

The More the Merrier Chapter 401

Chapter 401 Emotional Breakdown

“Arissa!” Benjamin pulled her away and said, “Let’s go back. How long will it take for you to search for him in this manner?”

Tears sprang out of Arissa’s eyes.

“I want to look for him...”

Benjamin embraced her and caressed her head. He felt equally terrible as well.

He’s my son too!

“We will find him! Don’t panic!”

Arissa buried herself in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.

The young beggars looked at them in fright. They had no idea what was going on.

“Don’t cry. Go home with me. We’ll deploy more men to search for him. As long as he is still in the country, we will be able to find him! Even if he is in another country, I will find him too!” said Benjamin with determination.

After a while, Arissa finally calmed down.

She wiped the tears off her face.

Benjamin is right. I can’t panic because it will make things worse.

We have to deploy more men to search for him.

Arissa got out of Benjamin's embrace and saw the group of young beggars looking at them timidly.

They looked so miserable that she could not help but caress their heads.

“I'm sorry that I scared all of you.”

The beggars shook their heads.

Arissa felt sorry for them that they had to live on the streets at such a young age.

She took out her purse and gave them all the money she had.

Arissa felt that being nice to them would somehow keep her child safe.

“Go and buy something to eat.”

“Thank you!”

The few of them accepted the money gingerly.

“You're welcome!”

Arissa felt terrible. How many homeless children are there?

When Benjamin saw how caring she was, his eyes darkened.

“Arissa, let's go back!”

He went up to grab her hand and pulled her toward the car.

This time around, Arissa did not fight back. Instead, she turned back and glanced at the young beggars.

Giving them money would not solve their problems in the long run. An idea popped up in her mind.

Even when Benjamin shoved her into the car, she was still thinking of ways to find her child.

When Benjamin saw her in that state, he started to worry.

“Arissa!”

He called out to her, but there was no response.

Benjamin raised his voice a few times before Arissa regained her senses and stared at him blankly.

“What?”

Benjamin’s brows furrowed even deeper.

“What are you thinking about? I called you, but you didn’t even hear me.”

Arissa blinked her eyes before telling Benjamin her plan.

“I want to take those children in!”

She looked toward the group of young beggars who had bought some food with the money she had given them.

Nobody knew how many days they had been starving. The way they were gobbling down the food made her heart ache.

Whose children are they?

Where are their parents?

Have they been abducted? Or did they get lost? Perhaps, they are being abandoned?

Arissa's heart ached even more.

Maybe, her child might be among those children. She wanted to open an orphanage and take those children in. Perhaps, she might be able to find her child in that manner.

Benjamin was taken aback.

“Do you know how many homeless children are there?”

It isn't just these few of them. Is she planning to take in every homeless child?

“I will open an orphanage so that they have a place to stay. Perhaps, our son may be among them!”

I'll take it that I'm doing good deeds on behalf of my missing son.

Benjamin looked at her.

“Then why don't we just send them to an orphanage and donate money to the orphanage? There's no need to open one!”

Arissa turned to look at Benjamin. She felt that his idea was better than hers.

She could also go to the orphanage and look for clues.

“Then, I want to take them there now!”

She was about to get down from the car when Benjamin pulled her back. “There’s no need. I’ll get someone to send them over.”

“I-I want to go and look for him at the orphanage!”

Arissa looked at Benjamin with her red, teary eyes, and there was no way he could say no to her.

Benjamin instructed his bodyguards to bring the beggars along with them in a separate car.

They then made their way to the orphanage.

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Chapter 402 Donate In Her Name

Upon hearing that, the orphanage’s director shed tears of joy.

Benjamin continued, “I’ll arrange for someone to construct a new building for the children and hire a tutor for them. I’ll pay five thousand to cover the daily expenses of each child a year and will continuously support them until they reach adulthood. I’ll also cover their medical expenses, if necessary. What do you think? Is there anything else that you need?”

The director was stunned and looked at them in disbelief. “That’s more than enough! Thank you!”

A child would be able to live comfortably on a few hundred bucks a month, and that was a lot more than what an ordinary family could afford.

That pledge for sponsorship was a pleasant surprise, and the director was overjoyed.

“All right then. I’ll get someone to prepare the contract. I’ll be bringing in more children in the future. And I’ll also be setting up a foundation, so you don’t need to worry about the money anymore!” Benjamin promised.

“Okay!” The director was pleased to hear that. With Benjamin’s sponsorship, the orphanage would have no problem taking in more children in the future!

Arissa, too, was just as stunned. She did not expect Benjamin to do that.

“Sir, can I get your name?” the director looked at them and asked.

