

The More the Merrier

Chapter 481 Nervous

Arisa could not help but go through all the possible scenarios in her head. She had no idea how the little guy would react later.

Benjamin lifted his eyes to look at her. "What are you so nervous about?"

"What?" Arissa turned around to look at him while fidgeting.

Benjamin looked at her. "Watch a film if you're bored!"

Arisa pressed her lips and responded, "I am not in the mood!"

Benjamin looked at the bodyguard and signaled him to serve her a glass of fruit juice. "Ms. York."

"Thanks!" Arissa responded.

The bodyguard then went to get her more snacks.

Snacking did help to kill time, but the journey still felt like an eternity.

After peeping at the man who was still busy working, Arissa put on a pair of headphones and watched a film.

Yet, she was so worked up that she did not know what she was watching.

She had no choice but to force herself to continue watching the film since they would only arrive in another hour.

Minutes later, her eyes felt heavy, and she eventually dozed off.

Benjamin walked up to Arissa and grabbed a blanket to cover her body before continuing with his work.

"Sweetheart!" Arissa mumbled.

Benjamin tilted his head to check on her and realized she was sleep talking.

The plane finally arrived at Northstream airport around ten o'clock in the late evening.

Upon noticing Arissa was still asleep, Benjamin gestured for the bodyguards to keep quiet.

After waiting for a short while, he decided to carry her since she was still sleeping like a log.

They then got into the car that would take them to the hospital.

When they arrived at the hospital, Benjamin woke Arissa up.

Benjamin pinched her ruddy and plump cheek. "We're at the hospital now."

Benjamin's eyes darkened, and he pinched her cheek again. "Wake up! We've arrived!"

Arissa finally woke up from her sleep. She looked into Benjamin's eyes and froze for a moment.

Upon realizing she was still in a daze, he lifted his chin, gesturing for her to look out the window.

Arissa turned around and saw the hospital. She was instantly overwhelmed by emotions. "We've arrived?"

She bounced up from his thighs right away. When she was about to get out of the car, she accidentally knocked her head against the headliner. "Ouch!"

Benjamin grabbed her arm and reprimanded her, "Stop acting like a headless chicken!"

Arissa rubbed her head and pouted. "Can you blame me? I'm just eager to meet my son!"

Benjamin pulled her over and gently massaged her head despite having a grim expression on his face.

Arissa looked at him and said, "I'm fine now."

Benjamin refused to let her go. "Apply some ointment first!"

He tilted his body to retrieve the first-aid kit and took out a bottle of ointment to apply the medicine to her head.

Arissa's heart started pounding after glancing at him a few times.

She lost her composure when she realized she was sitting on his lap.

When Arissa adjusted her body's position a little, Benjamin shot daggers at her and reprimanded her, "Don't move!"

Arissa froze for a moment and dared not move. She had no choice but to sit still on the man's lap.

Upon feeling the muscles on Benjamin's thighs, her heart raced even faster.

Even her cheeks also started blushing.

After applying the ointment to her head, Benjamin noticed her brick-red face. A glint flashed across his eyes. Why does she look so attractive?

Benjamin fixed his eyes on Arissa and held her gaze with a burning intensity. "Why are you blushing?"

His magnetic voice rumbled through her ears. She felt a tingling sensation, and her cheeks got even rosier. "I feel a little warm."

After avoiding his eye contact, she asked, "Can I get down now?"

Benjamin grinned. "Yes."

Yet, when she was about to get off the car, she felt the man was still wrapping his hands around her waist.

She turned around to look him in the eye. Something in his gaze tugged at her heartstrings, making her heart flutter.

Chapter 482 You Cannot Go In Before Me

After feeling an intense warmth surge through her body, Arissa pushed him away and got down of the car.

Benjamin looked at her and raised his brows. A corner of his lips quirked up when he saw how flustered the woman was.

She didn't even thank me for applying the ointment to her head.

Then, Benjamin got out of the car too. After tidying up his clothes, he caught up with Arissa.

When Arissa arrived at the elevator, she turned around to look at Benjamin.

Benjamin tilted his chin, gesturing for her to enter the elevator. "Get in!"

Arissa pressed her lips and asked, "Which floor?"

