

The More the Merrier Chapter 136

[/ The More the Merrier](#)

Chapter 136 Mommy Should Tell The Truth

As Gavin ran up the stairs, he looked adorable with his bag swinging behind him.

Arissa broke into a smile. The radiance of her motherly love was evident on her face.

“Slow down! Slow down! You might trip!” She hurried toward her child.

In return, Gavin wrapped his arms around her leg and shouted merrily, “Mommy!”

“Hey!” Arissa picked him up and pinched his little face. “Why are you so late?”

Gavin looked at her and smiled. “I was playing with my classmate at his house.”

Arissa chuckled before she whispered, “Your daddy knows that you were at my house.”

Hearing that, Gavin stole a glance at Benjamin.

The latter was standing in the living room, looking at the mother and son, his expression impossible to read.

Arissa looked at him before carrying Gavin upstairs.

“Gavin, have you had your dinner?”

“Yes. We had plenty of delicious food,” Gavin answered softly.

Arissa listened to him with much interest as she carried him to the child’s room before letting him down.

Then, she put his bag aside and stroked his hair.

“Do you want me to bathe you?”

“Mommy, I can bathe myself!” Gavin replied shyly.

Looking at his cute face, Arissa smiled and pinched his nose. “All right. You bathe yourself, and I’m going to shower too.”

He nodded and exclaimed, “Mommy, are you really staying here?”

“Yeah!” she answered with a smile and looked at the door.

She then lowered her voice and asked, "Are Zachary and the others with Mr. Hinton?"

"Yes." Gavin nodded his head. "They went into hiding before anyone saw them. We came back right after that."

She chuckled and hugged him. "Let's go and take a shower. We'll see who is the faster one!"

"Okay!" He nodded and ran toward the bathroom.

Arissa's gaze was fixed on Gavin as he ran into the bathroom. She shook her head with a smile before going back to the guest room.

Gavin showered quickly. When he was done, he sent Zachary a text before he went to look for his mother.

He went to the door of the guest room's bathroom and yelled, "Mommy, I'm done. Are you done yet?"

"Sweetheart, you're so fast. I'm going to take a while. Wait for a moment." Arissa was surprised.

After that, he stood in front of the door and talked with her.

"Mommy, why did Daddy ask you to come here?"

"Hmm... Maybe he thinks that it is safer for me to stay here. I was almost kidnapped yesterday."

Arissa didn't dare to tell him about the incident.

Since I'm not sure how Benjamin will tell Gavin about the incident, it's more appropriate to give Gavin a vague answer. Besides, it's not a lie that Benjamin indeed brought me here to keep me safe.

"Mommy, don't you worry. It's really safe here. But what about my brothers?" Gavin lowered his voice as he asked, "Will they stay with Mr. Hinton?"

"I guess that's all we can do for the time being." Arissa sighed.

"Mommy, why don't you tell Daddy the truth? Once Daddy sees them, he will know that he has been tricked by Danna. Then, we can all stay together. It is safer for them too," he said after analyzing the situation.

She had thought about what he had said as well. However, she couldn't take the risk before she was sure how Benjamin would react to it.

Should I tell Benjamin? I managed to get away yesterday because I caught them off-guard. Tonight, I was lucky to meet Benjamin. However, it doesn't mean that I will be lucky every time. If they send more people in the future, it will be harder for me to get away unharmed. It is hard for me to guard myself against the enemy.

The More the Merrier Chapter 137

/ [The More the Merrier](#)

Chapter 137 Heart Skips A Beat

"Okay. I will tell him." Arissa nodded.

I can't put my kids' life at risk. Danna took away two of my children. Now, she's trying to kill the rest of us. It's impossible that she would suddenly turn over a new leaf. I'm sure those men were sent by her.

As she continued to ponder, she narrowed her eyes.

Maybe I can discuss with Benjamin tonight.

Gavin waited for Arissa with a smile on his face.

Knowing that her son was waiting for her, she quickly finished her shower and came out of the bathroom.

"Mommy!" Gavin greeted her with a smile.

Upon seeing him, she bent down and kissed his face over and over again.

"Sweetheart, have you waited me for a long time?"

He shook his head. "Just for a few minutes."

His answer amused Arissa, and she pinched on his cheek affectionately.

Just then, Edwin came upstairs to call her for dinner.

Nodding, she carried Gavin downstairs. "Sweetheart, let's get dinner."

