

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 561

While she admired him, it did not mean she could attain his heart.

To keep myself entertained, I randomly picked up a book to read but unknowingly, I fell asleep after some time.

When I woke up from my nap on the sofa, I found a blanket over my body. The room was dim, as though someone had adjusted the lights.

Scanning the room, I did not spot Ashton. He is probably still in the meeting. For some time, I continued to lie there before I willed myself to sit up. It was chilly, and I wrapped the blanket around my body tightly for more warmth.

While I was still in a daze, someone pushed the door open.

It was Joseph. Seeing that I was awake, he quickly fussed, "Mrs. Fuller, are you hungry? Do you crave anything? I will order it for you this instant!"

"What's the time now?" I curiously asked. Looking out of the windows, I noted that it was already dark outside.

He promptly responded, "It's eight."

"Is Ashton still in the meeting?" I frowned.

"The international conference ended, but there is still more to discuss over the AI. Mr. Fuller wants you to have a bite first," Joseph reported.

"Has he eaten?"

"No." Joseph shook his head.

With some thought, I requested, "Can you order two sets of steak and two glasses of milk? I would like it to be hot. Additionally, please get one portion of dessert too."

Then, I paused to look at the man standing by the door. "Mr. Campbell, have you eaten?"

Although he was stunned that I was referring to him, he answered honestly, “No.”

Clicking my tongue, I changed my order. “You poor thing. In that case, please order three sets of steak. If you want anything else, please feel free to order them for yourself. Mr. Fuller will be paying for it.”

Laughing, he nodded and left.

Following that, I went to the bathroom to wash my face and pick out one of Ashton’s clothes from his closet in the lounge to wear.

By the time I came out, Joseph was already there with the meal boxes.

I glanced at the clock again. It’s getting late, but Ashton is still in the meeting.

Huffing, I decided to make a trip to the conference room.

Joseph followed behind me without the intention of stopping me.

At first, it felt normal, but halfway there, I realized that something was not right.

Turning to look at the man trailing behind me, we exchanged looks, and he meekly chuckled.

Something must be up. “How many people are there in the meeting?” I probed.

“Two!” He chimed.

“Who are the two?”

“Mr. Fuller and Ms. Zimmer,” he revealed.

“Rachel?” I raised my brows.

Joseph nodded, confirming my guess.

Ashton’s meeting dragged on for so long because he had to meet with Rachel.

Standing before the conference room, Joseph opened the door even before I raised my hand to knock. It caught me off guard.

Soon, I heard the heated discussion that was going on.

“I don’t agree!” Ashton exclaimed.

“Mr. Fuller, we are using AI to make life easier for humans and to push for the world’s technological progress in this area. If we worry about how it will evolve and pull the plug on it, there is no point in adopting it in the first place,” Rachel protested.

Ashton looked like he had lost his patience. However, when he lifted his gaze and spotted me, his expression eased a little. Without bothering to rebut, he approached me.

Rachel also turned to look in my direction, given the sudden change in his attitude. At the sight of me, a frown appeared on her face.

She was clearly displeased.

Meanwhile, Ashton could not be bothered about the others in the room. He looked at me tiredly and hugged me.

Taking a deep breath, he moaned, “You are finally here. My energy is about to be depleted.”

Looking at Rachel, I hugged him and declared, “Alright, I’m here to help you recharge. Come, let’s go.”

Joseph was quick to pick up on the cue to leave.

On the contrary, Rachel stayed in the conference room, with an unhappy expression plastered on her face. She demanded, “Mr. Fuller, we are not done with the meeting. How is it alright for Mrs. Fuller to barge in like that?”

With his arms still around me, Ashton growled, “It is way past the working hours, and it’s time for you to go home. We can look through the things we have yet to settle tomorrow.”

Evidently, she was frustrated and wanted to continue, but Ashton stopped her.