"Ninth!" Benjamin reached out for her waist, but Arissa avoided him when she got in.

After pressing the number, she kept looking at the screen atop the door as the elevator ascended.

Earlier, Arissa managed to calm her nerves after Benjamin gave her an earful. But her anxiousness started creeping in again as she would be meeting her son soon.

Benjamin was amused when he saw how nervous she was and how she swallowed the fluid lodged in her throat.

Arissa turned around and shot daggers at him. "Why are you laughing?"

Benjamin lifted his eyes and pinched her cheek. "Why are you so anxious? You're just meeting your son."

Arissa opened her mouth but did not know how to respond to his words.

Benjamin gave her a look and said gently, "You're going to frighten the kid with that look on your face. Just calm down and act normal."

"Do you remember how you approached Gavin when you first met him? Just do the same with this boy," Benjamin added.

Arissa bit her lips. She wanted to stay as calm as possible but was stricken by remorse whenever she thought of how much she owed him.

While Gavin grew up under Benjamin's care, this child had led a difficult life since he was born. It was a miracle that Danna did not torture him to death.

Benjamin stroked her head. "We're here."

Arissa took a deep breath and asked Benjamin to lead the way.

"What are you waiting for? Let's go!" she urged the man who refused to move.

Yet, Benjamin stood still and tidied her hair.

Arissa immediately walked up to the fire cabinet, looked at her reflection on the glass door, and tidied her clothes.

Benjamin waited for her from a distance with his hands in his pockets.

"Okay! I'm ready!" Arissa turned around and noticed Benjamin was staring at her.

She instantly looked away and said, "Please lead the way, Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin chuckled and walked along the corridor.

As she was walking up to him, she looked around the place.

"This hospital looks nice. I wonder if Mdm. Mary feels better now?" Arissa was referring to Mary.

Benjamin glanced at the woman, who started frowning again.

"Stop overthinking. Shaun will update us once he has completed the medical checkup."

Upon noticing how calm and steady Benjamin was, Arissa mumbled, "Is he not worried at all?"

Suddenly, the man turned back and grabbed her wrist.

Arissa's eyes widened in shock. The man said, "Pull yourself together, and start behaving like an adult in front of the kids!"

Arissa could only stare at the man's broad shoulders as she did not know how she should respond to that. She kept mum and did not retaliate.

Soon, the bodyguards noticed Benjamin and Arissa from a distance. Just when the bodyguards were about to greet them, Benjamin immediately stopped them.

Arissa wanted to take a peep at Tim from the window but noticed her other children were in the ward as well.

She turned around and glared at Benjamin in disbelief. "When did the kids arrive?"

Benjamin glanced at her and answered, "Today."

Arissa's mouth twitched upon hearing that. Why didn't he tell me that the kids are here?

She got even more annoyed when she recalled the things she said to her children earlier.

He must have heard everything I said and laughed at me in secret!

She gave Benjamin a murderous look.

Benjamin cleared his throat and said, "Get in!"

Once again, Arissa was overwhelmed with anxiousness. Would the boy like me when he sees me?

Upon noticing the way she fidgeted, Benjamin sighed. "Should I go in first?"

Arissa grabbed his wrist and stopped him. "No! You can't go in before me!"

That remark rendered Benjamin speechless.

## Chapter 483 Reunion

She glanced at the man. "You've already met him before. It's my turn now. I want to be the first to go in. Otherwise, the kid will think that I dislike him!" she explained softly.

Suddenly, the ward door was opened from the inside, and Arissa was startled.

"Mommy! Mommy is really here!"

Jesse was ecstatic, and she threw herself into Arissa's arms.

Arissa hugged Jesse and said, "Why didn't you tell me you're coming?"

"Hehe, we wanted to give you a surprise! Also, we wanted to see Tim quicker, so we came earlier!"

Jesse explained in a cute voice.

"Mommy!" Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper ran out one after another.

Tim glanced at the door, turned back quickly, and lowered his head.

Shaun, Ethen, and Bradley went to the doctor's office while Tim accompanied Mary.

Mary was eating.

When she saw the sad little Tim, she patted his head.

"You can go out if you want to!"

Tim shook his head and said, "I want to be with Grandma!"

