

When There Is Nothing Left But Love Chapter 763-767

Chapter 763

Ashton looked up unexpectedly and caught me staring. Panicking, I averted my gaze immediately. "What's wrong?" I asked when he stared at me intently.

"Pick up the phone!"

"What?" I asked, feeling even more confused.

"Your phone!" Ashton reiterated as he closed the first aid kit with a slam.

I wrenched myself out of my reverie only to notice dully that my phone had been ringing for the past few minutes. It was Nora on the line, and she did not sound happy at all.

"Babe, what's up with you? Why weren't you picking up?"

I felt slightly embarrassed. "Oh, I had something on. What's the matter? Are you here?"

I recalled earlier in the day that she had called to state her desire of coming over to the base and then going over to her grandfathers for dinner.

“I’ve reached a long time ago. I’m at the hotel now, but I don’t know the exact location of your base. Why don’t you send someone over to pick me up?”

I shot a glance at Ashton. Joseph had been dispatched to send Rachel to the hospital, and Linda was probably off with her own tasks. Armond, too, was busy with the incident of the theft.

It looks like I’m the least occupied one for the moment.

“What is it?” Ashton asked when he saw me staring at him.

“Nora wants a lift from the hotel, is that alright with you?” I did not know if he had anything going on currently, so I thought it’d be better to ask first.

Ashton grunted. “She’s at the hotel?”

I nodded.

Other than his grunt, he did not indicate that he had heard what I said after that. I was doubtful that he understood the situation but trusted him to handle it and allowed the matter to drop.

It wasn’t a big deal. We emerged from the office and headed for the museum.

Joseph was already waiting there. At the sight of us, he hurried over. “Mr. Fuller, there are some documents from Mr. Quinn for your kind attention.”

Ashton nodded and took the stack of documents that Joseph was offering him. “How are things being handled?” he asked with a glance toward the museum.

“There was a breakthrough,” Joseph answered. “The perpetrator had contacted his partners on the outside. It doesn’t appear to be a simple break-in now, but we’re still not certain.”

Ashton frowned but nodded. He took the documents and headed over to the visitors' room.

I found Linda, who was back to her old self again. She stared in surprise at me. "Did you not have a fight about what happened earlier?"

She was, of course, referring to Ashton and me. At that, I nodded and told her, "He told me to defend myself and not let myself get hurt the next time."

She gaped at me and burst into laughter. "Hats off to Mr. Fuller for giving his wife an unlimited berth."

We suddenly caught sight of Rachel who had had a change of clothes. She glared at us with hatred when she passed by. It was as though she would love nothing more than to rip us from limb to limb.

However, Linda was not intimidated. She stared provocatively across and said in a loud voice, "She thinks that she is so popular just because she's good-looking. But it all amounts to nothing if her manners and character are rotten."

I tugged at Linda's shirt. "Alright, that's enough," I said softly. "Nora's coming here; Ashton sent for someone to pick her up. Do you still have much to do? When we're done here, we're going over to Mr. Oberick's house for dinner."

Linda was taken aback. "You're going to her grandfather's for dinner?"

I nodded. "She's been bored all day and is in desperate need of companionship."

Linda shrugged but ceased her attempts in taunting Rachel.

After some time, Nora made her grand entrance by emerging from Armond's car. Linda cast a look of surprise at me.

I was surprised as well. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw that Ashton was still absorbed in his documents and paid no attention to Nora's appearance.

Nora had on a demure skirt with plain and natural-looking makeup. It made her appear unusually mature.

Linda teased her. "You're not planning on meeting the boyfriend's parents today, are you?"

Nora giggled. "Linda, I'm still relying on you to make that happen for me."

"What do you mean, relying on me?" Linda answered. "It all depends on your own efforts. Meeting the parents is the easy part – just promise an heir for them! Old Mr. Murphy has always wanted a great-grandson. There's your ticket in."

"That's a bad idea," Nora pouted.