“Ms. Zimmer, I know that you don’t have to worry about your parents or loved ones since you live alone. However, I’m not like you. I have a wife and a child, and I want to spend time

with them after work. Thank you for all the effort that you put in at work. Regarding your overtime hours, Joseph will settle all the overtime pay with the Finance Department. You really should head home since it's getting late."

He left no room for discussion.

I could not care less about her either. My stomach grumbled, and I nudged Ashton. "I asked Joseph to order some steak. Aren't you hungry? Let's go have dinner."

With a bright grin, he cooed, "My wife knows me best!"

Afterward, we headed back to his office without looking back to watch Rachel's reaction.

Joseph had already taken his portion to his own office, and I was left alone with Ashton.

Cutting the steak, he looked at me and apologized, "There will be no next time."

His abrupt statement made me confused. "What do you mean?"

"I meant that I would make sure my meetings will not run so late in the future," he clarified while placing a piece of sliced steak on my plate.

I shrugged. "It's okay. It was part of your duties at work." Recalling what I heard in the conference room, I changed the topic, "Do you not plan to expand on the AI project?"

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 562

Based on the current trends, if Fuller Corporation could improve the AI technology, it would put them on another level.

Ashton put down his knife and explained, "It's not the time yet. For the AI to develop successfully, it will need another ten years. Everything we are doing now is to prepare for the future. If we impatiently push forward with the project, it may backfire in the end."

He had his own perspective on this matter. Since I was not a professional, I was in no place to question him.

By the time we finished dinner, it was already ten, and Summer was already sleeping when we were back in the villa.

Jared then called us to confirm the plans to take Summer to W City, which we had previously informed her about.

Before washing up and heading to bed, I packed some of her essentials to bring tomorrow.

The next day, Jared came by earlier, and Ashton did not head to work. When I woke up, I heard murmurings downstairs. After washing up, I went downstairs and overheard the two men discussing Marcus's business.

From the big picture, there was no need for Ashton to force Marcus to a dead-end. However, Ashton seemed agitated whenever someone brought up the matter.

Frustrated, he stopped Jared from trying to persuade him any further and snorted, "You don't have to worry about this."

With his brows raised, Jared reminded him, "In this country, you may be able to suppress White Corporation. However, did you forget how powerful the White Corporation is in M Country? Once Marcus returned to M Country, we may end up losing most of our businesses there, and it will threaten our survival."

"Do you think that I'm only capable of destroying him in this country?" Ashton's face hardened.

His words took Jared by surprise. "Are you going to do something about White Corporation in M Country too?"

Taking a sip of water, Ashton calmly explained, "If he returns to M Country and doesn't cross the line, I can consider allowing him to live in peace overseas. Otherwise, he will not be so lucky."

As a businessman, Jared could pick up on what Ashton meant. "However, if Marcus can get his hands on the illegal loans in our country but somehow gets out of it and returns to M Country, you can easily expose this matter to other large corporations in there. It will be akin to wanting his life, isn't it?"

Ashton did not respond. Instead, he gulped down half a glass of water and looked at his watch for the time.

After a moment of silence, Jared sighed. "I don't understand. Why do you have to drive Marcus over the edge?"

Ashton narrowed his eyes but continued to remain silent. Obviously, he did not intend to answer.

At that moment, he turned back and saw me standing by the staircase. His lips instantly curled into a smile on his previously gloomy face. He gestured for me to join them.

Obediently, I joined them, and Jared ended the conversation too once he saw me.

At the same time, Flora walked out of the kitchen and chimed, "Madam and Mr. Fuller, breakfast is ready."

Nodding, I scanned the room for Summer. Thinking that she was still asleep, I asked Flora, "Flora, is Summer still in bed?"

The older lady pointed to the yard. "No, she is up and playing with Snowfluff in the yard."

Sure enough, the little girl soon came running into the house from the same direction.

Clinging onto me, she wistfully said, "Mommy, Mr. Fuller said that we shouldn't sleep in, so I've never done that."