Arissa couldn't care to talk with all of the children, so she only patted their heads. However, she realized Tim hadn't come out yet, so she hurried inside.

She suddenly remembered that she had bought some clothes for Tim and quickly turned around to ask Benjamin, "Where's the present?"



Benjamin looked at her blankly and said, "The bodyguard will bring it here soon!"

Arissa nodded and went in.

As she entered, she saw Tim feeding Mary while sitting by the hospital bed.

Arissa looked at Tim's frail and tanned physique. Her heart ached, and her eyes began tearing up.

Fearing that she might scare the child, she was hesitant to approach them.

"Tim!"

Arissa called out to Tim out of anticipation. However, she lost control of her voice and quivered.

Her eyes were red as she got emotional.

She couldn't bear to look away from the child.

My child!

My sweetheart.

Arissa sniffled.

Tim lowered his head. He ignored her and avoided eye contact with her.

After a while, Arissa was at a loss when she noticed Tim ignoring her.

"Tim, why won't you answer her?" After witnessing the scene, Mary asked in a heavy tone.

Tim didn't respond. Instead, he bit the corner of his mouth.

"It's okay!" Arissa smiled and walked to the hospital bed.

"Mdm. Mary, are you feeling better?"

Mary nodded and looked at Arissa. She was beautiful and gentle and looked like a loving mother who cared for her children.

"Yes, a little!"

"Mdm. Mary. Don't worry. The treatment will help you recover!"

Arissa pulled a chair to the side of the hospital bed and sat down. "Why are you eating so late?"

"I just woke up!"

Mary smiled. Her eyes were glued on Arissa.

Although it was her first time meeting her, Mary could tell that Arissa was a kind woman.

Arissa nodded in acknowledgment and began to explain, "Something came up during the day. Otherwise, I would have come here in the morning. I heard from Benjamin that you have vomited blood."

"I'm fine now. They got me a doctor!"

As Mary spoke, she glanced at Benjamin, who just happened to walk in.

Benjamin was holding a bag with children's clothes and some health supplements.

"Mdm. Mary, take a bottle of these after you eat. It's to nourish your body!"

Benjamin had someone buy the most luxurious health supplements. They were all ready-to-drink products and could be consumed after heating up.

"You can warm it up with hot water whenever you want to have it!" Benjamin advised while he put down the items.

Arisa looked at Benjamin and instructed, "Put them aside for now. I'll give it to Mdm. Mary later!"

Benjamin nodded.

Mary was touched by their generosity. "You don't have to buy these for me. My condition will still be the same even after all the nourishments."

"Mdm. Mary, it will make a difference. You still have to stay in the hospital for a while. You need some nourishment to keep your body strong."

Arisa persuaded Mary, fearing that she would reject them. At the same time, she gestured for Benjamin to put the health supplements aside.

Chapter 484 Sweetheart

When Mary saw they didn't discriminate a poor old lady like her and were ever so passionate with her, she started to tear up.

"Tim, hand me the bowl. I'll feed her. You go and play with Gavin and the others, okay?"

Arisa walked to Tim, squatted down, and gently suggested.

"There's no need for that!"

Tim pouted and rejected her. Then, he turned around and continued to feed Mary.

Arissa felt dejected for a moment when she felt Tim's rejection and unhappiness toward her.

Mary looked at them and sighed softly before taking a bite of the food fed by Tim.

Then, she said to Arissa, "Don't worry. It takes some time!"

Arissa was startled. She looked at Mary in astonishment. Did she know already?

Mary smiled and nodded. "The young man told me about it!"

Arissa wasn't sure which young man Mary was talking about, but Benjamin knew that she was referring to Ethen.

It looks like Ethen has already told her.

"Mdm. Mary, you knew?"

Arissa was straightforward and concerned about Tim's feelings.

Mary nodded. "When I woke up, I wanted to talk to Tim about it. I didn't expect you to come over so soon. I heard they said you were sick. Are you okay now?"

Mary was concerned about Arissa's poor health.

Tim also sneaked a peek at her.

Seeing that Mary was a kindhearted person, Arissa was deeply moved.

After looking at the interaction between Mary and her child, she knew they had a good relationship.

She smiled and said, "It's just something minor. Don't listen to them. I've already recovered."