"Though the Murphys are rich and proud, they take etiquette very seriously," I chimed in. "If Nora gets to be part of the family with your scheme, she'd be frowned upon."

"Hey, you wanted my advice. Here it is." Linda shrugged.

Armond appeared. "Tonight, you girls should take Rachel out for dinner as a truce," he said to Linda and me. "You'd be seeing a lot more of each other, and you might even need each other's help."

Linda and I nodded solemnly. Armond could see that we weren't taking this seriously and sighed, "Linda, you are a veteran in this organization. You shouldn't show your displeasure like that. Think of the bigger picture! What's more, the issue with Fuller Corporation is still not resolved. If things went sideways, the procurement of the equipment would depend on her."

Linda nodded. "Yes, Mr. Murphy," she replied with the utmost sincerity. "I will be more mindful with what I say."

Armond nodded and hurried off to attend to his matters.

As soon as he left, Nora stared at us both uncomprehendingly and asked, "What happened?"

Chapter 764

"Before you came, we had a fight with Rachel. We're all bruised and battered," I explained, with an automatic glance toward Ashton.

Nora's eyes widened. "God! Why didn't you include me for this?"

"Don't talk nonsense!" Linda chastised. "It's already happened, and Rachel must be holding a grudge. It's hard to tell how she would make things difficult for us in the future."

I pursed my lips, deep in thought. Armond had a point.

Though I did not like Rachel, it was indisputable that she was a capable employee of the Corporation. If it weren't so, Ashton wouldn't have gone through the trouble himself of hiring her all the way from Ustrana.

Aside from the fact that Ashton had no romantic interest in her whatsoever, her skillset and professionalism were second to none, and Ashton valued her for it.

If Rachel left in a rage, the only one at a loss would be Fuller Corporation.

"Alright then. Do you still have work to do?" Nora asked. "If you don't, we'll head over to Grandpa's for dinner. It's harvest season for the fruits he had grown in his yard."

“What a glutton!” Linda teased. “We still have a meeting to attend. There still isn’t a concrete plan to deal with the situation at the base, and we can’t afford to delay this any longer.”

I nodded in agreement. “There are some pear trees outside the base,” I informed Nora. “They’re ripe enough to be eaten. Go and amuse yourself. We’ll call you once the meeting ends.”

She nodded glumly. “What an awful life it is to have to amuse oneself.”

Linda and I laughed for the lack of anything else to say and headed to the meeting room.

Leedon saw us and, for some reason, smiled awkwardly to himself and went on his way.

Seeing that, Linda and I were startled. What was that about?

In the office, Linda heated up some water. While she searched for a paper cup, Leedon pushed some freshly harvested fruit to her. “Ms. Linda, could you help me peel these?”

She was busy, but I got up and volunteered on her behalf. “I’ll do it!”

Leedon was startled at my enthusiasm. “Oh, there’s no need. I’ll do it myself!”

I frowned as I tried to recollect our interactions over the past couple of days. I don’t think I had offended him. Why was he behaving like this?

Nonetheless, I did not spare much thought for the matter after he brought his fruits out of the conference room. Soon after, Ashton and Armond entered.

Then, Rachel entered after them. When everybody was seated, Joseph began. "I'm sure everybody has their own suspicions regarding the situation of the base and are keeping a close eye on it. We're here today to discuss our progress."

"This project was launched half a month ago. Right now, all of our tasks are bottlenecked, due to the mistakes of some people. We have been unable to get started even until today. How are we supposed to discuss progress?" Rachel cut across with an ugly look on the face.

Her words had truth to them, even if they were scathing. Linda did not retort, but she did not object either.

Ashton and Armond remained silent as well. As leaders, they were just here to listen.

After that, Joseph briefs a little regarding the status of the project and opened the floor for each of us to express our opinions.

"It's my fault that the project is currently stagnated," Linda voiced out. "I accept the blame fully. But the most important thing right now is to think of a way to catch back up."