“Arissa York. That’s the name you should remember,” Benjamin answered.

That answer rendered Arissa speechless.

The director mumbled Arissa’s name and expressed his gratitude.

“All right! You’re our benefactor, and we’ll remember you for life!”

“Remember this lady, not me!” Benjamin pulled Arissa over.

The director gave Arissa a surprised look. Arissa awkwardly pointed at Benjamin and said, “No, no, no. You should remember him. He’s the one who has pledged to support the orphanage. He’s Benjamin Graham.”

“Benjamin Graham?” The director was struck dumb.

Never in a million years did he expect a wealthy and powerful man like Benjamin to visit the orphanage and pledge to support them.

“Just remember Arissa’s name will do! My name is not important,” Benjamin insisted.

Arissa did not know what else to say. So was the director.

The director thought Benjamin wanted to lay low to avoid unwanted publicity. “All right then!”

“You’re the one supporting the orphanage. Why did you mention my name?” Arissa could not understand why Benjamin did that.

Benjamin glanced at her. “Because you’ll be the one paying the orphanage!”

Arissa was a little annoyed. What? Does he expect me to pay for the expenses of a hundred kids here? How much do I have to pay?

That would be five hundred thousand a year and five million for ten years. For every one thousand children, I'll have to pay five hundred thousand a year and fifty million for ten years.

If I had to pay for the children for the next eighteen years, I'd have to fork out a total of one hundred million. And this amount is not inclusive of infrastructure development, workers' salaries, and medical expenses.

That's a huge sum, and I don't have so much money!

Arissa began to realize that operating an orphanage was an overly ambitious idea.

The expenses alone was already a stumbling block.

Words caught in Arissa's throat.

She was too embarrassed to admit to the director that she could not afford to sponsor the orphanage. She also did not want to disappoint the children.

Oh, well. Let them proceed with the contract. I guess I'll just have to work harder to pay him back.

“Do you really mean what you've said?” The director needed the reassurance as he was afraid that Benjamin and Arissa were not serious about the pledge.

“We're serious about the pledge, of course!” Benjamin nodded and immediately called Ethen on the phone.

“Prepare a contract right now. We shall convert the orphanage into a school, and we’ll cover all the expenses, teaching resources, and medical needs...”

Upon hearing that, Arissa was impressed with the detailed arrangement Benjamin made.

She turned to the director and said, “He’ll deliver what he had promised. The contract would be legally binding once you’ve signed on it, so don’t worry.”

The director became even more thrilled when he heard that Benjamin planned to manage this orphanage like a school. “You two are indeed Good Samaritans. Thank you!”

Arissa, who wished to get to know more about the children, did not forget the purpose of the trip. “Could you gather the children for me? I would like to meet them!”

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Chapter 403 Getting The Orphanage To Look For The Child

“All right! I’ll see to it right now!” The director instantly signaled all the children over.

Soon, about ten children ran in their direction.

They were all thin as a rail. It was clear that they were all malnourished.

As a mother, Arissa’s heart sank when she noticed how frail the children looked.

She walked up to them and looked at them one by one but did not find her child.

Upon noticing the disappointment on her face, the director asked, “What’s wrong, Ms. York?”

Arissa smiled wryly and told him the truth. “A child of mine had gone missing, and to this day, I still have no idea where he is. If you know any directors from the other orphanages, could you check with them for me?”

“Sure!” The director nodded. “Can I know the child’s birthday? Do you have his picture?”

“Yes!” Arissa immediately gave him a photo. “He’s one of the sextuplets, so he should look more or less like his siblings in this photo, even though there might be a slight difference in weight.”

“Great! It should be easier for us to identify the child now that we know how he looks like. I’ll send them the photo and keep you updated! Could you give me your contact details, Ms. York?” The director immediately snapped a photo with his phone and uploaded it into their chat group.

“Thank you!”

Arissa immediately gave the director her contact details. She also gave him Bradley’s number in case she missed the director’s call.

Benjamin, who had just ended a call, turned around and frowned. “Give him my number!”

“What?” Arissa turned around and gave him a puzzled look.

A hard glint flashed across the man's eyes. He snatched the pen from Arissa, dropped his contact number on the paper, and passed it to the director. "My assistant will arrive in a minute, and he'll make the arrangement with you. Tell him if you need anything else."

"Thank you, Mr. Graham. What you have offered is more than enough for us!" The director expressed his gratitude.

"You're welcome. I hope we'll be able to find the kid as soon as possible." Benjamin nodded and left the orphanage with Arissa.

"Goodbye!" The director walked them to the door and bade them farewell.