"Mommy, didn't you eat at Daddy's company?"

Gavin looked at her without blinking.

"I did!" she answered with an affectionate smile. "Sweetheart, thank you for bringing me lunch today."

Stunned, he stated, "Mommy, I didn't bring you lunch."

"It wasn't you? Why would your daddy tell me that it was from you?" Arissa was puzzled as well.

Soon, realization dawned on Gavin.

Daddy lied to get close to Mommy!

Gavin grinned cheekily and said, "Mommy, I think Daddy was the one who brought you lunch."

When she heard that, the corner of her lips twitched again. Why would Benjamin say that? Was he afraid that I wouldn't accept it? Oh. He said that it was from Gavin after he found out that I wanted to leave.

Her mind went blank for a moment.

By the time they entered the dining room, Benjamin had been waiting for them at the dining table.

Upon hearing their footsteps, he turned toward them.

Her heart skipped a beat when she locked eyes with him.

She quickly composed herself and smiled at him politely.

"Come and eat." Benjamin swept a glance at them.

"Okay!" She carried Gavin to the seat beside Benjamin..

Benjamin glanced at Gavin and said, "Haven't you have your dinner?"

While Arissa fixated her eyes on Gavin, their son flicked a glance at Benjamin and answered, "I feel hungry again."

Well, I want to be with Mommy.

In response, Benjamin glanced at him without saying a word.

"Gavin needs to eat more. It is good for his health," Arissa said as she could not stand watching Benjamin being so stern toward Gavin.

Why doesn't he want Gavin to eat with us? All parents want their children to eat more. Usually, I even make supper for my children after eating.

Hearing her words, Benjamin shot her a glance and did not say more.

Seeing that Benjamin had allowed Gavin to have dinner, Edwin brought Gavin a bowl.

"Gavin, would you like to have some soup?" Edwin asked with a smile.

Gavin nodded. "Sure. Thank you, Mr. Whitley."

The butler then served the soup to Gavin.

"Let's eat!" Benjamin grabbed a fork and dug in.

After Arissa spared Benjamin a glance, she noticed that Gavin was blowing on his soup.

Knowing that hers was not as hot as his, she said, "Gavin, you can have mine. It's not hot."

Her serving was colder, as it was served earlier.

Hence, she gave hers to her son.

"Thank you, Mommy!" Gavin grinned.

"You're welcome. Enjoy your soup!" She stroked his hair lovingly.

"Yes," he replied with a bright smile.

Benjamin, who was sitting at the side, narrowed his eyes when he saw the way Arissa looked at Gavin.

The More the Merrier Chapter 138

[/ The More the Merrier](#)

Chapter 138 Does Mommy Like Daddy

Edwin stood at the side and glanced at Gavin. Then, he turned to look at Arissa, who was ever so loving to Gavin. She patiently showered Gavin with her endearing motherly love.

This made Edwin baffled. Arissa is so loving to Gavin, even though she's not his real mom. In contrast, Danna is so cruel to Gavin. She is incomparable to Arissa.

Meanwhile, Arissa looked at Gavin attentively as she tried to get him to eat more. For her, it was absolute bliss as she fussed over her little boy. However, as she was going to feed him, Benjamin halted her.

He threw a glance at her and muttered in his deep voice, "Let Gavin eat on his own."

With that, Arissa looked at Benjamin and relented.

Gavin, too, peered at Benjamin and ate on his own obediently.

After a while, he took some food and offered it to Arissa. "Mommy, this is yummy. Have some more of this!"

Immensely moved by his gesture, Arissa stroked Gavin's head affectionately. "Thank you, Sweetheart!"

Benjamin's eyes glistened brightly as he caught sight of Arissa's blissful smile.

Even Edwin had the corners of his mouth upturned in a faint smile as he basked in the affectionate atmosphere. Finally, he felt the warmth of a loving family as it had been some time since he last saw a smile on Gavin's face.

"Ms. York, do you like the dishes today?" asked Edwin with a polite smile.

"Yes, these dishes are delicious. Edwin, I can't match up with your culinary skills," praised Arissa wholeheartedly.

At that moment, Benjamin interrupted the happy mood with his abrupt view. "There's no need to flatter Edwin. Actually, I prefer your dishes instead."

In the blink of an eye, he rendered Edwin and Arissa speechless.

