

Chapter 781

Joseph panicked when he noticed I remained silent. He quickly explained to make sure I didn't get the wrong idea about Ashton and Rebecca. "You don't have to explain. I'm totally fine with that. After all, they are friends. It's normal to eat together."

Suddenly, my phone rang. It was from Nora who just woke up. "What are you doing?" she asked in a hoarse voice.

"Nothing. I'm just chilling at home. Are you awake?"

"Yeah." she replied shortly as she stretched lazily on her bed. "I just woke up, but too lazy to get out of bed."

"Alright, now. Get yourself ready. Joseph brought us a seafood buffet from Sea View. You should come and try it."

She giggled. "Oh, my! Food is exactly what I need right now. My growling stomach woke me! Give me a minute, I'll be right there." She hung up the phone.

Joseph set the table up for us. Then, he walked to the sink with some oranges in his hands. "It's okay. Let me wash them." I quickly reached out for the oranges.

"You should go and eat. Mr. Fuller wants me to make sure you finish your meal, and he even ordered me to prepare a glass of orange juice for you."

I was at a loss for words.

This is ridiculous.

He didn't even let me step into the kitchen, and I was totally constrained in that situation. So I walked to the dinner table and plated the food.

Not long after, Nora arrived wearing her oversized shirt and a messy bun. I could tell she ran straight here after she got off her bed.

"Wow, what a feast! Ashton is such a caring and sweet partner! You're so lucky." With that, she whipped out her phone to take a picture.

"I'm going to post this on Instagram and tag Armond. That should teach him how to be a good boyfriend."

I smiled in amusement. I liked the way she teased him. Suddenly, Nora picked up my phone on the table and pressed random keys. "Nora, what are you doing?"

"You should upload it too and show it off to your friends." Her fingers were moving at lightning speed. She looked at my feed quizzically. "Scarlett, why is your feed empty? You don't post on your Instagram?"

I shook my head. "I just decided not to because there's nothing particularly special to post."

She frowned in disbelief. "Are you kidding me? I can't believe you have no posts. You're such a weirdo!"

As she nagged at me, she stalked Ashton's account. "Oh, my god! You two are as alike as two peas in a pod. Ashton didn't post anything on his wall either." She was utterly dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, Joseph came out from the kitchen with some side dishes. His gaze settled on us. "You two should eat while it's still warm," he said.

Nora was absolutely famished and gobbled down her food.

I already had my breakfast, so I had little appetite. Beside me, Joseph had his gaze firmly fixed on my plate to make sure I finished my meal. I had no choice but to eat as much as I could. And I certainly would get into less trouble that way, especially with Ashton.

When I was almost finished with my lunch, Joseph asked, "Mrs. Fuller, what time will you be home tonight?"

"She's not going back!" Nora exclaimed. "Scarlett and I are planning to stay at my grandpa's. Oh, yeah. Please relay this message to Ashton and tell him not to wait."

Confused, Joseph turned to me. I nodded in silent admission.

Instead of saying more, he simply replied, "I still have something on. Please excuse me," he said and left.

After he left, Nora gazed at me and said, "Geez, Ashton is going a little overboard. It's not like you're a kid or something."

I responded with a smile. Right then, my phone rang. Before I could reach out for it, Nora swiftly moved her gaze to the screen. It showed an incoming call from Ashton. “My, my. Your hubby is showing off his affection again.”

I picked up the call. “Ashton, I’ve finished my meal!”

There was silence on the other end. “Okay, I’m glad you like it,” he said in an attractive, deep voice a few seconds later.

“Why are you calling?” I asked, confused. Joseph must have told him I had eaten, so I doubted he called to confirm it. Besides, he was a busy man.

“Nora and I will stay at Lavelian Village, so I’m not going home tonight.”

“Okay.” He was not at all surprised.

Oh! He’s not calling for this?

I waited patiently for him to say something. After a brief pause, he finally spoke. “I like the photo.”

“Photo?” I was utterly baffled.

“Your post. I like it.” His voice was filled with flattery.

Huh? What post? “Alright, be careful on your way.” He ended the call as he was still in a meeting.

I frowned in confusion. Then, I checked my phone and press on the push notifications.

One of the comments was from John. Letty, next time I will buy anything you want to eat.

