to phrase any sentences in my mind, I stared blankly at him and started to zone out.

It was as if he realized he was being too angry at me, so he took a deep breath and suppressed his fury. Gazing at me with his dark eyes, he asked, "When and why did you go to Venria? What happened there? How did you return? Tell me."

With him standing in front of me, his tall and sleek figure blocked most of the light.

I froze a while before saying, "It's all in the past. There's nothing to tell."

He argued, "What do you mean by that? Scarlett, do you think I'm a fool? Even I'm not good enough for you, I'm still your husband. I have the right to know where my wife went, don't I?"

I had never seen him so agitated before. He was completely helpless and at wit's end.

“You have.” Staring at the glistening surface of the river, I took a deep breath and started telling him everything. “After leaving K City, I went to Q City to visit the child. Later on, I met Savini in A City. Perhaps he couldn’t let go of the past and asked someone to...”

When I recalled everything about the past, those painful memories I suffered, I felt lucky to be able to overcome them all.

The man stayed silent and listened to me. I told him everything, including meeting Armond in Venria and causing Tessa to be injured.

Digesting my words, Ashton turned to look at me. “I’m not against you doing the things you like. However, Scarlett, you have a husband, so you shouldn’t stay with Armond. The consequences will be dire if people catch wind of this.”

I understand it well, but I don’t have any other choice.

However, this wasn’t the topic I wanted to talk about. Looking at him, I wore a serious expression. “Ashton, I wanted to leave without a word, but it seems impossible. In order to correct what Tessa said, I told you everything. Since things have gotten this far, let’s talk about us.”

Our eyes met. His gaze was deep with a tinge of warmth and determination. “Alright.”

I sat on the bench as the breeze blew by, leaving ripples on the river while the willow trees swayed along.

Sighing faintly, I said, “Ashton, I’ve decided not to return to you after leaving K City. To me, we were divorced five years ago. After all, we had marital separation for three years, so under the laws, we were already divorced.”

The man grimaced and stared at me with his dark eyes. “Are saying those cruel words an effortless task for you? It seems you’ve never thought of my feelings. Or could it be that you’ve never loved me?”

Pursing my lips, I felt suffocated. My heart started aching, but I didn't want to show it. "Just take it as I've never loved you."

He was obviously mad as he tightened his grip on my wrist. Although it started hurting, I didn't struggle to break free.

I continued, "Ashton, everything has a shelf life. I admit, I'm rather odd. When I couldn't get my hands on something, I tried my best to pursue it. However, after attaining it, I lose interest. Setting aside how you humiliated me those years, you set my mother up and killed my child. Do you think I will forgive you after all those things you did? I hate you! So there's no way I can bring myself to live with you. Let alone loving you."

I wouldn't know how hurt he would be by my words, but all I wanted was to make him leave my side.

Looking at his grim and cold expression, I remained expressionless. "I thought I could let go of the past and live with you just because of your wealth and good looks. Even if I don't love you, I can act like I do. Acting's just a piece of cake for women, isn't it?"

Lowering my gaze, I was determined in drawing a line between us. "However, I felt tormented when I face you every day, so I left. I wish you'll never show up in front of me again. Ashton, I feel happy to be by Armond's side. So, please let me go. Give me the freedom to pursue my happiness."

Suddenly, the man chuckled. His voice was low, while he wore a bitter expression. His usual good-looking face looked terrifying as he gave one of his coldest smiles.

"Your happiness?" He scoffed, "You're so impatient, be it living with him or working at the Murphy Corporation. Are you so eager to find a lover?"

Chapter 691

I nodded and spoke with no hesitation. "Everyone lives for themselves. Not only is Armond rich and good-looking, but he also willingly accepts my past. He's a really nice guy."

Ashton stared at me for a long while with some hope left in him. However, I kept my face devoid of emotions, forcing him to believe that I felt nothing toward him. Soon after, he gave up and scoffed, "Good! Very good!"

The three words were spoken with his teeth gritted.

With that, he turned around and headed toward his car. After taking a few steps, he halted and glanced back. "Scarlett, I'll ask you once again. Do you mean everything you said?"