After Gavin peeked at Benjamin, he smiled and remarked, "Mommy's dishes are delicious too!"

With a bright smile, Arissa looked lovingly into Gavin's dazzling eyes. Then, she stroked his head gently and gushed, "Thank you, Sweetheart. Let's finish our meal first."

After Gavin beamed a smile, they continued with their meal.

As Benjamin watched the happy exchange between Arissa and Gavin, he couldn't help but feel displeased. His brows furrowed at the contrast between how Arissa treated Gavin compared to him.

This was more pronounced as Arissa called Gavin by his nickname. The more Benjamin thought about it, the more it annoyed him.

On the other hand, Edwin sneaked a peek at Benjamin and sniggered away. It seems Mr. Graham has the hots for Ms. York. He's finally showing more emotion than his usual self.

Under Benjamin's watchful eyes, Arissa finally finished her meal with Gavin.

After they were done, Gavin couldn't wait to drag Arissa out for a walk. "Mommy, let's go for a stroll!"

"All right then," Arissa agreed, as she usually gave in to the kids' requests. So, she held on to Gavin's little hands, and off they went.

Before they stepped out, Gavin turned around to look at Benjamin. He shouted, "Daddy, are you coming with us?"

Benjamin glanced at them and frowned slightly. He was apprehensive about joining them, as he knew Arissa was still guarded against him.

"It's okay. I'm busy at the moment. You guys have a good time out there," replied Benjamin reluctantly.

"Okay!" Gavin glimpsed at Benjamin and turned away, all ready for his stroll.

After Arissa heard that, she nodded at Benjamin in acknowledgment and went off with Gavin.

Soon after, Arissa and Gavin arrived at the garden, where they strolled leisurely.

"Mommy, how do you like this place?" asked Gavin.

"I like it. It's beautiful," replied Arissa. She took a panoramic view around the garden under the moonlight. With a mesmerized smile, Arissa immersed herself in the elegance of the surroundings.

"Mommy, how are you adjusting to life here?" asked Gavin as he tugged at her hand.

"I'm doing okay," replied Arissa, as she gazed into his eyes and stroked his head lovingly.

Gavin smiled contently and asked her next, "Mommy, when are you going to tell Daddy?"

With that, Arissa was stumped for a while. She instinctively turned to look in the direction of the house.

From a distance, an elongated silhouette of a man stood before the floor-to-ceiling glass window. It looked like Benjamin was amid a call.

She then retracted her gaze and turned to answer Gavin, "I'll do it when he has the time."

He followed suit and looked at the house with a nod.

“Mommy, do you like Daddy or not?” questioned Gavin relentlessly, with a serious look on his face.

Arissa looked confoundedly into Gavin’s eyes and searched hard for an answer.

“Well, we’re still getting to know each other. Besides, he’s my boss for now,” explained Arissa.

Once again, Gavin nodded in agreement. Then he continued with curiosity, “How were we conceived in the past?”

Arissa fell into a daze as she recalled the painful memories from five years ago.

The More the Merrier Chapter 139

[/ The More the Merrier](#)

Chapter 139 | Assumed You Abandoned Me

Back then, Arissa slept with Benjamin errantly after an elaborate set-up. However, she did not want to go into detail with Gavin that day.

So, she lowered her body and held on to Gavin’s tiny shoulders. In an earnest tone, she explained, “You’re still too young. I’ll explain it to you when you’re older. For now, just know that I love you all.”

With a soft touch, Arissa gently caressed Gavin’s cheek.

He smiled coyly in return and said, “Now, I know. Before this, I assumed you abandoned me.”

Instantly, a sharp pain tore through Arissa’s heart. Guilt-ridden, she pulled Gavin into an embrace right away and comforted him, “It’s all my fault. I failed to protect you!” Arissa knew if she had been more careful, Danna would have had no chance to nab him.

“Mommy, I don’t blame you at all. The baddies were just too evil!” uttered Gavin, who had his brows tightly knit in a bunch. When he had a look of hostility swept across his face, one could clearly see that Gavin took after Benjamin indeed.

Arissa knew Danna would not let her off so easily. The latter was even mean to Jasper.

Overwhelmed by emotions, she drew a deep breath. In a bittersweet tone, she muttered, “Thank you, Sweetheart.”

After kissing Gavin on his cheek, she felt a warm assurance as he stroked her hair consolingly.