Arissa turned around and reminded the director, "Don't forget to call me when you have any information about my child!"

"Got it. I'll ask them to look into it right now. I'll keep you updated from time to time, so don't worry!" the director replied.

Benjamin nodded and nudged Arissa. "Come. Let's go."

Once Arissa had stepped into the car, Benjamin closed the door and ordered the chauffeur to hit the road.

"What's wrong with you? Are you in a hurry?" Arissa wondered.

"Let's not waste time since the kid is not here. Ethen will take care of the rest," Benjamin said.

Arissa nodded. Yes, I must not forget that I came here to look for my child.

The two then returned to the Graham residence.

Just when Arissa was about to look through the data, Benjamin grabbed her wrist and pulled her to the dining area.

“Let’s grab a bite first.”

Arissa’s heart started pounding as she stared at the manly hand that was grabbing her wrist.

“Don’t you need to head back to the office?” she asked.

Benjamin glanced at her.

He was supposed to be at work but had to leave the office when he learned from his security guard that Arissa was looking for her child like a headless chicken in the park.

“There’s not a lot of work in the office.” Benjamin then pulled out the chair and made her sit.

Arissa suddenly recalled he had made a trip to the lock-up. “Did Danna say anything to you?”

“Eat first!” Benjamin instructed the butler to serve her a bowl of soup.

Arissa looked at him steadily and asked in a serious voice, “What did she say?”

Benjamin lifted his eyes to look at the persistent woman.

He pressed his voice and answered, “She said the child is missing, and she had no idea where he was.”

Arissa's body twitched upon hearing that.

How is it possible? My child is missing, and he's not with Danna...

Benjamin knitted her brows when he saw her face turned pallid. "I would like to think of it as a blessing in disguise. At least the child is not in her hands, and she couldn't do anything to harm the boy."

Benjamin made this remark to console Arissa and convince himself to look at the bright side of the turn of events.

Benjamin's heart sank for a moment.

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Chapter 404 I Will Not Give Up

Arissa's body was still trembling.

She was both mad and worried at the same time.

Arissa was mad that Danna threatened her with her child.

She was also worried about the safety of her son.

Benjamin stood up, walked up to her, and embraced her.

He gently patted her back and comforted her. "We'll find him, don't worry."

"But where? Where can we find him?" Arissa broke down and cried.

Trying to find a lost child was like searching for a needle in a haystack.

The thought of her child suffering somewhere in this world caused her to burst into tears.

Benjamin, too, was downhearted upon seeing how helpless Arissa was.

He leaned forward and pulled her head into his chest. He then gazed into her eyes and said, “This is not the time to break down. The more emotional you become, the more difficult it will be for you to track down the child. Unless you’re ready to give up?”

“No way. I’ll never give up! By hook or by crook, I’ll find him!” Arissa widened her eyes and exclaimed.

“I just... I feel I’ve let him down. I didn’t even know he existed before this. I really thought I had only given birth to quintuplets...” Arissa’s eyes turned red as she felt she had done her child wrong.

“It’s not your fault!” Benjamin looked at her aggrieved appearance and felt sorry for her.

He hugged her even more tightly and gently stroked the back of her head. “It’s my fault. Danna wouldn’t have a chance to lay her finger on the kid had I been more cautious with my investigation!”

Benjamin, too, felt a pang of guilt. If it were not for him, Arissa and the children would not have gone through the misery.

They nearly even lost their lives because of him.

We don't even know if the child is still alive.

Benjamin could not breathe when he thought of the worst scenario. It was as if someone was strangling him.

“Mr. Graham!” Edwin was stunned when he overheard their conversation.

“You still have another child?”

Benjamin turned around to look at Edwin and responded with a nod.

There was no way they could live in peace unless they had found the missing child.

Edwin was at a loss for words as he did not know how to comfort Arissa.

On the one hand, he was pleased to learn that Benjamin and Arissa had another child, but on the other hand, he was also concerned about the child's whereabouts.

“I'll sure we'll be able to find the child since there are so many of us. And I'm sure Mr. Graham knows what he's doing. You must have faith in him!”

Upon hearing that, an idea popped up in Benjamin's mind.

Arissa regained her composure. Now is not the right time to panic. I have to pull myself together to look for my child.

She got up and said, “I’m fine. I’m fine now. Don’t worry about me.”

Benjamin gave her a look of comfort. “It’s okay to cry it out. It’s good to release your emotions. We’ll definitely look for our child, but we need to plan ahead. I’ll deploy my men to look for him all over the country. But right now, I need you to calm down and eat properly.”

Arissa’s heart skipped a beat when she heard his plan. “Do you have enough men to deploy?”