I could not help but caress her face and awkwardly chuckle. "Summer, you listen well."

As we brought Snowfluff to the groomer's yesterday, its fur coat was soft and silky. It felt pleasant when it rubbed itself against my leg.

Looking at me with puppy eyes, Summer pleaded, "Mommy, can I bring Snowfluff along with me?"

I was dumbfounded and took some time to think before I explained, "Summer, Snowfluff is a pet and can't take the flight with you. If you check in with it, it will be harmful to its health. Therefore, I strongly recommend that you don't bring it along with you."

"But..." Children have a pure heart. They tend to be attached to those they get along well with for a long time.

Unable to stand how disappointed Summer was, Jared interrupted, "There is a special cabin for us to bring pets onboard the plane. When we get to the airport, we can book a spot in the first-class cabin. Then, we can head to the plane with Snowfluff after we settle the formalities."

At once, Summer's eyes lit up. "Can we really do that?" She cheered.

He nodded.

The girl was overjoyed, and she threw herself at Jared.

Sighing, I rubbed my temples in disapproval. He sure is a rich man. Those costs hundreds of thousands, yet he easily agreed to it.

From the other end, Ashton spotted my actions and walked towards me to tease, "It is a good thing for her to be supported by the rich!"

I...

Men really do go all the way for their daughters.

I merely shrugged and did not continue. Turning my heels to the kitchen, I prepared to eat breakfast.

Once we were done with the meal and Summer's belongings were almost fully packed, Jared assured me, "Don't worry. I will take good care of Summer."

I nodded. I never doubted his care of Summer anyway. After all, she was his biological child, and he would probably pay utmost attention to her.

After we sent Summer out, I could not help but groan, "It's true that we can't keep our little girl with us forever."

"She's only going out for a play trip. Why are you taking it so seriously?" Ashton crackled.

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 563

Glaring at him, I huffed, "It hurts the ones who raise her."

The smile slid off his face when he realized that I was angry, and he pecked on my cheek to appease me. With his hands around my waist, he gently said, "The company will be holding our annual meeting soon. Once it's over, why don't we go to Remdik together?"

I nodded repeatedly. Of course, I would pounce on the chance to go out immediately.

As the New Year was right around the corner, Ashton had a lot to do at the company. Therefore, he headed to the office not long after.

My initial plan was to stay at home to read, but Emery called to say that she was back from her honeymoon and suggested meeting with everyone.

"Everyone?" I could not help but blurt.

She helplessly whined, "Hannah, me and you. Who else do you think I was referring to?"

That's true. I only have that few friends around me.

Naturally, I agreed to it.

We planned to meet by the golf course in the suburbs. However, we were not going there to play golf, but as girls, we were merely there for the scenery and food.

Besides, Emery bought a villa near the golf course recently, and she found many cafes nearby. Although she was interested in visiting those places, she did not have the chance to thus far. Since they were meeting, she wanted to use the opportunity to try them.

At first, I wanted to drive, but Ashton had arranged for a bodyguard cum driver to send me there.

There was no use in protesting. After all, with someone to send me there, it would save me a lot of effort.

Upon reaching the cafe, I was about to call Emery when I heard her shout my name.

We had not seen each other for a few days, and she did seem plumper than before. Perhaps it was because she was pregnant.

In a carefree fashion, she walked to me and hooked her arm around mine. "How rare it is to see you show up this early? We can head in first since Hannah is still on her way."

I obliged and entered the cafe with Emery.

Although it was labelled as a cafe, it seemed more like a high tea restaurant. Well-decorated and pleasant, it was a good place for gatherings.

Once we stepped in, a waiter welcomed us and politely greeted us, "Hello. May I know if you have made a reservation?"

"Yes, we made a reservation for the pavilion," Emery promptly replied and passed her reservation confirmation slip to the waiter.

