In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 831 - 832

Even though they always used their actions, and this time, their life, to prove that they loved me, I still felt profoundly insecure deep down. I wasn't sure if this was due to my deep-seated low self-esteem, or that this happened to every other woman.

I ended up spending the whole night watching over Marcus. Layla had come in intermittently and asked that I get some sleep myself, but after I repeatedly rejected her suggestion, she decided to just leave me alone.

The next day, the morning sunlight shone through the window and lit up the room as though bestowing upon it a new life. Marcus finally woke up and when he saw that I was unharmed, he smiled in relief. "Thank goodness that you're okay."

At that point, all my suppressed emotions had escaped into the form of unstoppable tears and I started to sob uncontrollably. I held onto his hand and tried to speak in between my sobs. "Please... never do this again! I-If something happens to you, how am I going to explain this to Camelia? You have a wife and a kid! You can't do something so silly again!"

He smiled weakly and stroked my hair gently as he said, "Don't be silly, I can't have stopped my instinctive reflex even if I tried to. Besides, I actually feel honored being able to keep someone I wanted to protect safe."

It took me a while to collect myself. After which, a doctor came by to check on Marcus. I was glad when the doctor informed me that he would recover fully with enough rest.

As soon as my heightened sense of wariness subsided, I was overcome with a new wave of tiredness. After all, I did stay up all night and had very little rest.

Looking at my bloodshot eyes, Layla said, "Ms. Stovall, now that Mr. White has awakened, you should really get some rest yourself. I'll continue to monitor his health. Please stop worrying."

I nodded, finally feeling a heavy weight lifted off my shoulder. After leaving the ward, I headed to the hospital lobby, ready to take a cab home.

When I got to the hospital lobby, a familiar black Bentley was parked just outside the curb. Joseph rolled down the driver seat window and said, "Mrs. Fuller, I'll give you a ride home."

I was puzzled. Did he just happen to be here or...

I wasn't sure if Ashton was in the car and appeared hesitant. As though reading my mind, Joseph added, "Mr. Fuller has left for some work stuff."

I rubbed my nose awkwardly and got into the car.

As Joseph started the car, I hesitated for a brief moment before asking, "Have you been in the hospital this whole time?"

He tilted his head in my direction. "Not just me. Mr. Fuller has been here as well. He had been scrolling through his phone all night standing by."

I paused before biting my lips. "I..."

"He understands your concern for Mr. White. But the fact that you didn't return to your ward or the villa all night did sting him. If I were you, I'd probably give him a call to check in with him even for just a minute. At least it shows that you care."

Joseph's words had once again stabbed right onto my sore spot like a dagger.

Saying no more, I stared out the window and was lost in my thoughts.

Joseph dropped me back at the villa before heading out again.

After the whole site incident and me staying up all night, the pain in my lower belly hadn't subsided. Back in my bedroom, I tried to take a nap, but the cramp took a turn for the worse, forbidding me to sleep well.

I finally got up and searched around the room for some painkillers. Failing to find any, I resorted to ordering some from an online delivery service.

After finally taking some medicine to control the cramps, I already lost all desire to sleep. I checked my watch and realized it was already six o'clock in the evening. Ashton should be back soon.

Giving up trying to sleep, I went into the kitchen and found some ingredients in the fridge for me to cook a meal for Ashton as my way of saying sorry.

Now that it was September, the weather had started to cool down. It was almost seven o'clock when I finished scuttling about in the kitchen. However, there was still no sight of Ashton.

Looking over at Armond's well-lit house, I decided to give Nora a call. She was quick to answer her phone. "Hey babe, have you eaten?"

I took another look at my neighbor's house. "Not yet. Are you at Armond's?"

"I am. Are you next door?"

"Yup."

Just then, Nora called for me from her backyard. I put down my phone and walked toward my own backyard to meet with Nora who was dressed in thick pajamas. "How are you doing?"

I nodded. "Let's just say that I'm happy to be alive." I didn't think she knew about what happened at Lavelian Village.

Nora rested her upper body on the railing before she said weakly, "It's been a few days since I last saw you. I've been so tired for the past few days. And I've basically been lying down all day today."

I paused for a brief moment. "Is it that time of the month for you?"

It was her turn to pause. "How did you know?"

I shrugged. "Because it's my time of the month as well."