Chapter 782

Emery commented on the post: Damn, you've not been posting anything, but once you finally do it, it's to show off your relationship? Are you trying to make a dig at the rest of us?

Hunter replied: Dear, don't be jealous. I'll cook it for you tonight if you like.

Hannah then commented: This is great. The two of you have to remain this sweet when you guys are in A City.

Curious, I could not help but click the post that they were replying to. It was my post, and it had a side-view photograph of me eating seafood with my head down. I looked very happy eating in the photo and seemed to be in a good mood.

The accompanying caption was: Forever seems to be a long time, but I wouldn't mind spending the rest of my life with you. Thank you for the thoughtful lunch, Mr. Fuller. It was delicious.

The captions ended with a string of happy emojis.

I could not help but look at Nora. Puzzled as to why I was staring at her, she asked, "What's wrong?"

"Did you use my phone to post something just now?"

She nodded. "Yeah! You've not had a single post after using Instagram for so long. Have you never shared anything about your life? That's so old-fashioned!"

I frowned and read through the dozens of comments. They were all from my friends and there were even some likes on my post.

Among them, Ashton's was especially conspicuous.

Noticing my frown, Nora walked over to look at my phone, then nagged, "Instagram is for you to keep a record of whatever happens in your life. If you don't use it, are you saying that your life's not worth remembering?"

After a short pause, she said, "See, your post has been liked by almost all your friends, and everyone has wished you well in your relationship. That's so nice!"

When she noticed Ashton's comment, she could not help but read it out aloud. "We have a long way to go, and I'll give you as much love and affection as you want until then. I'm not a very gentle person, but I'll definitely do my best for you!"

Then, she tutted and said, "It's indeed very different when sweet nothings come out of such a cold man's mouth. Your husband's comment is really so sweet. He's just blatantly showing off his affection to everyone!"

With a hand on my forehead, I scrolled through the comments. However, since I rarely used the app, I did not know how to reply to them.

Nora noticed that I had not replied to anyone and said, "Your friends have all given you their blessings so enthusiastically, so why aren't you replying to them? It's only polite to do that. It's basically the same thing as a friend meets you outside and greets you, but you just ignore them. Hurry, reply to them!"

Stunned, I simply nodded and slowly replied to the comments one by one. However, Nora was left speechless as she watched me. "You're just replying 'Thank you' to all of them? That's really boring!"

She paused, then sighed. "Forget it. You can't really be blamed. At least you made some progress by learning to reply to them!"

When I had replied to all the comments, I clicked on the home tab and refreshed the page. Ashton seemed to have posted something as well, so I clicked on it, only to find that he had posted the same picture that I just did.

His caption was: Mrs. Fuller, you are the brightest star in my dark sky!

"Damn!" exclaimed Nora, "Your posts are really the best. I can't believe that Mr. Fuller doesn't even flinch while showing off his affection like that. This man is more than what meets the eyes!"

I'm the brightest star in his sky? Since when did Ashton become so poetic?

Seeing my smile, Nora looked at me and narrowed her eyes. "Your expression... are you missing him?"

I hurriedly controlled my expression, though my cheeks were still burning. Then, I cleared my throat and said, "It's almost noon. You should go back and pack up. Aren't we going to Lavelian Village soon?"

She nodded and said goodbye before she continued hastily, "I'd almost forgotten all about it. I'll go back and put on some makeup. You should do the same too. I'll wait for you at the door!"

I nodded in reply, signaling for her to go.

After she left, I looked at my phone and could not help but click on Ashton's post once more. It seemed to be his first time posting something too, so everyone would definitely be shocked by it.

Many people in Fuller Corporation would probably be shocked and discussing it right now!

Raising my hands to my face, I rubbed on my heated cheeks. Then, I went up to the second floor to get changed. After all, Channing was my elder, so my etiquette and appearance had to be appropriate.

I could not just turn up in casual attire. Besides, he seemed to know Grandma. I had been thinking about it for a long time and always wanted to ask him about it when the opportunity arose.

When I was ready to leave, I took a look at all the antique tea sets that Ashton bought, and picked out a set to bring over. I selected one that was from Xenhall and packed up some premium tea as well.

From outside came the honk of a car, signaling that Nora was ready to go. Taking everything that I needed, I then stepped out to meet her. She had changed into a long, delicate dress and had pulled her hair into a bun. She even had a pair of pearl-framed sunglasses perched on her tall nose. Nora looked both playful and cool.

