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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1735

Chapter 1735 Always Stay By My Side

But on second thought, it makes much sense. Indeed, it's safer the further away they stay from me during this time.

After putting down the phone, I realized that Gregory and Audrey had come home at some time. The two children were standing at the side of the living room, holding hands while gazing at me from afar without saying a single word.

At once, I schooled my expression and opened my arms to them. "Quick, come over here, my darlings!"

Audrey's eyes flicked down to my arms before she dropped Gregory's hand and sprinted toward me. She lunged at me so forcefully that I was thrown back. Still, she giggled happily and kissed me fervently while hugging me around the neck. "Mommy! I missed you so much, Mommy! I love you loads!"

Undeniably, the warmth brought by one's flesh and blood could easily banish one's gloom. Grinning, I righted her and placed her on my lap. Patiently brushing off the strands of hair before her forehead, I inquired about her day at school as usual. "Tell me what you learned today, Audrey."

At that, Audrey immediately scrambled off me and trotted over to Gregory. Snatching the drawing paper he was holding in his hand, she joyously ran back over to me and spread it open.

"Look, Mommy! I drew this! My teacher praised me in front of everyone in my class. She said that my drawing was the best!"

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It was a crayon drawing with a few simple colors, but one could make out the basic outline of several people. Two adults and four children were holding hands as they enjoyed themselves in the grassy meadow under the bright sunlight. Truly, it depicted a blissful and peaceful life.

Audrey didn't even forget Shaun, making it apparent that she loved every single person in the family.

I spaced out as I looked at it, forgetting to give her an appropriate response. In turn, it resulted in her feeling a sense of uncertainty and uneasiness. "Do you not like my drawing, Mommy?"

"Of course, I do!" It wasn't until then that I snapped back to reality. I hurriedly planted a kiss on her forehead as a reward. Then I took out my phone and tapped on the camera before taking a picture of the drawing to flaunt it off. "Here, let me take a picture of this beautiful drawing. I'll post it on Instagram so that everyone can see how smart and incredible my daughter is!"

Such jubilation inundated Audrey that delight danced in her eyes. Lifting her head, she stared at me blankly, like a chubby porcelain doll. "Mommy, if I continue being good, you'll always stay by my side, right?"

Puzzled, I reached out and stroked her head. "Why would you think that? Regardless of whether you're good, I'll always love you."

Pouting, Audrey shook her head. "No, that's not true. I was too naughty, so Daddy isn't coming home. He doesn't want to be picked on by me anymore."

At that, her eyes went red. She clutched at my arm and shook it. "Mommy, tell Daddy that I'll be good. Tell him to come back, okay? I miss him..."

Tears trickled down her face as she spoke, every drop hitting me squarely in the chest.

I hugged her tightly. After consoling her and inquiring about the matter, I finally learned that Audrey had been privately questioning Gregory relentlessly about Ashton's disappearance in the past few days though she made no mention of it before me. Gregory didn't understand

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the matter between adults, so he had picked an excuse that sounded relatively reasonable to shut her up. Alas, Audrey took it to heart and thought that she had driven Ashton away.

Seeing his sister weep, Gregory grew distressed. With red-rimmed eyes, he apologized, murmuring, "I'm sorry, Mommy. I just didn't want her to think too much. I never thought that she's bad or anything..."

Ah, they're all sensible children! How am I to keep my defenses up in front of them?

I beckoned Gregory over and hugged them both. Tears promptly escaped my eyes, but I held myself back and kept my sobs silent.

They don't understand anything, but ironically, it's also as though they understand everything.

After I had released the bottled emotions within me and put the children to bed, it was already nine o'clock at night. Just when I was planning to sleep earlier so that I could wake up early tomorrow to make a trip to the hospital, my WhatsApp notification started pinging like crazy.

I saw a brief preview of a video that Emery had sent me. In just the time I spent picking up my phone, several voice messages came in back to back.

After unlocking my phone, I was about to play the voice messages out of habit when my attention was suddenly snagged by the thumbnail image of the video.