"What a load of rubbish!" Rachel scoffed coldly.

Linda frowned but did not say anything.

Everybody present was well aware of the source of Rachel's discontent.

After a brief pause, I said, "The items stolen from the base are impossible to be recovered right now. I wonder if Fuller Corporation has any comparable technology that can substitute the stolen goods for the time being? For the project to continue, we need the equipment."

Joseph nodded. "It has already been arranged. Don't worry, Mrs. F-, I mean, Ms. Stovall!"

"Nice save, Mr. Campbell." Linda laughed.

Joseph grinned apologetically.

Rubbing my nose thoughtfully, I said, “Besides, I’ve been curious about what’s been going on here at the base. It’s very unlikely for Linda to forget the operational steps. How was it so coincidental that the thief would have been able to pick that up?”

“Coincidence? Sounds to me like we have a traitor in our midst. How easy it must have been to have something worth billions at one’s disposal. They get the goods, and they get the man as well. Hah! What a breeze!” Rachel said bitterly, her tone dripping with sarcasm.

“Rachel, you should clarify who it is that your filthy mouth was accusing.” Linda was losing her temper by the second.

“Well, well... Who else could I be referring to? I mean, if the shoe fits.” Rachel laughed coldly.

“You...” Linda spluttered, her anger rising steadily.

I pulled her back into her seat. “We’ll deal with what we have to deal with,” I said hastily. “Ms. Zimmer, there’s no need to bring your personal issues to a professional setting, and there’s even less need for you to use that tone with all of us. We will bear the price of our mistakes, but we are here to discuss what we can do better moving forward, and we will do exactly that!”

Chapter 765

“Let’s talk about how we are going resolve this,” Ashton said sharply. He then threw his documents on the table.

The table fell silent at once, and all eyes were on me.

I was unnerved but spoke slowly and confidently, "The project still has to continue no matter what. As for the theft, we will conduct an internal investigation. It is too big of a coincidence for both the surveillance and equipment to malfunction at the same time."

Joseph frowned. "We've investigated everybody at the base. They're all clean."

"Isn't that the biggest suspicion?" I protested. "How is it possible for everybody to claim an alibi at the same time?"

"I will communicate your concerns to the police," Joseph said after a pause.

"So we're back to where we started. There's no way to proceed with our investigation." Rachel laughed derisively. "We are always--"

A knock on the door of the conference room interrupted Rachel.

Joseph got up and opened the door. Leedon was on the other side.

"Ms. Stovall," he said in a panic. "The lady with you earlier is a friend of yours, is she not? Something's happened to her. Could you come and have a look?"

Nora?

I rose hurriedly. "Mr. Fuller, Mr. Murphy, please excuse me."

Armond got to his feet as well. After a mumbled explanation to the rest of them, he came out of the room with me.

“What happened?” I asked Leedon, who looked like he was in despair.

“The land adjacent is undergoing some renovation, and the lady fell into one of the holes dug into the ground when she was on her way to pick some fruits,” Leedon explained as we hastily made our way out.

“The foundations that they’d dug aren’t that deep,” I asked with confusion. “Why couldn’t you just bring her up?”

Leedon shook his head. “It’s a little more serious than that. There is no parking lot over here; it would have been a waste to use a plot of land as parking spots. We’ve decided to have an underground parking compound instead.”

I shivered. In that case, the foundation dug must be quite deep to accommodate the dimensions of a parking compound.

“Have you brought her up?” I couldn’t help feeling anxious.

“I’m not sure. When I first came, Ms. Oberick appeared unconscious. She might have been rescued, but she could be injured.”

The route around the outside of the base was difficult to traverse on foot. I jogged along with Leedon leading the way to the site where Nora fell.

A crowd gathered around the spot. With some trepidation in my heart, I joined them.

The paramedics were already there and were preparing their equipment to treat Nora, who was being lifted out at that moment.