Nora let out a long sigh before she said, "This is so unfair! Armond has been out all day and right now, all I want to do is to take my frustrations out at him!"

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I smiled, amused at how predictable women can be.

"Is Ashton not back yet?" Nora asked after noticing how quiet and empty the villa was.

"Yeah, I think he's been pretty busy these days."

I had tried calling Ashton earlier, but there was no answer. After a few attempts, I gave up on it.

Just then, the yard was illuminated by a car's headlights. Nora turned to smile at me. "Could that be Mr. Fuller?"

I shrugged, secretly hoping for her to be right. Alas, my hopes were dashed when the car parked at Armond's house.

Nora's eyes lit up when she realized it was Armond who had just come home. "Our poor punching bag is back! That's my cue to leave. Bye!"

With Nora gone, I headed back into the villa. The food I prepared had gone cold by now, so I decided to call Ashton again.

This time, the call finally went through. "Ashton, where are you? Are you on your way home? I've made dinner for us. Will you be home to eat?"

This was my first-time cooking at home, and I had planned it so we could have a heart-to-heart talk over dinner. I had gotten sick of arguing with Ashton, so I knew compromisations had to be made for our relationship to be more sustainable. It was all about knowing when to give and take.

The silence on the other end of the call gave me butterflies in my stomach. I was worried about him being upset about Marcus and not giving me a chance to explain.

"Ms. Stovall, it's Rebecca. Ash is currently in the shower. I don't think he'll be home tonight, so you don't have to keep dinner for him."

My heart sank when I heard Rebecca's voice. She had answered Ashton's phone before, but that was in the past when I had braced myself for the possibility of Ashton leaving me for her. This time, however, my heart was not ready for it.

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Over the years, I had grown certain that what Ashton felt toward Rebecca was nothing more than a sense of responsibility. But now that I knew he was at her place, it instantly destroyed the trust I had in him and shattered the self-confidence I had painstakingly built.

When I did not reply, Rebecca's tone got even more condescending. "Ms. Stovall, I'll let Ashton know that you want him home. But please have your dinner first. I'm afraid it'd be late by the time he makes it back, and you know food doesn't taste as good when it's cold."

Not wanting to be snubbed by her anymore, I promptly ended the call. I stared at the dinner I had prepared, feeling like an absolute fool.

Love and trust? That's all bullsh*t now.

Even as I tried to keep my anger at bay, I couldn't get the dripping sarcasm from Rebecca's voice out of my head. I had so much faith in myself that I wouldn't be bothered by their relationship, yet here I was, steeped in pain and unable to sleep.

I lay in bed and tried to calm myself down, but all it did was make me even more frustrated as unpleasant memories came flooding back. At that moment, none of the good times I had with Ashton in the past could make up for the pain he caused in the present.

It looked to be yet another sleepless night as I tossed and turned in bed, fraught with worry and pain. Then, to make matters worse, my stomach started to hurt. I was suffering from emotional and physical pain at the same time. Life can be so cruel at times.

Perhaps it was too early for bed, or the emotional rollercoaster I was on kept me awake. Either way, falling asleep no longer seemed possible.

I decided reading might help calm me down, so I headed to the study to finish reading "Three Makes A Family."

I was making good progress on the book when there was the sound of a car engine, followed by the yard being illuminated by headlights. Ashton's back already?

The thought of him being home distracted me so much that I couldn't carry on reading any more. With a sigh, I put the book away and headed downstairs.

Ashton sat at the dining table in the kitchen, still dressed smartly in his all-black suit.

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I had left the dishes on the table without having eaten a single morsel. The food would undoubtedly be cold by now, but Ashton seemed unbothered by it as he started eating.

I watched on in silence as the anger and hurt from earlier slowly came back. It had been two hours since my call with Rebecca, which meant that whatever shenanigans they were up to would have been done and dusted.

"The food has turned cold, don't eat it anymore. I wouldn't want you to fall sick from it, Mr. Fuller," I said coldly.

Ashton was a little surprised when he saw me standing outside the kitchen. "Did I wake you up?"

His tone was full of warmth and concern, but I felt like he was only putting on a pretense.

I forced a smile as I walked toward the table. "You didn't. But the food's cold, so don't eat it." With that, I cleared all the dishes away without even waiting for his reply.