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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1386

No one would have expected that our plan against Thora yesterday would actually prove to be helpful today. The Hall family only had themselves to blame because they were the ones who were in the wrong.

Tiffany was at a loss for words. Clearly, she had not seen this coming. She darted her agile gaze around, trying to figure out a solution.

I let down my guard when I saw the expression on her face, but Ashton was far from relaxing his vigilance. He nudged me with his elbow and his brows arched subtly, hinting me to corner Tiffany.

Men were always so combative. They went all out when they were faced with threats. Judging from Ashton's expression, I could tell he would not easily let Tiffany off the hook.

I could not choose to not cooperate with him, so I started speaking again. "Since Mr. Young is Mr. Hall's representative, please kindly relay our intentions. The deal he offers is tempting, but the Stovall and the Moore family are not in want of anything. We're not desperate to an extent where we need to sacrifice our children, so I suggest he stop wasting his time before he loses everything."

I stopped briefly and held Ashton's hand in mine before continuing, "He might be a nobody to all of you, but to me, he's everything. I hope the two families can each go their own ways after this. This is how things should have been since the accident happened. If the Hall family stops meddling with us and

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minds its own business, then the Stovalls will back down. But if your family insists on creating trouble, then you'd better pray that you guys have someone who's a match for Ashton. The Stovalls live only by one mantra: we will not let any offender walk away unpunished."

I was fully aware that I might have sounded overconfident and snobbish, but what I said was no exaggeration. I had to stamp the Hall family to the ground and put them in their place.

Ashton might not be in his best state, but I could still take care of him. If he did go blind, the Stovall and Moore family could still be his support. Even in the worst-case scenario, we would have Sally help us. She was one of us, and she was kind-hearted. I was sure she would do everything within her capacity to help.

The point was, Ashton's life could still go on without the Halls interfering.

My condescending words were obviously no music to Tiffany's ears. "Don't be too sure of yourself. You probably have no idea what our family is capable of. Do you think you will be able to keep the kids just because you want to?"

I gave her an indifferent shrug. "Of course. It goes without saying that children should stay with their mothers. It's the only reasonable way to do things, after all. This is how society works... Unless you mean to tell me this rule doesn't apply to the Hall family. Come to think of it, I might be wrong to assume the Hall family plays by the rule."

Without waiting for retaliation from Tiffany, I turned toward Bill. "Mr. Young, you're a philanthropist yourself. I'd advise you to take a good look at who you're working with. Associating with people with dubious morality is only going to hurt your good name."

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The first time I heard of Bill Young was when he was involved with Armond. Now that the man was working with Nicolas, I wonder how it would affect his hard-earned reputation.

Gloom settled over Tiffany's face. "You don't have to insult our family in such an indirect manner. You can start numbering your days if my father finds out what horrid words just came out of your mouth."

Before I could say another word, Ashton sprang toward Tiffany and grabbed her, lifting her off the ground in a violent tug. "Your family poisoned her?" he bellowed.

Everyone present was suddenly alarmed. Many were originally here to see how Ashton and I would teach Tiffany a lesson, but when they heard Ashton's sharp question, all of their curiosity was piqued. I could see John's tightly clenched fists quivering as anger burned in his eyes. Even Emma was looking at Tiffany in terror after she got a grasp of what was going on.

I myself could not believe Ashton's very own father was the one who poisoned me.

When Tiffany realized she blundered, she tried deviating from the topic. "What poison? I don't know what you're talking about!" she cried out as she struggled to free herself.

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1387

Unfortunately, Tiffany was too late. Rage was already spreading in Ashton's bloodshot eyes like a wildfire. No one could say for sure what he would do at this rate. "I'm asking you one last time. Did Nicolas do it?" he roared.

His shout reverberated in the living room, his booming voice bouncing off the walls. Even I was shaken.

I could imagine the shock for Ashton. The Halls abandoned him when he was a kid, and now they even targeted the people he loved the most. I could not help but wonder if they took Ashton as their son or as their enemy.

Tiffany's usually well-composed face turned estranged. Her neckline stiffened as she swallowed hard. "Yes... But.. I didn't do anything! I only overheard dad talking about it when he was in his study," Tiffany explained, her lips shaking in fear.