She was indeed unconscious. “What happened to her? Where is she hurt?” I demanded.

“It might be her brain, but we can’t be sure without tests from the hospital,” one of the paramedics replied.

A stretcher was brought over, and Nora was placed on it. They carried her swiftly to the ambulance.

Leedon dispersed the crowd as I glanced down to where Nora fell. It wasn’t very deep.

At the bottom were several pears that were squashed. Those would be the pears that Nora had plucked.

But the question is – what was she doing all the way over here by herself? An ordinary woman would cringe at the amount of mud around the site and would rather die than soil their footwear. Why did she come all the way over here for?

Armond followed the party carrying Nora away. Soon after that, Ashton and the rest came toward me.

“What’re you looking at?” Ashton asked me as I stood next to the base.

“Why do you think she ran all the way over here for?”

“You need to be asking her that,” Ashton answered, just as confused as I was.

I shrugged without any further questions. We got into the car and followed the ambulance to the hospital.

With the chain of accidents that had occurred, coupled with Nora’s identity, the project was called to a halt.

Back at A City, the doctors who had examined Nora had revealed that she had hit her head pretty hard during the fall and would be remaining comatose for the foreseeable future.

Armond visited her, while the project in Lavelian Village was halted. The only thing left for me to do was to return to the villa for some rest.

Back at the villa, I attempted to key in the same passcode as I always have but was denied access.

Nonplussed, I gave Armond a call. "Did you change the passcode to the villa?"

He paused for a moment before answering. "Yes, Ashton does not wish for you to continue living with me. Your things have been relocated to the other villa."

I hung up and sighed deeply.

It was futile to hide from it. I trudged next door, entered the passcode, which was my birthday, and the door swung open.

There was a car already in the yard; it seemed as though Ashton had arrived before me. The door to the living room was wide open.

Joseph was occupied with watering the plants in the yard. "Mrs. Fuller, you're back!" he greeted.

I nodded, feeling somewhat uncomfortable.

"Is Ashton not back yet?" I asked after a pause. I cast a gaze around the perimeter of the living room just to be sure.

"Mr. Fuller is in the study upstairs," Joseph replied. "He is probably going over some documents. Why don't you go upstairs and have a look?"

Upstairs in the study, Ashton was hard at work. His black-rimmed spectacles rested on the bridge of his aquiline nose as he peered at the documents intently.

Chapter 766

When I shifted my gaze towards him, his handsome features exuded an elegant and alluring aura. He had also changed into a pair of grey sweats. It seemed like he had just emerged from a shower, as his ebony hair was in damp tendrils. Originally, Ashton had much shorter hair. He must have neglected it due to his increasing workload. His hair was now long enough to fall across his forehead. Overall, it gave him a very youthful appearance.

He did not notice my presence when I entered the study. He must have been too immersed in his work. Seizing the chance, I tiptoed over to his figure.

While he was distracted, I sneaked my way behind him and pointed my fingertip to the back of his head.

“Don’t move! This is a robbery!” I uttered in a low and raspy tone.

Gently, he set down the documents along with the glasses perched on his nose bridge. “What do you plan to steal?” he asked.

“I’ll take all your money!” I answered as I ruffled his hair with my fingers in a playful manner.

In a swift move, he turned around and pulled me onto his lap. “Mrs. Fuller, you can take anything you want,” he rumbled, “But you should repay my generosity before you leave.”

“Your guest is downstairs,” I said with a mischievous grin as I wrapped my hands around his neck. “Won’t you be embarrassed if there’s a commotion?”

“You don’t need to worry. He has left.” He reached out a hand to pinch me. His dark eyes were fixated intently on my face.

As soon as he uttered those words, the loud noise of a car engine echoed downstairs.

“Mr. Fuller, I have a serious question. Is Mr. Campbell’s impeccable timing a talent or skill that he trained?” I asked.

“Both!” his lips curled into a smile.