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1736

Chapter 1736 Joseph Had Taken Off

The man in the video's thumbnail image was none other than Joseph, whom I had parted ways with a short time ago. However, he seemed to be in a bad way with his eyes sunken and dark eye bags below them, a world of difference from the strong man in my memories.

Trembling, I tapped on the first voice message, and the others played sequentially.

"Come over and help me figure out how to deal with this. I found him in the alley behind The Jade. There are no other wounds on him apart from a few prick marks. He has probably been injected with a high dosage of drugs, and the other party is determined to have him addicted at a single go. They're really ruthless."

And so it went.

A buzzing started in my mind. So, Ashton still didn't protect him in the end?

I rushed over to The Jade, only to see Emery waiting anxiously at the door. From the looks of it, she had been waiting for quite some time.

While leading me in, she murmured, "This way. I have someone watching over him."

"Are you sure it's drugs?" I asked softly, harboring a final shred of hope within me. Like Ashton, Joseph was an outstanding man, so he shouldn't be tainted with such a nasty substance.

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"In all likelihood, it is." Emery sighed regretfully, saying nothing further.

At the end of the corridor on the first floor, tall and burly bodyguards were keeping guard outside the room door on the right, one on either side. Their indifferent expressions made it so that no one dared to approach the room.

Emery stopped for a moment at the door and questioned one of them, "Did anything happen?"

"Everything has been normal," the bodyguard replied.

In response, Emery nodded. "Okay. Open the door."

"Understood," the bodyguard answered respectfully. Then he took out a key and unfastened the safety lock hanging on the door before pushing the door open.

But when we walked in, the huge room was empty.

Emery and I exchanged a glance, reckoning that Joseph must have hidden away. "Perhaps he's in the bathroom."

As I said that, I pushed open the bathroom door but still saw no one there. However, the exhaust fan on the ceiling had been pried open, and the hole was just the perfect size for a grown man.

It was clear as day that he had already taken off.

At that turn of events, Emery grew morose. "Why did he hightail it out of here when I wasn't going to hurt him?"

I gauged the distance between the exhaust fan and the floor. Although there was a chair to boost him up, it would've certainly taken quite some effort to climb up. Emery said he's already doped up, so he's likely weak and lethargic. Still, he climbed up with sheer willpower alone.

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An unspeakable wave of sorrow flooded me as I recalled his restrained voice on the phone earlier. "He didn't want someone he knows to see him in such a condition."

He has always been immaculate before others, so how could he possibly tolerate showing others the most pathetic side of him? Even as a bystander, I feel as though it has never happened when I didn't behold it with my own eyes, what's more Joseph himself.

"No, that's not right." All of a sudden, something occurred to me. If he has been reduced to this, what about his wife and children?

Having thought of that, I quickly phoned the company secretary and asked for Joseph's address. No matter what, I had to go and take a look at things personally before I could rest easy.

After making the call, I contacted Millie next. Learning that she was nearby, I arranged to meet her at the entrance.

Throughout it all, Emery stood at the side and watched silently without offering any opinion. Nevertheless, she appeared hesitant, seemingly having something to say.

Afraid that something had happened to her, yet she was reluctant to bother me, I inquired with feigned nonchalance as I put my phone away, "Is there anything else?"

Emery shook her head, jolting out of her contemplation. She looked me right in the eye. "No. Are you leaving right away?"

"Yeah." I nodded firmly. Again, a rush of guilt assailed me. "It was afternoon when Joseph got the call, so it's already late that I'm going now."

Emery was stunned for a moment before she dipped her head a fraction in acknowledgment. Subsequently, she added, "I mean, Ashton is also coming over in a while. Are you not going to see him first before you leave?"

"Why is he coming?" I queried.

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"I notified him. Joseph is his subordinate, so there's no reason for him not to show up," Emery explained.

No sooner had she finished saying that than even footsteps came from the door, followed by the bodyguards greeting, "Mr. Fuller."

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