Once again, Benjamin stroked Arissa’s head and comforted her upon noticing the worried look on her face. “I’m sure I’ll be able to mobilize my network since I have investments all over the country. I’ll get help from my business associates since they are familiar with the locals. Jack should also have enough men to deploy on his end.”

He explained his plan further, “I’ll arrange for another team to continue the investigations. We’ll start with the database in the police department and continue with the census bureau if need be. As long as he’s still alive, I’m sure we will be able to find him.”

Arissa believed Benjamin had all the resources to make this mission a success. “All right. Involve as many men as possible in the search operation then!”

“I will. You better eat something now. I’ll make the arrangement right now!”

When Benjamin was about to leave the dining hall, Arissa stopped him. “Why don’t you join me? Let’s have something together.”

After taking a glance at Arissa, Benjamin sat down and ate something with her for a while before going to his study.

All his business associates and management teams from his corporation’s subsidiaries were surprised to learn that Benjamin had another son.

Before this, they were aware that Benjamin had five children, even though they had not met them before.

Does that mean he has a total of six children?

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Chapter 405 Did She Lie To Benjamin

Benjamin gave all his business associates the photo of Gavin and his siblings, hoping that they could look for the missing child.

“Do not draw too much attention from the public, and do not do anything that will put the child’s life at risk!” Benjamin warned his men as he was afraid opportunists might abduct the child.

After all, he had made quite many enemies in business over the years.

Arissa entered his study with a cup of coffee. “How’s everything?”

“I’ve told them what to do. I’ll make a trip to the police department to see if they have any updates for us.”

Though Benjamin had assigned Ethen to follow up with the cops, he felt he should still make a trip to the police department since he had more autonomy over the cops.

“Oh!”

Benjamin then left the study in a hurry. He did not even have the time to take a sip of the coffee that Arissa made for him.

“I’ll come with you!”

“No. You stay home.” Benjamin stopped her from following him.

Arissa then went to her room and took out her laptop. She also started doing her part to look for her child.

Bradley might have hacked into the various databases to retrieve the information, but going through all of them would be a herculean task.

Matching the child’s identity with the data in the system would be like finding a needle in a haystack.

Arissa narrowed down her search options. She started looking for the place where Danna claimed that the child had disappeared but to no avail.

Did Danna lie to Benjamin ?

As doubt started creeping into Arissa's mind, the image of Danna stopping by a gas station appeared in the footage of a surveillance camera.

Arissa took a closer at the footage but did not spot any suspicious activity or individuals near her car.

She went on to check the footage from the other surveillance cameras around the area, and she only saw Danna's car but not the child.

Danna told Benjamin this was where the child disappeared. She told him the child went missing when she was at the supermarket.

But Danna has never even stepped into the supermarket. She must have lied to Benjamin.

A vortex of anger surged in Arissa's heart.

She went straight to the lock-up to confront Danna.

At first, Danna refused to come out as she thought Benjamin, whom she was terrified of, was looking for her.

When she found out that the visitor was Arissa, she decided to meet her.

The bruise on Danna's neck immediately caught Arissa's attention.

Did Benjamin do that do her ?

“What do you want from me?” Danna shot daggers at Arissa.
“Did you come to make fun of me?”

“Where is the kid?” Arissa gave Danna a sullen glare.

Arissa wished she could barge into the lock-up and kill Danna right away.

Not only did this woman cause me to be separated from my child, but she was also responsible for my child’s disappearance.

All of a sudden, Danna let out a mirthless laugh. “Why should I tell you?”

A murderous glint flashed past Arissa’s reddened eyes. “Have fun rotting in jail then!”

Arissa then turned around and was about to leave.

“Ask Benjamin to let me go, and I’ll tell you the truth!” Danna shrieked from a distance.

Arissa clenched her fists and turned around to stare at Danna.

Danna could not help but shudder. “Why... why are you staring at me?”

Danna immediately put her guard up.

Arissa approached Danna and slapped her on the cheek. Danna’s mouth started bleeding.

The guard stepped in and reprimanded Arissa, “Calm down, Miss!”

“If anything happens to my child, I’ll hold you responsible, Danna.”

At this point, Arissa was no longer a weak and helpless woman anymore.

She was now a mother who would do anything for her child.

Arissa threatened, “You better tell the truth. If you still insist on playing mind games with us, I’ll make sure you rot in prison. I’ll also destroy your entire family!”

She continued, “For your information, Benjamin had acquired Adams Group.”

Danna’s expression changed right away. “No way. Benjamin wouldn’t do this to me!”

Arissa scoffed, “Why don’t you give your family a call?”