The waiter scanned it before bowing slightly, gesturing for the two ladies to follow him. "Please follow me this way."

He escorted us to the pavilion and passed us the menu in the form of bamboo slips. "Here is the menu. You can take your time to decide on what to order while I prepare some sweet treats to start both of you off with your meal first."

Without any delay, Emery scanned through the menu and circled a few. Then, she looked up to ask, "Do you have any cravings?"

"Haha, I'm not picky. You can take your pick."

After selecting a few more dishes, the waiter came over and served us an exquisite-looking dessert each.

It looked like juice, but it was not juice.

Emery passed our orders to the waiter and instructed, "Please serve our dishes a little later as we are still waiting for another friend to arrive."

The waiter acknowledged before leaving us to enjoy our dessert.

Curiously looking at the glass placed in front of me, I mumbled, "This looks like jelly, but it isn't jelly."

Emery laughed in response. "It is made from a fruit found in Southeast Asia. After squeezing the pulp, they freeze it. I only learned about it on my trip there. Have a taste. It is pretty good."

I took a sip of it. "It tastes sweet. The texture is smooth, and there is no trace of ice."

Like an expert, Emery scooped a spoonful of ice water served by the waiter onto the dessert. White smoke appeared from the bowl, and there was a slightly sweet fragrance, which increased their appetite.

My mouth widened as I gasped, "You sure know how to eat."

"Of course! When I went to college, I tried all the food around it, whether from street vendors or high-end restaurants. I haven't been to the restaurants around here much, not because it is expensive. Instead, it's because the wealthy housewives staying around here are their most frequent visitors. Those ladies come here for high tea all the time, and it's annoying when they start gossiping and boasting. What a turnoff!"

I chuckled. "Well, it's true that the living expenses in this estate are high. Since the stay-home wives have nothing better to do at home, they want to seek out companions to boast about their husbands and children, and even their branded buys."

We continued to chat for some time when we heard a commotion outside. I heard a familiar voice, and I turned to Emery in shock. "Why do I hear Hannah's voice?"

She was taken aback too. Jumping to our feet, we hurried out.

Our suspicions were confirmed. There was a heated argument among several women, and they were blocking Hannah's way.

I examined the women arguing with Hannah and realized that one of them looked familiar. Isn't that Yvonne.

Going nearer, I verified my guess.

It was Yvonne. I had not seen her in a while, and she had changed a lot.

Emery analysed, "Her clothes are the latest designs from Versace, and they are specially customized for VIP customers. I think it costs around a hundred thousand. Besides, her Prada bag costs at least fifty thousand. Her shoes seem custom made, so we can't even put a price on them. Although her bracelet is quite common in the market, it is still at least fifty thousand. I'm guessing that she's rich."

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 564

"This lady is quite something. She came in with the other rich wives from K City," Emery whispered beside my ear.

Annoyed that they were cornering Hannah, I rashly pushed several of them aside.

With a scowl, I growled, "Are all of you dogs? Regardless of what happened, you don't have to be so rude to her."

Hannah was stunned to see Emery and me. "I was walking too quickly earlier and accidentally knocked Yvonne's watch onto the ground. It seems broken," she softly explained.

I looked down at Yvonne's watch. It looked like it was from Hermes and was probably quite expensive. Those costs at least a million. Wow, she can probably afford a house by selling the clothes and accessories she wore today.

"How can you say that? It's her fault for knocking into us. Instead of apologizing, why are you scolding us? What's wrong? Do you think someone as poor as you would be more logical than us?"

The one who spoke was a rich woman standing right beside Yvonne. At first sight, she seemed like a nouveau riche.

Unlike her, the rest kept quiet, and one even jabbed her to ask her to shut up.

In the circle of rich housewives, at least a few would recognize her.

Yvonne was younger than thirty, yet she was dressed in branded goods from head to toe, and it seemed mismatched on her.