Chapter 783

When I stepped out of the house, Nora lowered her sunglasses and said, “Your dressing today makes you look like a virtuous woman. It’s basically the ideal outfit to wear to meet your partner’s family for the first time. When I have to meet Mr. Murphy in the future, I’ll use your dress as a reference.”

When I got into the car, I could not help but laugh. “I just tied up my hair, put on a dress, and did some light makeup. How does it make me look virtuous?”

She started the car as she said, “You don’t understand. Many elderly folks like girls like you, who look neat, gentle, and quiet because they look like good wives.”

Noticing the antique tea set and premium tea in the back, she said, “You already know what Grandpa likes after only meeting him once. No wonder the old Mr. Fuller picked you to marry his grandson!”

I smiled. “If I told you that I was just lucky, would you believe me?”

She nodded, then bobbed her head to the rhythm of the music that was playing. She replied loudly, "Of course, I believe you!"

All along the way, the music was upbeat. I had already been in a good mood, and listening to rock music only made me feel even better.

It was evening by the time we reached Lavelian Village. Nora drove the car into the village and parked outside an antique-looking villa.

Channing stood with his walking stick at the gates of the villa, seemingly having waited for a long time.

When he saw Nora's car approach, he could not hide his happiness as he walked down the stairs to welcome her.

As soon as she parked the car, Nora got off and ran toward Channing to hug him. She said playfully, "Grandpa, didn't I say that you should just wait at home? I know how to drive in. It's cold at night. What if you catch a cold?"

Channing grinned from ear to ear as he replied, "This girl. Didn't you say you would arrive in the morning? Look what time it is."

Nora pouted. "I was asleep in the morning! By the way, I brought a friend with me."

As she spoke, Nora pulled me forward. "Grandpa, this is my friend, Scarlett."

Channing smiled as he looked at me. "I know her. We met in the village's hotel. You're working at Murphy Corporation, right?"

I nodded and smiled lightly. "Hello, Mr. Oberick!"

He nodded in reply. "Hello!"

When we were done with our introductions, Channing instructed his workers to prepare the food, then brought us into his house. There were only a few people in the villa, with only two caregivers and one housekeeper.

The kitchen seemed to have prepared the food a long time ago and had already set them on the table. As we entered, the caregiver smiled and said, "They've all been heated up!"

Channing nodded and said, "Get a glass of beet juice for Nora."

Then, he turned to me and asked, "What would you like to drink, Ms. Stovall?"

I smiled politely and replied, "I'm fine with anything, Mr. Oberick. I'm not picky."

He laughed. "Why don't you try Nora's favourite beet juice as well then?"

I nodded. "Sure, thank you!"

Just then, the sound of an engine came from outside. It sounded like a car had just parked by the door.

Nora had only just picked up her chopsticks and had not even taken a bite. She turned to Channing and asked, "Grandpa, did you invite someone else?"

He was taken aback for a moment, then he shook his head and replied, "No. Who would come and visit an old man like me in the middle of the night?"

The housekeeper then entered the room and said, "Mr. Oberick, a Mr. Fuller wish to see you."

Nora tutted and looked at me. "Ashton?"

Confused, I shook my head and replied, "He should be busy now. I don't think he'll come here."

However, I was not very certain of my words. Since Joe and Rebecca are in A City, he should be taking them around to view the city. I don't think he'd come here to accompany me for dinner, right?

Channing smiled and turned to the housekeeper. "What a good timing. We've only just sat down. Invite him in quickly!"

The housekeeper nodded and left, then soon came back.

Behind the housekeeper followed a slender, handsome man with an outstanding appearance. It was Ashton.

Nora could not help but laugh. “Mr. Fuller, are you afraid that I’d abduct your wife? I don’t think you’d be so petty as to not even let me take her out to play for a while, right?”

After Ashton greeted Channing, he turned to Nora and replied, “Scarlett doesn’t sleep very well and gets insomnia easily. You two can go ahead and chat. I won’t interfere!”

“Please take a seat!” said Channing as he pulled out the chair beside him. He then turned to Nora and scolded, “Nora, where are your manners?”

Ashton laughed. “I was the one who came here uninvited. Sorry to disturb you.”