"Ah! You jer..."

Ashton flung his fist toward her before she could even say the word "jerk."

But instead of dealing her a square blow, Ashton's arm froze in the air for a good ten seconds before it landed on the couch beside Tiffany. By the time everyone came back to their senses, there was a huge dent in the couch because of the impact.

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Tiffany was one of the few women on the Forbes list. Despite her shriek and her trembling body, she still managed to feign composure, acting indifferent. “Dad is in charge of all decisions at home. I’m just his puppet. I didn’t get much say of my own for the past twenty years either, so you can’t blame me, Ashton,” she said, tidying up her clothes in an attempt to conceal her nerves.

“As for the poison in Scarlett’s body, only Dad has the antidote. You should calm down and think things through clearly. Since he’s willing to listen to me and accept you, don’t you think going back with your children is the best option now? Try being a good son to him. Who knows, maybe he’ll soften his heart. You’re a businessman yourself. You should know there are times when we need to lose the battle to win the war.”

Although Ashton was on the verge of going berserk, Tiffany was still able to talk to him calmly, showcasing just how strong her will was. But as strong as she may seem, her evasive gaze soon landed on Bill, and the two took it upon themselves to leave immediately after.

Once they were gone, the whole living room fell into dead silence. Ashton’s head drooped low in devastation, and he stood motionless for a long time.

As I expected, Nicolas had been watching his every move. Everything that happened was within his calculation.

Ashton’s every move from J City to K City, including his career, his family, and the child we lost, were all under his supervision. Nicolas had the opportunity to save our first child, but he had not done so. Since he saw Ashton’s child as a shameful stain to his family, there was no reason for him to save that child, and neither would he accept me as Ashton’s wife.

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However, Nicolas had no choice but to back down now. He realized that Ashton and the Stovall family were not people he could mess with anymore. If he wanted the children, he had no other option but to accept me and Ashton, no matter how much the Hall family despised us.

To put it plainly, both of us were necessary evil he had to bear because he wanted the children.

“There’s nothing we can do now. Both of you only have one option. That’s to go back to the Hall family and try to get the cure for Letty. As for our next step, we will play by ear.” John’s apathetic voice cut through the silence, but I could still sense a hint of anger in his tone.

The surrounding air suddenly turned solemn.

Everyone had heard what Tiffany said clearly—I was poisoned because of Ashton. Although it was not his fault per se, everyone was still exasperated.

Ashton did not reply to John. Seeing him seemingly unmoved, the latter’s fists tightened as he got ready to speak again.

“Give us some time to discuss this,” I intervened before John could open his mouth to say another word.

John might not know what Ashton was thinking, but I knew. His parents had made his life a living hell for the past twenty-plus years. It would not be easy to welcome his parents with open arms overnight.

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1388

Louis shot John a glare, hinting him to give Ashton and me some time alone. The others did not say a word after that.

Ashton's furrowed brows did not relax even after he and I had headed upstairs.

Since he was not in a good mood, I dragged him from our room to the baby room next door.

The nanny stopped playing with the babies when we entered. "Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, the kids are very playful today."

"That's great. Thanks for attending to them. We'll take over from here," I said.

"Of course," the nanny replied and left the room promptly.

Gregory held out his hands when he felt I was close. I picked him up and carried him in my arms.

After a few months of diligent care, both children looked healthy and strong.

When I looked at Ashton again, the frown on his face had disappeared, and he was holding Audrey securely in his arms. There was love and gentleness written all over his face as he looked at our daughter.

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I let out a sigh of relief at the sight.

Children were the purest beings on earth. They could certainly heal any pain and hurt in the world.

“Ashton,” I called out to him softly. He cast his gaze on me, and our eyes met. “I’m fine,” I continued.

It took him a while to finally understand what I meant.

“I don’t want you to make your life miserable for my sake. Life has already been hard enough for you. I don’t care about the poison, so you don’t have to worry about it. I’m happy to simply have you and the kids by my side. I only want to spend the rest of my life with you and our children.”

A frown played on Ashton’s brows again, but he remained silent.