"Mommy, I didn't know that vicious woman was not my real mommy before. I only know she doesn't love me. In fact, it's a relief to know that she isn't my real mommy!" blurted Gavin.

Arissa's heart was in turmoil once again, as she saw how sensible Gavin was. This was despite the fact that he was deprived of motherly love from such a young age.

"Sweetheart, has she been mean to you?" asked Arissa. With much care, she lifted Gavin and placed him on her lap. As they sat on the rocking chair in the garden, Arissa couldn't help but feel heartbroken.

In response, Gavin shook his head. "Well, she's mean to me sometimes."

After Gavin noticed Arissa's worried expression, he felt elated that she cared for him. He went on, "Daddy does not like it when I'm out alone with her. Well, she isn't fond of me either. It's clear that she's making use of me to get close to Daddy."

As such, Danna was just another acquainted adult in Gavin's life, with no emotional attachment.

When she heard that, Arissa stroked Gavin's head again. "Sweetheart, I am sorry!"

"It's okay, Mommy. I don't blame you at all. Daddy has been protective of me," comforted Gavin as he wrapped his arms around Arissa in a hug.

Conscience-stricken, Arissa felt worse when she realized how doting Gavin was.

Back then, the consequences would have been dire if Danna had not brought Gavin to Benjamin. The thought of that made Arissa so emotional that she hugged Gavin even tighter than before.

At that moment, her phone rang. She looked at the phone and realized it was Zachary on the line.

Gavin peeked at the phone and chirped, "It's Zachary!"

Arissa settled herself down and answered the call with a slight smile, "Hi, Sweetheart!"

"Mommy, are you turning in soon?" asked Zachary on the line.

"Well, not yet. I'm taking a stroll in the garden with Gavin," answered Arissa softly.

Zachary went on, "Have you guys had your dinner?"

"Yes, we ate. Mr. Hinton bought plenty of delicious food," replied Arissa.

“Mommy, how is Benjamin treating you?” Oliver hollered.

Arissa couldn't help but break into a smile. “Not too bad!”

Jasper joined in, too. “Mommy, how long will you be there?”

“Just a few days. Be good and obey Mr. Hinton. Don't be mischievous, understand?” said Arissa.

“Mommy, are you in some kind of trouble?” Zachary asked worriedly, as he found it peculiar that Arissa needed to be there for a few days.

“Well, my boss thinks the kidnappers may strike again. For my safety, he wants me to stay put here first,” quipped Arissa.

Zachary replied skeptically, “Mommy, are you lying to me?”

Meanwhile, Gavin found it queer the longer he looked at Arissa. He had a hunch that she wasn't telling the truth.

“Why would I lie to you?” Arissa smiled again.

“Mommy? Let's chat for a while more,” gushed Jesse meekly.

Arissa agreed to Jesse lovingly, and she chatted with them for a while more. After some time, she finally ended the call.

“Mommy, are you in some predicament?” asked Gavin, with his forehead knitted tightly in a frown.

Arissa rubbed his forehead and replied, “Nope, everything is fine.”

Gavin wasn't about to give up. He pressed on, “Mommy, is someone trying to kidnap you again?”

Looking at Gavin, Arissa realized how intelligent he was. However, she was hesitant about telling him the truth.

“Tell me the truth, Mommy! I won't tell the rest,” urged Gavin with furrowed brows.

“Don't overthink it. Mommy is fine,” replied Arissa, as she playfully pinched his cheeks. “Let's go back now. We'll see if Daddy is free now.”

Gavin's eyes lit up brightly like glittery stars in the dark sky. “Are you finally going to tell Daddy?”

The More the Merrier Chapter 140

[/ The More the Merrier](#)

Chapter 140 Cheesecakes for Mister Graham

After gently pinching Gavin's cherubic cheeks, Arissa chuckled. "Well, that depends on the situation."

"Mommy, hurry up and make it clear to Daddy. He's not the type who will lose his head in love. I mean—" Gavin stuck his tongue out in jest as he explained, flabbergasted. "Daddy and Danna are not even close, Mommy. In fact, they have long gone their separate ways!"

When Arissa realized Gavin's efforts to score brownie points for Benjamin, she laughed with amusement. "Okay, I got it. I'm rational enough to see the facts for myself."

With his eyes squinted in half-moons, Gavin chortled delightfully.

As Arissa held Gavin's hand on their return, she turned to look in the direction of the balcony again. This time, Benjamin was no longer there.