“Why do you keep calling me Mr. Fuller? Scarlett, shouldn’t you address me with more affection?” He caught my chin in his grip and bit my lip cheekily.

“We both have our own names,” I replied with a saddened pout. “What do you want me to call you? Baby? Sweetheart? Darling? Or Hubby?”

These loving titles seemed out of place for such a stoic person like Ashton.

Although we have been married for many years, I could not recall the last time I referred to him in such an intimate manner.

Ashton remained silent; his dark gaze was unreadable and impossible to decipher. “Hubby?” I asked tentatively.

The usually solemn Ashton seemed to be stunned by my words.

His flustered face nearly made me laugh aloud. How adorable! “Hubby!” I crooned gently and leaned on his chest.

According to Nora, there was a key technique when it came to flirting or being coy. A woman should sport a flirtatious gaze and a gentle voice; this would give the recipient an electrifying experience.

I felt a hint of glee when his muscles stiffened under my touch. It seems like Nora's advice worked!

After my brief moment of triumph, mortification swept over me. Something feels off...

A crimson red blush painted my cheeks as I stared at Ashton. "You..." I didn't expect to receive such a huge reaction!

Besides, we just did it last night...

"You are the worst!" The words slipped out through clenched teeth.

"I can't hold back when you call me hubby!" Ashton rasped as his grip around my waist tightened.

"Say it again!" he demanded. He lowered his head until his nose bumped against mine. I could feel the warmth of his breath fanning my cheek.

My face warmed upon his request. Of course, I wouldn't call him hubby again!

Quickly, I slid off his lap in an attempt to flee. "Go ahead with your work. I'm a little hungry; I'll find something to eat."

Before I could take another step, Ashton enveloped me in a back hug. My back was pressed against his broad chest as his chin rested on my shoulder. "How can you walk away after teasing me?"

"How is it my fault that you have no self-control?" I raised my hand to halt his advances. My face flushed in a mixture of frustration and embarrassment.

Ashton lifted me in his arms with ease and carried me to the table. "You can't leave things unfinished," he rumbled in a deep voice.

After so many years, Ashton knew my body like the back of his hand. A simple touch from his fingers was enough to strip my resistance away. It felt as if a cat had sunken its claws into my heart.

“Ashton, you were too rough last night! I can’t do it now!” I cried and reached out my hand against his chest to stop his advances.

He seemed to take my rejection as an invitation instead. Ashton didn’t stop his movements as my pleas were in vain. On the other hand, he seemed to redouble his efforts.

“Of course, I’ll get excited when I see you.” He clamped a hand over my mouth. “How can you be so cruel to neglect me?”

I was utterly speechless.

Yet, the arrow had been released from its bow. It was impossible to bring it back.

In the autumn days of September, the nights had begun to turn longer as the days shortened. Although it was seven in the morning, the sky remained dim. There was only a sliver of light that illuminated the clouds.

The sharp ringtone of my phone echoed noisily throughout the room. Before I could reach out to grab my phone, Ashton pinned me in place. It took several tries before I could grasp it in my hand.

Chapter 767

“Hello!” I answered the phone as I cleared my throat.

“Scarlett, Nora is awake. She wants to meet you,” Armond said over the phone. His voice sounded deep and exhausted.

“Alright, I will hurry over right now!” I exclaimed with a jolt of shock as all traces of my drowsiness vanished into thin air.

After I ended the call, Ashton’s hand was still draped across my waist. As the blankets slid off my naked body, I felt a hint of shyness due to the exposure.

Quickly, I set my phone aside. “Nora is awake! I have to go visit her,” I told him urgently.

Ashton nodded sleepily. Although he had just woken up, his handsome feature gave him a very alluring look.

Just as I was about to rise to my feet, Ashton captured me in his embrace. “Stay a little longer...” he rasped lowly.

“Nora is awake! There must be a reason for Armond’s early call! I must visit her,” I said and pushed his hand away.

“Okay,” he mumbled in response and did not comment any further.