I avoided his gaze and looked at our children. “You don’t have to take what John said to heart. We can go and live in a place where no one can find us. I’ve already thought about it. None of us owe each other anything, so we should just put all this behind us and live a happy life.”

If we could not face it head-on, we could always run away. There must be a place on earth where Nicolas could not find us. That would be our home.

I might not have much time left, but Gregory and Audrey could still keep Ashton company. They would love him and take care of him.

Both of us had been so busy for the past ten years. We never really had time to slow down and enjoy life.

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Just as we were deep in thoughts, the baby girl in Ashton's arms began mumbling.

Both of our gazes turned towards Audrey simultaneously. Ashton met her gaze, and she broke out in a wide smile, snuggling in his embrace.

This elicited a smile on Ashton's face, and he held her closer to his face. "I'm here, Audrey. I'll stay with you and Mommy forever," he told her in an endearing tone as if Audrey could understand what he was saying.

"You'd better keep your word," I teased with a smile.

Ashton looked up at me in a determined manner. "When have I ever broken a promise to you? Let's get ready. We're going to see the Hall family."

"What? Why? Aren't we going into hiding? Are you sure you want to go to the Hall residence?"

"I'm sure," Ashton said with a warm smile on his face, "You can't always expect me to be the bigger man. I want to be selfish and greedy this time around. I can't just go and hide somewhere. I want to keep you by my side for as long as I can. I want to stay with you and the kids. I'm not letting anyone go."

He drilled his gaze through me, and his tone turned commanding. "Scarlett, you're not ditching me and running away this time. I've endured the past twenty years, and I don't want to lose you at the end of this journey. I will make sure all the suffering I went through is worth it, so let's go to the Halls and reclaim the life we're supposed to have."

Three days later, we brought the kids and the nanny along to the Halls' private island.

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1389

After we arrived at M Country from K City, we took a private jet and landed on the coastline of international waters. The propellers spun furiously, causing turbulent ripples on the water surface. A foreboding shadow eclipsed our hearts as we landed on the mysterious and dangerous island.

A castle-like frontage came into sight the moment we got off the jet. Greeneries covered the places where seawater could not reach the structure. A pebble-paved path parted the grass, leading all the way up to the top of the hill. Walking through the island of tropical plants felt as if we were meandering through a tropical rain forest, save for the slimy swamps.

The sequestered island made it a good hiding place for Nicolas for the past twenty years.

I busied myself with observing the surroundings, failing to notice the accessorial rock on the path. If Ashton had not caught me by the waist in time, I would have tripped and fell.

“Thanks,” I said, trying to fake a smile to calm myself down.

Being in a foreign environment was disconcerting.

“Be careful,” Ashton chided, holding my hand tight. “Don’t be nervous. The Halls are only interested in the kids. They don’t care who we are, so relax and treat this as a vacation.”

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His words indeed rang true, but I could not help but recall Nicolas' threatening words when he said he would make Ashton disappear from the surface of the earth the first time we confronted him.

Although I should have assured Ashton, I still felt I needed to caution him a little. "This island is on international waters. It does not fall under the jurisdiction of any country. Who knows what he's gonna do. It's better we stay wary."

At my statement, Ashton's footsteps fell short, and his piercing gaze landed on my face. "Remember, I'm your husband. I'll protect you no matter what. Promise me you'll trust me no matter what happens."

My brows stitched together as I reciprocated his gaze. If Nicolas were a loving parent like Cameron, I could well let Ashton face him up on his own, but that was not the case. Nicolas and his wife did not love Ashton.

Thoughts raced through my mind, and I let go of his hand, taking a step back to look at him sternly, right into his eyes. "Since you married into the Stovall family, you're now one of us. I will do everything I can to make sure you're safe."

I might have acted too dramatically, but I meant every word I said.

The Hall family did not take Ashton seriously, but they could not treat me the same way. They could not ignore the Moore and the Stovall family. I needed to use my family background in our favor.

A resigned smile broke out on my husband's face as he looked at me, trying to maintain a serious expression. He thought I was trying to be funny, but I was not playing around at that moment. I went over and held him by his arm. "I

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know you're always rational, but your loved ones are at stake here. It's difficult to be sure that you'll be able to keep your cool, so leave everything to me. All you need to do is to keep quiet."