After they returned to the house, Edwin approached them with some cheesecake he had made.

"Try the cheesecake, Ms. York," offered Edwin.

"Thank you!" After that, Arissa sat down with Gavin and tucked into the cheesecake.

"Is it delicious, Mommy?" Gavin tugged at her arm and asked softly.

"It tastes great!" Arissa leaned in toward Gavin and wiped his mouth.

Gavin smiled from cheek to cheek. His eyes radiated warm affection nourished with Arissa's tender care. Arissa rubbed his head gently in a doting manner.

"Have more slices, Ms. York!" urged Edwin enthusiastically with a grin.

"I have room for two slices at most. Why don't you have a slice too?" said Arissa with a luscious smile, looking at Edwin standing at the side.

"Please enjoy the cheesecake, Ms. York. I will excuse myself for now with some chores. If you need anything else, please call out for me." After that, Edwin got ready to leave.

"Sure!" Arissa nodded in reply. She continued relishing the cheesecake with Gavin.

Soon, Gavin handed her another slice of cheesecake. "Here, Mommy. Have this!"

"Thank you, Sweetheart!" Arissa took over the slice of cheesecake from him. When she noticed he had not finished his slice, she playfully pinched his nose. "Sweetheart, why are you taking so long to finish your slice?" Arissa teased him.

"I will finish it little by little, Mommy." With that, Gavin snuggled up to Arissa affectionately and sat by her side. With his mouth full of cheesecake and legs dangling by the couch, Gavin looked incredibly adorable.

From a top-down view, Arissa admired Gavin's long, luscious lashes. He was a good-looking boy whose features were immaculately outstanding. In fact, Arissa couldn't help but feel exalted. After all, she had given birth to such a handsome boy.

"Are you going to bring Daddy a piece of cheesecake?" asked Gavin innocently.

"Huh?" replied Arissa, slightly astonished.

"Daddy likes cheesecakes too!" said Gavin with a grin.

"You mean he likes this too?" Arissa was slightly taken aback as she couldn't imagine a cold and aloof man like Benjamin to like such sweet dessert.

"As long as you bring him some, he will eat it!" Gavin blinked his eyes expressively.

When Arissa noticed Gavin's playful expression, she leaned forward to hold him. Then, she gave him a peck on his cheek.

"What are you trying to make Mommy do?" Arissa asked.

Gavin looked at her and replied with a sneaky smile, "I'm creating a chance for you to see Daddy by bringing some cheesecake over!"

When Arissa saw the look of anticipation on Gavin's face, she couldn't help but break into laughter.

"All right then. Let me finish my cheesecake first." In hearty morsels, she finished her cheesecake with joy. After she was done with two slices, Gavin barely finished even one slice.

She wiped her mouth after she was done and took a slice of cheesecake. Then she set off to the study for Benjamin. At the door, Arissa knocked slightly to get his attention.

"Come in!" There came a voice from the study.

Arissa opened the door gently and peeked in. She made her way slowly into the study with the cheesecake.

“Mr. Graham, have some cheesecake!” said Arissa as she walked over to him. Then she carefully placed the cheesecake down.

With that, Benjamin raised his eyes to look at her.

At that moment, their eyes met, and that made Arissa’s heart thump excitedly. The atmosphere became somewhat awkward in that split second.

Arissa quickly cleared her throat and asked, “Are you available now?”

“Just speak,” said Benjamin with his body leaned back in his chair. His intense gaze shot directly at Arissa in anticipation.

As Arissa felt intimidated by his intense gaze, her eyes darted away with a few blinks to diffuse the tension. She found it difficult to express herself before his forceful demeanor.

“Do you want to try some cheesecake first?” Arissa sneaked a glimpse at him as she felt a sense of apprehension.

Benjamin looked down at the cheesecake in front of him. “I don’t take cheesecakes.”

At that moment, Arissa was at a loss for words.

Still, she conjured an awkward smile and persisted, “The cheesecake is delicious, actually. It’s perfectly fine to have a slice once in a while!”

With an unyielding gaze on Arissa, Benjamin suddenly stood up and walked toward her.

He came up so close to her she got a whiff of his manly scent. Overwhelmed, Arissa took a step back. Her heart palpitated hard and thumped away uncontrollably.

When Benjamin noticed her flushed face, his upturned eyes glinted. Without warning, he extended his long arms and scooped her into them.