Recalling what Nora had just said, Channing then looked at Ashton and asked, “Nora said that you were here to see your wife. Isn’t your wife Ms. Zimmer? Why...”

“Grandpa, you’re confused!” said Nora, “What do you mean by Ms. Zimmer? She’s just a fake. The granddaughter-in-law who was chosen by the old Mr. Fuller is here!”

She pointed at me and smiled. “You gave Grandma’s bracelet to the wrong person. She’s going to be angry!”

Chapter 784

Taken aback, Channing looked at Ashton, puzzled.

Ashton was not the least bit upset. He quickly got up and bowed in apology. "Sorry, Mr. Oberick. I'd always wanted to explain what happened at the hotel then, but I didn't get the chance to. I'll officially make amends to you today."

Then, he took out the bracelet that Channing had given Rachel and returned it to him. "Actually, Scarlett is my wife. We just had some conflicts on the day that we ate in the hotel. We can't accept this bracelet."

Since it had come to this, I stood up and bowed in apology as well.

Channing seemed to still be a little stunned. He looked at me in a daze and said, "You guys..."

Just then, Nora spoke. "Don't you understand yet, Grandpa? They had some conflicts before, which resulted in that big mess. But Mr. Fuller's right. Grandma left that bracelet behind, so you can't just give it away so casually. If you want to give them a gift, you can get them something else. The bracelet contains your memories with Grandma, so you shouldn't just give it away."

Channing smiled as he opened the box to look at the bracelet. He then looked at Ashton and me, who were still standing, and said, "It's fine, you two can sit down. At least we resolved this misunderstanding."

When we had taken our seats, he continued, "It's normal for married couples to fight once in a while."

Ashton and I quickly nodded in response. Nora then looked at me and whispered, "I didn't think that your handsome icy husband would be so humble in front of the elderly!"

I smiled faintly. Ashton's charms were not only because of his appearance and how commanding he was. His granitelike sternness with his subordinates and his disinterest in outsiders were all just habits of his.

Deep down, he was actually a gentle and loyal person. He was patient with children and respectful and filial to his elders. Those were the qualities that made him charming.

As Channing looked at the bracelet in his hands, he sighed a little. "Just as you guys said, I shouldn't give this bracelet away. However, it's actually something that your Grandma told me to do. We've been friends with the Fullers for decades, and this bracelet was originally given to our family by the old Mrs. Fuller. Sixty years ago, when everything was in a mess and we were busy trying to escape war to stay alive, we met the Fullers, who were poor just like us. Unlike now, we had to worry about everything back then. We had no food, so it was normal for us to eat tree bark. We were lucky if we even got to eat some bran."

Channing could not help but sigh, then continued, "This silver bracelet may not look much now, but back then, it meant a lot to our friendship when we were gifted this. The old Mrs. Fuller had initially given this to us so that we could sell it for money to buy some food."

He then looked at Nora and continued, "But your grandmother refused to do that. No matter how hungry we were or how tough our lives were, she treasured this bracelet. When we went to Venria to aid the war, she still did not sell it no matter how tough she had it and even when she had to take care of your father. When everything ended, we could have lived a good life from then on. But she'd been malnourished for too long, so

her body had given up on her slowly. She'd always wished to take this bracelet to the daughter-in-law of the Fullers, but she'd passed away before her wish was fulfilled."

Channing was choking up by the time he was done speaking. He lowered his head and wiped away the tears in the corner of his eyes. "I know this bracelet is not as valuable as those gold or jade ones, but it holds the memories of people of my generation. So we want to give it to you, in hopes that it will serve as a reminder to the two of you that no matter how tough life may be or whatever difficult problems you might face, the two of you will still have mutual understanding and continue to live well together. Once you have lived through certain phases in life, wealth no longer has much value. What's really valuable is the relationship that you have with each other."

Ashton took my hand in his and interlocked our fingers, then said, "We will!"

The things that he wanted to pass on to us were simple and heart-warming. There were many wealthy people in the world, but not many could find peace in their hearts.

He hoped that even after facing the mess and filth in the world, we would still be able to face our lives with ease. Having such a mentality would be more important than anything else.

Channing's eyes held a hint of longing and reluctance as he stroked the bracelet. After a while, he handed it to me. "I'm old. I've been through the hardship that I had to and enjoyed the blessings of living a good life too. So many things happened in my lifetime, and everyone I miss is already gone, so I've nothing left to worry over. All I want is to grant my wife's wish. Keep this bracelet and let it pass on from generation to generation."

