

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 743

The rain pelted down harshly on our bodies. Laurel, who was completely soaked through like everyone else, peered at me with worry lining her features. "We have to go now!"

"This place is prone to sinkholes, especially on rainy days. C'mon, let's leave first!" Tabitha urged.

As though on cue, lightning streaked across the sky, followed by a deafening clap of thunder. Everyone couldn't care less about anything else and immediately scurried toward the tents.

"I think that area just collapsed!" Tabitha's boyfriend suddenly exclaimed.

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Everyone glanced back as one and sure enough, a large area of the ground had sunken in.

"This place used to be a mine. Some spots were dug to a depth of approximately ten meters and no one has been managing this area in years. On rainy days, accidents are prone to happen," Tabitha's boyfriend explained.

Tabitha gasped in terror. "I saw many tea trees on the mountain. Isn't it dangerous for the tea farmers there? They could lose their lives!"

Laurel spoke up right then, aiming her words at Ashton. "Mr. Fuller, where did you guys go off to? If we weren't looking for you guys, Scarlett would never have been in danger and we wouldn't have gotten caught in the downpour either."

At that, everyone turned their attention to Ashton. He cast a fleeting gaze at them, but remained otherwise calm. In a polite and sophisticated manner, he expressed his regret. "What happened today was an oversight on my part. To show my sincere apology, I'll treat everyone to a meal tomorrow."

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Laurel pursed her lips. "We're not blaming you. It's not exactly your fault, anyway."

While I was trapped in the pit, my entire body was pumping with adrenaline, but now that I escaped from that precarious situation, exhaustion hit me like a ton of bricks.

As I listened to their conversation, my knees suddenly gave out beneath me.

Ashton's quick reflexes kicked in and he caught me before I hit the ground, smoothly pulling me into his arms.

"Scarlett, what's wrong? Are you hurt? Let me take a look at you." Anxiously, Nora squatted beside me to inspect my body for injuries.

However, Ashton blocked her and contradicted in an authoritative voice, "She's not injured. She's just tired after the stress her body was put through. All she needs is a good rest."

I held Nora's hand and nodded reassuringly at her. Then, I tried to get to my feet, but Ashton hugged me close to his body and scooped me up. Both our clothes were wet, but thankfully, the weather wasn't too cold.

At such close proximity, I could feel his body temperature radiating and also the rhythm of his heartbeat.

Embarrassed, my face flushed a crimson red.

Finally, I was back in the tent after being subjected to the harrowing ordeal in the pit. Worried that I would catch a cold, Nora gave me the clothes she had brought that day and told me get changed inside the tent.

She squeezed into the tiny space because she was worried I wouldn't be able to change my clothes due to some unseen injuries.

Noticing how she was blatantly staring at me, I cleared my throat awkwardly. "You really don't need to watch me like that. I'm fine. Really. Perfectly intact!"

She nodded, but her eyes remained trained on me as she sighed. "Thank God Laurel's call for help was loud enough to travel through the forest. Otherwise, only God knows what would've happened to you if you were still trapped down there in this rain."

My hands paused their actions and I looked at her in perplexity. "Didn't you guys search for me because Tessa came looking for help?"

She shook her head with a frown. "Not long after we got separated, we trekked around the forest, but then returned to camp when we didn't find Ashton. He came back with Rachel later on. It turns out that she sprained her ankle and couldn't walk back. Ashton was supporting her when they returned. Seriously, that woman is nothing but trouble."

Flabbergasted, I blurted out, "Then, has Tessa come back?"

A small crease formed between her brows. "I would've forgotten all about her if you didn't mention her. We haven't seen her since you fell into the pit!"

"After Ashton and Rachel came back, we waited a long time for you guys. When it started to rain, we got worried, so we hiked toward the mountain. That's when we heard Laurel calling for help and found out that you fell into a pit."

I pursed my lips and fell silent.

After a brief moment, Nora's gasp broke the silence. "Did you guys tell Tessa to come back for help?"

I nodded solemnly. "Yeah."

Her lips pressed tightly together as her brows drew together. "Damn! That woman is seriously vile. She talks about virtue and kindness every chance she gets, but she's actually a cold-hearted b*tch!"

I kept mum and resumed changing my clothes. Suddenly, I felt all the energy drain from my body and only fatigue remained.

To play safe, we decided to rest in our tents for the night.

After experiencing a life-and-death situation, everyone was bone tired. Initially, Nora wanted to accompany me in my tent, but she was taken away by Armond after a while.

Too tired to inquire about the rest of them, I lay in my tent and fell asleep in a daze.

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The rain got heavier in the middle of the night, and I jolted awake when thunder cracked across the sky like a whip.

When I turned on my side, I realized with a start that there was someone lying down beside me.