"Yes. From the bottom of my heart." Reluctant to be entangled, I cut off every tie I had with him. It was best to end it this way.

"Haha!" He laughed, but it sounded rather forced. "Good, very good! If that's how it is, it seems everything was all my wishful thinking."

With that, he walked away. Hearing his footsteps getting further and further away from me and finally the sound of the engine blaring, I stayed rooted on my spot. I couldn't bring myself to look at him and my heart felt hollow.

Grandma was correct. I was hesitant about everything. If I couldn't let it go and make a clean cut, I would suffer in the end.

I had repeated the same question in my mind for several nights. Why do I have to leave Ashton?

I really couldn't think of an answer. Maybe it was just like what Nora said. I was a psycho, so I chased away the people that loved me.

To be honest, I wasn't confident if I could let the past go. Even if Ashton and I lived together for the rest of our lives, I was afraid that I would bring up the past and use them as reasons to hurt him when we fight.

When I returned to the Murphy Corporation, it was almost time to get off work. Armond wore a white dress shirt while his black coat was hanging on his right arm.

Looking at me coldly, he asked, "Is the bid proposal done?"

I nodded and handed the documents to him. "Others used half a month to prepare a proposal, while I used only one day, so I bet Ashton wouldn't pick ours."

Flipping through the proposal, disdain was written all over his face. "This is the worst bid proposal I've ever seen. Congratulations on breaking the record."

I pursed my lips. No matter how reluctant I was to admit it, he said the truth. Other than the suggestions Linda and Nora gave, nothing else could pass as authentic.

It was done in a few hours, so there was no way it would be good. After pausing for a while, I said, "The Murphy Corporation wasn't an expert in this field, so Ashton will not choose us."

Knitting his brows, he threw the bid proposal aside and turned to look at me. "Let's go for dinner."

Frankly, I felt that he had no intention to win the bidding. Otherwise, he wouldn't ask me to prepare the proposal at the eleventh hour.

I checked the time. Seeing that it was already 6 p.m., I suggested, "The bidding begins at 8 p.m. I'll head to the Oasis Hotel first. Can you have your dinner outside later?"

To my surprise, the man took his car keys and said indifferently, "Take your things. We'll head straight to the Oasis Hotel for dinner."

I was stunned and asked subconsciously, "Are you going too?"

He raised a brow. "If I don't go, do you think you can win the bid with your scrappy proposal? Or are you relying on your beautiful face?"

I...

He's so harsh and vicious with his words.

Stealing a glance at him, I chose to keep quiet and packed my stuff before following him out of the company.

In the car, he drove the car and asked casually, "Do you know which companies are taking part in the bidding?"

I froze instantly and shook my head. "No. I asked my friend and only know that several state-owned enterprises are taking part."

Armond took a side glance at me with disdain and anger. "Ms. Stovall, how do you even become the director at Fuller Corporation?"

I frowned, and the man glanced at me coldly. Then he was merciless with his insults. "Poor bid proposal and knowledge about opponents. Do you really think we, the Murphy Corporation's joining for fun?"

I tried to reason with him. "Mr. Murphy, you only gave me six hours to do all of this. In six hours, I'll have to understand the company's structure and advantages. Then I'll have to prepare a bid proposal and understand our opponents while taking the demands of the bidding company into consideration. I accept whatever reprimands you gave. However, I wish you could understand that I've tried my best and my intelligence is much lower than yours."

Although I was rather angry, I calmed myself down. To rush a proposal in six hours that took others half a month, it was impossible to make it good, as I wasn't a genius and my capabilities had a limit.

He glanced at me sideways and narrowed his eyes. "Are you saying that you felt wronged?"

"Nope," I shook and focused on the scenery outside the car window to distract myself from the unpleasant feelings. Well, who hasn't met psychopathic bosses in life?

The man set his eyes on the road before saying, "I can't deny that six hours is truly too little. You could prepare a three thousand words proposal in a few hours with the analysis of our budget as well as pros and cons. Not bad, I'll give you that. However, Scarlett, that doesn't mean you can't do it better."