Before Ashton could disagree with anything I said, I pulled him toward the huge door.

"Mr. and Mrs. Fuller."

A neat line of immaculately dressed servants greeted us the moment they saw us. Seeing them all dressed in black and white, I could not help but feel as if I had just time-traveled back to the past century.

I stole a quick glance of Ashton and was pleasantly surprised to see him calm and composed. We walked down the spacious hallway before we arrived at the hall.

The interior decor of the hall echoed the outer appearance of the castle. It was lavishly furnished, and every detail of the hall exuded elegance and class.

Over on the leather couch, the owners of the castle sat unperturbed as we walked in. That was the first time I ever saw Ashton's mother, Simone.

She sat beside Nicolas, wearing a faint smile on her face as if she was waiting for a photograph to be taken. Her dark hair flowed smoothly down her fair shoulders as she watched us approach.

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1390

"It's nice to see you guys. Do make yourself at home," Simone said, gesturing at us to take a seat.

Although she did not look a lot older than Ashton and me, her voice sounded frazzled.

Ashton was clearly taken aback by her voice as well. He stood right in front of them without moving an inch. The air grew tense with every passing moment.

Nicolas buried himself in his newspapers, not bothering to look up. Simone sat slightly apart, and the two seemed not to have much interaction.

I guessed Simone was probably the more expressive one between the two. I shook off Ashton's hand, trying to snap him back to reality. When he finally looked at me, I pulled him toward the seats.

Now that everyone was seated, we were anticipating the patriarch to speak.

Silence ensued for about two to three minutes before Nicolas showed his face behind the newspapers. His cold glance swept across Ashton before finally stopping at me.

"Scarlett Stovall. You're certainly a brave one. I still remember how you lectured me at the hotel," he stated without betraying the slightest hint of

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emotion. His tone and demeanor made me feel as if he was interrogating a criminal.

Is he raking up old grievances?

I pursed my lips and smiled. “Birds of the same feather flock together. This is why I got together with your son. I need to live up to my title as his wife. You and Simone must be honored to have a son like Ashton.”

Nicolas scoffed without replying, allowing Simone an opportunity to interject and speak instead. “Mom and Dad,” she corrected how I addressed them.

I was stunned for a while but quickly repeated after her, “Dad, Mom.”

Although we had our differences, some things still had to be done for cordiality’s sake. Civility was the basis of negotiation.

“That’s right,” Nicolas spoke again, giving me a curt nod. His brown eyes darted toward Ashton, waiting for him to address him in the same manner.

Calling someone “Dad” or “Mom” might be an easy task for many, but not for Ashton, especially after so many years of neglect.

Ashton had already put aside his pride and trauma for the sake of obtaining the antidote. I could not bring myself to ask him to make any further compromises.

Noticing the dissatisfaction budding on his face, I quickly patted him on the back and spoke on his behalf. “Ashton caught a cold after he fell asleep beside the kids’ bed while he was reading them bedtime stories. He’s having a

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sore throat, so I hope both of you don't mind me doing it in his stead. Dad, Mom, I hope you guys can be understanding towards this matter."

Ashton cleared his throat right after I finished talking.

"Dad, Mom," he said, his hoarse voice sounding across the room. It did sound as if he was really sick.

I turned to look at him, but his provocative gaze was fixated on Nicolas, waiting for his reaction.

Ultimately, Ashton still could not bear to let me deal with them on my own. He still backed down.

I could not imagine how his heart felt, after having to call the people who caused him so much hurt and pain his parents.

Before either of them could speak, a series of footsteps echoed down the staircase. A familiar female voice followed. "Ashton, Scarlett! Let me have a look at the kids," Tiffany exclaimed.

Her voice and her hasty footsteps relayed the joy she felt upon seeing us. A man wearing a champagne-colored suit came into our line of sight after her. Underneath his neatly combed hair was a fine and chiseled face, accentuating his debonair outfit that would otherwise be bourgeois.

I trailed my gaze to him. He must be Nathaniel, Tiffany's second elder brother.

Tiffany dashed toward the children, but Ashton blocked her way. "The kids are still the same. There's not a need to see them."

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