Before I could release a scream, a hand shot out to grab mine and then came a man's soothing voice. "Calm down. It's me."

My chest heaved as I tried to recover from my shock. "Ashton, what are you..." I trailed off.

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His unexpected presence had brought scared the daylight out of me, but gradually, I regained my bearings and furrowed my brows. Shouldn't he be with Rachel now? Why is he here?

I pursed my lips and uttered icily, "What are you doing here?"

His lips remained sealed, seemingly having no intention to answer me. Right then, another clap of thunder boomed overhead, and I flinched closer to him. However, he didn't seem to notice the subtle movement as he stuffed a pair of earplugs into my ears.

My surroundings instantly became quiet and for a while, I merely stared blankly at him in the dark.

Throughout it all, he didn't utter a single word. Instead, he hugged me and coaxed me to sleep by gently patting my back.

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I was really sleepy, to begin with, I gradually dozed off in his arms and slept through the entire night.

The sky was already bright when I woke up the next day, and the morning air was slightly humid due to the heavy rain from the previous night.

Subconsciously looking to my side, I felt slightly incredulous when I found the space empty.

That man really comes and goes like the wind. I would've thought I hallucinated everything if not for the earplugs still stuck in my ears!

Putting aside those thoughts, I registered the headache pulsing behind my temples. Hence, even after waking up for a while, I remained in the same position. When Nora came into my tent and saw me lying down with my eyes open, she paused briefly and asked, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

I shook my head and parted my lips to answer. "My head... hurts." My throat was so dry I could barely say more than two words.

Crap. I think I may be down with a fever.

Nora's brows knitted together upon hearing my scratchy voice. Upon touching my forehead with the back of her hand, she exclaimed, "You're burning up!"

Then, she rushed out in a haste and spoke to someone. "We should pack our things right now and go back to A City. Scarlett is down with a high fever!"

I wanted to say something, but my throat hurt too badly.

Ashton walked into the tent and scanned my face with his ominous eyes. Then, a frown appeared between his brows when he touched my forehead. "Jesus, you're burning!"

Nora trailed in after him and suggested, "Mr. Fuller, you should take her to the base to see a doctor first. There's a clinic over there."

Ashton nodded and picked me up. By then, my head was buzzing with a pounding headache. I knew that nothing I said would make a difference, so I simply went along with their decision.

Subsequently, Ashton brought me straight to the base while the others followed behind.

Due to my headache, I fell asleep again after getting into the car. My body felt light, as though I was floating in the air.

My body temperature fluctuated as I drifted in and out of consciousness, and I was plagued by an unending stream of nightmares, unable to break out of them.

In my semi-conscious state, I vaguely saw someone standing beside me. When Ashton's face came into view, I reached out to grab him, but my fingers just couldn't seem to touch him.

I was on the verge of breaking down after several failed attempts. As my emotions spiraled out of control, I began to cry.

Suddenly, I felt him hugging me. Then, the muffled sound of his voice reached my ears, but I couldn't figure out what he was saying.

The feeling of not being able to communicate with the outside world was horrible. After a few tries, I realized that I couldn't open my mouth, let alone speak. Hence, I chose to give up altogether.

Thereafter, I plunged deeper into my dreams. Some were horrifying, while others were beautiful, but most were indistinct. One thing they had in common was that they felt like things I had personally experienced.

In fact, many of those scenarios and emotions felt so tangible that I couldn't differentiate between dream and reality anymore.

This torment lasted a long time. When I finally opened my eyes, it was to see everything white. I'm in a hospital ward.

My mind gradually registered the pain and dryness in my throat. I shifted slightly, trying to get up to drink some water.

But my whole body was extremely sore.

"She's awake. Scarlett's awake!" Nora's familiar voice rang from nearby.

She ran over to the bed and grabbed my hand emotionally. "Oh God, you're finally awake. You almost scared me to death these few days!"

I opened my mouth to speak, but try as I might, I couldn't make a single sound. Left without a choice, I pointed at the cup.

She immediately got the hint and queried, "You want some water?"

When I nodded, she reached out for the cup, but someone beat her to it. Both of us glanced over in unison to see that it was Ashton.

Nora gave me a knowing smile before getting up to step aside.

Ashton sat next to me and supported me up from the bed to lean against his shoulder before bringing the cup to my lips.

My thirst was unbearable, so although I could feel the buried emotions within me threatening to surface, I ignored it and drank a few sips of water from the cup.

Even after my throat felt better, Ashton still kept his arms around me as he asked, "Do you want more?"

I shook my head and replied with much difficulty, "Thank... you."

His mouth tightened visibly, but he didn't comment. Then, he placed the cup on the bedside table and glanced at Nora. "We need to call the doctor over to check on her."