Sensing that I was staring at her, the lady quickly smiled and greeted me. "Ms. Stovall, I did not expect to see you here."

Rather than answer her, I stretched my hand towards her. It took her a moment to process before she stuttered, "Ms. Stovall, this is a watch that Mr. Stovall gave me a few days ago. It is precious to me, but she broke it. As such, I was upset, but I was not trying to make things difficult for her."

One could tell that she was sly with the way she changed her stance so quickly.

I nodded emotionlessly. "Can I take a look at your watch?"

Although she was reluctant to, she still passed it to me. I took a closer look at it, although I was not familiar with branded goods.

Beside me, Emery expressed, "John is quite something. He actually gave her a watch that costs millions. It looks like it's a limited edition too!"

Hurt, Hannah lowered her head and clenched her fist while trying to hide the pain in her eyes.

Instead of commenting, I pulled out my phone and called John.

Within seconds, he answered. "Hello, Letty. What's the matter?"

I grinned when I saw how nervous Yvonne seemed. "Previously, you told me that you wanted to give me a customized watch for my birthday. Is it still with you?"

"Yes. I left it at home, but I'll send it over to you another day," he answered.

“Forget it. I don’t want to use things others have touched. You really should take better care of the things you buy next time.”

Confused, he questioned, “The watch is at home, and no one has used it. What are you talking about, Letty?”

I shrugged. “Do you remember taking a picture of it and showing it to me? Today, at the villa by the golf course, I saw Ms. Wilde wearing it. John, please don’t give me second-hand goods next time. I don’t like the idea of it.”

There was silence on the other end of the line. In the meantime, Yvonne’s face turned pale, and everyone understood the gist of the situation from the conversation between John and me.

The rich ladies that were standing beside her suddenly changed the way they looked at her.

At that time, John finally replied in an annoyed tone. “Throw away that dirty thing. I promise that such things will never happen again in the future.”

With that, we ended the call, and I looked at Yvonne with a triumphant smile. I passed the watch back to her and mocked, “Ms. Wilde, first of all, he already has a wife. Even if he doesn’t, you can never join the family with a character like yours. In the past, my brother and I only felt sorry for you. Also, although John may be easy-going, he hates it when women take his things without permission.”

Leaving her at a loss, I dragged Hannah away from the crowd and smarmily announced, “Please excuse us.”

With Emery, we headed into the private room without sparing Yvonne a glance.

Once we were alone, Emery gasped, “You go, girl! I can’t believe you stood up for yourself, and here I thought you were just a gentle housewife.”

I pouted. “Should I stand back and watch you get bullied in the future then?”

“Of course not. You are a massive force!” She urged.

Next, she looked at Hannah and chided, "Don't keep everything in all the time. In the future, you may meet more people like Yvonne, but you should not stand back and let them bully you. Do you understand?"

However, Hannah reasoned, "With John's backing, she was at ease. There wasn't much I could say to turn the situation around earlier."

"John must be blind. How can he even care about a woman like that?" Emery frowned.

"John is obsessed with cleanliness and does not carelessly bring women to his villa. Yet, he allows Yvonne to visit him. That must count for something," Hannah trailed on. Her gaze dimmed while she forced a smile on her face. It made my heart ache to see her like that.

Although I wanted to comfort her, I could not find the right words to say.

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 565

The only thing I could do was to change the topic. I pushed the dessert we had towards her and offered, "Here, have some of this. It's delicious."

Emery could only rub her temples in response to my attempt. I awkwardly touched my nose, unsure of how else to comfort the other lady at that time.

Fortunately, Hannah did not dwell on the earlier event. She took a few bites and commented, "It is good. I have been learning how to make desserts recently and have been eating a lot of them. Sadly, I think I'm gaining weight because of that."

This topic piqued Emery's interest. Looking at us, she grumbled, "Have you not seen how fat I am now? It must be nice that both of you have already given birth. Your children are already growing up too. Meanwhile, I am not even four months pregnant, and who knows how much bigger I'm going to get in six months."