My heart was warm, and my nose started burning. As I took the box into my hands, I nodded at Channing and replied, "Mr. Oberick, we'll definitely pass it down to the younger generations."

He nodded and broke into a smile. "Good. The future lies in the hands of young people like you."

Chapter 785

I nodded while opening the box. In it, laid a pair of bracelets. I took one out and said to Nora, "Grandma would be happy if we bring one back. As for the other, Nora, would you be willing to realize Grandpa's wish with me? If we pass the bracelets down as a family heirloom, we would be one big family."

Nora was taken aback at my suggestion. She then turned to Channing.

Channing was bewildered too, then laughed heartily. "Nora, it seems you got a good friend!"

Nora laughed at his remark and accepted the bracelet. "It would be my honor. From now on, we are one big family."

The mood lightened at dinner.

The day had turned dark when dinner was over.

Everyone sat chatting while sipping tea in the living room when Nora asked, "Scarlett, you told me that you have something to ask Grandpa. What is it?"

I almost forgot about it if she didn't remind me about it. "Mr. Oberick, I have something to ask you."

Channing was happy that he had more of an appetite than usual. He sat casually on the couch and grinned, "There is no need for you to be that courteous. Ask away."

"I wanted to ask you about Winona Stovall. You mentioned her the other day when we had a meal together."

Channing sat up straight after hearing Winona's name. "How are you related to her?"

I replied, "She adopted me."

He nodded with understanding. His gaze flickered between Ashton and me in silence. "It's not surprising George would allow you to marry Ashton."

"Grandpa, can you tell us already? The suspense is killing me!" urged Nora.

After a pause, Channing answered, "I don't know Winona well. The only reason I know her was because of George. She was originally from K City but moved to R Province due to some reason. That was all I know about her."

"Does my grandma have any relatives?" It had been so many years, but she had never told me anything about it.

"Surely she has them. She came from K City, so her relatives would be there. However, I fear that her relatives may have passed away since many years have passed."

After that, I stopped asking as Channing didn't seem to know much.

Moreover, all these were in the past. Grandma never told me anything about her. Maybe she really didn't want anyone to know about it.

Lavelian Village was quiet at night. The autumn in September wasn't cold but chilly.

Since Channing's health wasn't in the best condition, he needed to retire to bed early. The caregiver supported him as he made his way towards his bedroom.

Right then, Nora clung onto my arm and said to Ashton, "Mr. Fuller, we have decided that Scarlett would be sleeping with me tonight. You can't stop us!"

Ashton narrowed his eyes at me. Despite not saying anything, his meaning was obvious.

I facepalmed. "Alright, it's late. Let's all sleep early!"

The housekeeper led us to the second floor towards our respective rooms.

Nora pouted, "Scarlett, how could you forget about me when you have a man now? You can be with him anytime you want, so why can't you keep me company just for one night?"

I turned to glance at Ashton once again to ask for permission. After all, she had a point there, and I was highly persuaded.

"Ashton..."

“You know I can’t sleep alone when I’m outside,” Ashton said without waiting for me to finish my sentence.

“It’s not too late for you to call Armond.”

Nora glared at him. “Hey, Fuller! How could you be so mean? It is only for one night. I’m not going to eat her up or anything.”

“Well, I can’t leave her!” Ashton said unabashedly.

Nora was dumbstruck at his shamelessness. Refusing to speak to him any further, she retreated to her room. “Ashton, maybe she just needs someone to talk to?” I turned around and said.

Nora seemed like a carefree and mischievous girl on the outside, but she could be lonely on the inside.

Hearing that, Ashton nodded with understanding. He cupped my face and gave me a gentle kiss. “Go on then. Don’t stay up too late.”

I nodded with a grin. “Ashton, you’re the best!”

“You’re even better, Mrs. Fuller!” He smiled gently then motioned me towards Nora’s room.

As Nora’s door wasn’t locked, a slight push had it opened right away.

Her entire room was in princess pink, and it looked cute. Meanwhile, Nora was sleeping face down on her princess bed.

Hearing some slight movement, she assumed it was the caregiver. "Could you check if the guests next door needs anything?"