I felt a tinge of childish frustration when he closed his eyes. Without hesitating, I bent down and blew a puff of air into his ear.

Immediately, his body stiffened in surprise. “Are you teasing me?” Ashton’s gaze darkened as he gazed at me.

“I was just trying to wake you up,” I replied innocently.

Without warning, Ashton flipped my body and caged me underneath him.

The sudden movement left me stricken with shock as I stared at him with widened eyes. "Ashton, you..."

"You don't have to rush. Instead of waiting for a woman's help, Armond should be able to handle it himself. Let's settle the more urgent matters first!" Ashton murmured before he kissed me affectionately.

It took an hour before we stopped.

Immediately, I scurried to the shower and changed my clothes in fear that he would continue.

When I emerged from the bathroom, the lower half of Ashton's body was clad in a towel as he scribbled in his notebook. Hearing my footsteps, he handed over a box clutched in his hand. "Eat two of these!"

"Are these vitamins?" I asked as I took the box from his hand and peered inside before looking at the handbook. It was filled to the brim with supplements.

"Aunt Sally brought them from Archulea." He nodded and flipped the notebook shut. "It is good for your health."

Despite my reluctance, I did not want to waste my elder's gift. Thus, I forced myself to consume the supplements.

"Hurry up and shower," I urged Ashton when I noticed his languid movements. "Then you can accompany me to visit Nora!"

Along the journey to the hospital, Ashton gave me an apologetic gaze after he finished talking on the phone. "I don't think I can visit Nora with you."

"It's alright. Why don't you stop the car right ahead? I'll hail a cab to the hospital!"

I did not receive a reply from Ashton. It looked like he had no intention to halt the car too. Upon seeing his actions, I decided to play along.

In order to avoid any delay, I grabbed my purse and prepared to leave the car.

However, Ashton did not unlock the door. Instead, his dark gaze remained fixated on me.

“What’s going on?” I asked in confusion.

“Are you planning to leave like this?”

“Is there something wrong?” I replied and nodded my head in confirmation.

His mood seemed to sour when he heard my answer. As I observed his expression, Ashton seemed to have a helpless look on his face.

In a rush to leave the car, I decided to discard that thought. With a quick wave, I began to stride towards to hospital.

As I approached the building, I caught sight of a young couple. The young lady clung to the man and refused to let him out of her arms. “When my mum’s sickness is better, I’ll come and visit you. Don’t get angry, please.”

Her partner simply nodded his head in compliance. Despite that, he still looked dissatisfied.

The woman raised herself on the tip of her toes and kissed his cheek. “I promise to keep you company for a long, long time. Are you happy now?” she asked.

The woman’s adorable antics and sweet kiss must have warmed his heart. Immediately, he nodded his head in approval, albeit he still seemed unhappy with her decision.

I couldn’t help the smile that spread across my face. Young love is so passionate!

Right at that moment, I couldn't help but recall Ashton's parting words. Are you planning to leave like this?

Realization dawned upon me as I hurriedly made my way back to where he had dropped me off.

Ashton was still in the midst of reversing his car at the hospital entrance. A wide smile graced his face when he caught sight of me.

"I'll see you tonight!" I ran towards the car and told him softly. Following that, I planted a delicate kiss on the side of his cheek.

The sight of his baffled expression was amusing to me as I bid him farewell and headed to the hospital.

"I'll see you tonight!" His deep voice resonated behind him.

With a bright grin, I bid him farewell and made my way into the hospital.

In the ward, Nora looked pale as she lay in bed with her head heavily bandaged. Armond sat by her bed while peeling fruits. "Was there heavy traffic?" he asked when I entered the room.

"No." I shook my head in slight bashfulness. "I left my house a little late."

"Is she feeling better?" I shifted the topic back to Nora.

"She just ate and is fast asleep right now. You should stay here and keep her company. I have some matters to attend to," Armond said with a nod of his head.