Chapter 692

I stayed silent, as I felt there was no need to argue with a psychopath.

Suddenly, I received a phone call from Nora. "Where did you go, woman? Are you not worried about me? I even fought for you!"

"How are you?" I asked, but I wasn't worried because Ashton had signaled Joseph to take care of it, so she wouldn't be mistreated.

The woman clicked her tongue. "I'm at the hospital, but it's no biggie. That b*tch scratched my face, and I'm not done with her."

I sighed. "Nora, thank you. I'll visit you tomorrow and treat you to something delicious."

Nora sighed and asked, "That's not it! Why are you treating Ashton like a stranger? He's your husband! Did he do anything you can't accept? Or is it you guys never loved each other? Other married couples wouldn't be like you guys even though they aren't affectionate towards each other."

I pursed my lips. "Nothing. There's nothing left between us. We were divorced."

“Scarlett, why are you pushing him away?” She was getting a little agitated while my patience was running thin. “I don’t love him anymore.”

Before she could say anything, I quickly end the conversation. “Nora, I have some matters to attend to now. Rest well, and I’ll visit you tomorrow.”

With that, I hung up. Sensing a gaze on me, I raised my head and saw that Armond was staring at me.

I knitted my brows in response. “Mr. Murphy, you’re still driving.” Eyes on the road, Mister.

He withdrew his gaze and said indifferently, “I’m curious too. Why are you hiding from Ashton?”

I pursed my lips. “When did Mr. Murphy become someone who enjoys digging into other people’s private business?”

He shrugged and smiled faintly. “I’m just curious. Right! We have to go to K City after this project. Don’t you forget about our promise in Venria.”

Listening to him mentioning the promise, I was stunned for a moment. “Got it!” He wanted the sandalwood box that Grandma has.

When we arrived at the Oasis Hotel, Armond parked the car at the entrance and took me to a restaurant nearby for dinner.

Then we went to the bidding hall. The wide hall was crowded with people, and some business partners came to greet Armond.

Armond asked me to find a quiet place and make some changes to the proposal, at least to the point of not bringing shame to the Murphy Corporation.

There was a lounge in the hotel. Sitting on the couch, I went through the proposal and my head started hurting. Apart from not understanding the overall situation, the proposal was way too rushed.

“You’re... Ms. Stovall?” A voice called out to me and I was stunned.

Raising my head, I saw a chubby middle-aged man standing in front of me with a file.

I was slow to react and blurted out, “Hello. You are?”

The man burst into laughter. “Ms. Stovall, you’re so forgetful. We just met last night.”

Last night? Hmm...

After pondering for a moment, I looked at him and finally realized who he was. “You’re Mr. Watson?”

He wore a wide grin and said, “Ms. Stovall, please remember me this time. It’s rather embarrassing.”

Feeling awkward, I forced a smile and immediately stood up to shake hands with him as an apology, but he stopped me midway.

Sitting at the side, he looked at my proposal and smiled. “Ms. Stovall, are you taking part in the bidding?”

I nodded and smiled. “Are you too?”

Seeing how he had a stack of documents in his hand, I guessed he wasn’t here just to watch the show. Plus, he didn’t get to a conclusion with Ashton last night.

So he must be here for the bidding.

“Ms. Stovall, may I know where you are working at?” Wearing a smile, he saw me shutting my laptop.

I replied, “Murphy Corporation. Mr. Watson, I’ve heard that you and other members are not allowed to take part in third-party business cooperation. So, are you here for...”

He was stunned for a moment, but his smile never left. “That’s right. We can’t take part. I gave my wife a job in the company as she was bored at home. And today, I’m just here to look around and accompany her.”

It seemed he was a husband who loved his wife truly.

I smiled. Noticing that it was almost time, I got up and excused myself. “Mr. Watson, the bidding’s about to begin, so I have to go make some preparations. I shall not disturb you any longer.”

He smiled and got up to block my path. “Ms. Stovall, how about we talk for a bit? It won’t take long. Just a few minutes.”

I froze, as I knew what he was getting at. So that’s what he had in mind after beating around the bush for so long.