Tickled, Hannah assured her, "Don't exaggerate it. Babies typically weigh around six kilograms anyway. You don't have to be concern about how much you're eating now. Instead, focus on nourishing yourself. After you give birth, you can slowly adjust your eating habits again, and surely you will lose weight."

With a common topic, the two chatted for some time. Meanwhile, I propped my chin on my hand and watched them, realizing how blissful I felt at that moment.

“Scarlett, are you preparing to have a second child with Ashton? Yesterday, I heard that Summer is going to W City with Jared. Aren’t you worried?” Emery shifted the conversation to me.

Shaken from my quiet moment, I replied, “I’m confident that Jared will take good care of her.”

Then, Hannah turned serious, and she stared at me. “Don’t you want to have another child? Summer is already five this year. If you are worried about what she thinks, you can always ask her for her opinion on the topic. Who knows, maybe she wants a playmate too?”

Grinning, I confessed, “Ashton and I plan to discuss it after the year ends. He is too busy now and is under too much pressure. It isn’t the right time to consider it yet.”

The two other women exchanged gleeful looks.

As though she suddenly recalled Cameron, Emery brought her up. “Oh, I almost forgot. When I came back, I realized that Cameron was admitted to the hospital for appendicitis. I should visit her soon.”

“I think she is almost fully recovered after staying in the ward for the past few days,” Hannah said before turning to me.

“After removing the stitches, she can probably discharge, right?”

I responded with a smile. At that moment, my phone rang, and it was Summer who called from Jared’s phone.

She was about to board the plane and called to give me an update.

Soon, the weekend came, and it was Fuller Corporation’s annual meeting. Although Summer had already left K City for a few days, she would call me at night to chat with me.

Despite so, I could not touch nor hug her. After raising her for the past four years, I could not help but miss her after she left.

In the afternoon, Ashton noticed that I seemed absentminded. He reminded me, "It's the annual meeting this evening. Will you go with me?"

I paused and was about to shake my head when he cut in, "Come on. You will be bored staying at home."

"You know that I don't like crowded places," I chuckled.

"Should I stay at home to accompany you?"

Ah, I should go to the meeting with him.

The annual meeting was at a hotel's open-air swimming pool. With red wine, yummy food, a grand lobby, and a swimming pool, everyone looked like they were having the time of their lives.

The venue screamed money and elegance.

As I did not have many interests, I did not have much to do besides eating.

Holding onto a plate of pastries, I looked for a quiet place to eat them.

Moments later, Isabelle approached me, but I did not see her coming. If she did not speak, I would not even realize that she was there.

"Ms. Stovall, you sure enjoy having peace."

I averted my gaze to her. Like me, she had a plate of pastries in her hand, looking for a place to eat them.

"Some say that aging is delayed for women who enjoy sweet treats," I pointed out.

She laughed in response and shoved a tart into her mouth. Enjoying it, she mumbled, "How should we define aging?"

I was stumped by her question.

Chuckling, she continued, "To me, aging means to lose the meaning of living. If you have lost interest in the future at twenty, you have aged. Aging may not refer to the physical abilities of a person but the soul. Some people are past eighty, yet they still have a positive outlook on life. Do you think they should be considered old?"

I could only smile as I found it hard to answer her question. "Nope!" I finally uttered.

Afterward, we spent our time chatting on other topics. Since Ashton had to present Fuller Corporation's performance for the past year, commend the stellar employees and present some surprises, Isabelle had to go.

In the meantime, I finished my food and strolled around the hotel.

Unconsciously, I followed Ashton's voice and walked to the hotel's ballroom.

Fuller Corporation had many employees, and the room was packed. They even invited some prominent business figures from K City to join their annual meeting.

He announced that he would be giving some of Fuller Corporation's AI technology as a token of appreciation. In addition, he also gave Rachel some credit for her contribution.