Arissa didn't want Mary to worry about her. She was still hospitalized after all.

"That's great!"

Mary nodded.

"How should I address you?"

"My name is Arissa. But you can call me Issa. The father is Benjamin."

Arissa introduced Benjamin and herself to Mary.

Benjamin glanced at her before looking at Tim.

Then, he sighed in his heart.

Gavin and the others came in and didn't want to disturb Tim and the others. So they stood aside.

Arissa had a chat with Mary before switching her focus on Tim.

She kept looking at Tim, trying to imprint every detail of his looks in her mind.

Tim felt her gaze, but he didn't show any repulsion. However, his body was all tense.

He was getting nervous. Maybe it was because he knew Arissa was his mother and was too timid to approach her, afraid that she might dislike him.

Arissa couldn't help but want to hug him.

As she reached out her hand and touched Tim's hair, she saw the repulsion in his eyes and decided not to hug him.

"Sweetheart! How are you doing?"

Arissa smiled and looked at her son.

Tim pouted and blushed. He was embarrassed to hear Arissa calling him her sweetheart.

"Tim!"

Mary raised her voice and reminded Tim, "Be polite!"

After a while, he replied softly, "I am fine!"

Arissa narrowed her eyes and gave him a loving smile.

"That's great!"

Tim shuddered and glanced back at her. Then, he turned around and continued to feed Mary.

Benjamin was delighted to see their interaction.

"I used to call Tim by another name. However, when he was a child, the children in the village called him Tim," Mary explained to them. She seemed to like Tim's name a lot.

"What a coincidence. I bought a house in Rutaceae Village. I even went there a while ago!" Arissa said.

Mary was surprised. "You've been to Rutaceae Village?"

Arissa nodded. "Yes. I took the children there a while ago. But we only stayed for a couple of days!"

Tim seemed to recall something and quickly glanced at Arissa again.

Are they the ones who played in the stream?

## Chapter 485 Did They Bully You

Arissa didn't notice how Tim looked at her as she was busy talking to Mary.

"Mary, we have all been to Rutaceae Village!" Zachary interjected their conversation in a serious tone.

Mary smiled and said, "That's quite a coincidence. Where is the house?"

Mary was surprised when Arissa told her the location of the house.

"So that's the one. I remember that it was unoccupied after the Rogers family moved out.

"However, someone would go there to clean it every now and then. The villagers only knew that the house was bought by someone who wasn't from the village, and they didn't see anyone living there!

Arissa smiled when Mary remembered the house.

"I have always been overseas and nearly forgot about the house. I only brought the children there for a visit after remembering it."

Benjamin snorted in his heart as Arissa lied blatantly.

However, he didn't expose her lies because Mary and Tim were present.

He didn't want to spoil the happy chatter that Arissa and Mary were having. So he sat by the coffee table and signaled the five children to come.

Gavin looked back at Benjamin and went over to sit with him. Then, the four younger siblings also came over to sit with him.

Suddenly, the five children began to look at each other.

Arissa was with Mary and Tim, and she took no notice of Benjamin and the children.

"Tim, I'll feed Mary. Go have a break," Arissa said gently to Tim.

However, Tim shook his head.

Mary realized Arissa was a little discouraged, but she knew they couldn't rush things. Tim was still a little sensitive after all.

She could tell that Tim knew something that they didn't.

Gavin and the others had already made their identities clear when they introduced themselves to Tim.

"You guys should have some rest. Unfortunately, I'm not able to prepare any refreshments for you. Tim, give them a glass of water."

Mary apologized to Arissa for not being able to welcome them properly due to her poor health. Hence, she instructed Tim.

Then, she grabbed the bowl from Tim and urged him, "Go on!"

Tim walked to the water dispenser and filled a glass of water for Arissa.

I think I should address her as Ms. York. "Ms. York, have some water."

Ms. York...

Arissa was a little disappointed but she happily received the glass of water from Tim and reached out to pat his head.

"Thank you!"



Gavin addressed her as Ms. York back then, so she decided to get along with Tim as Ms. York for now.

Tim went to fill another glass of water and gave it to Benjamin.

"Mr. Graham, have some water."

Tim was more familiar with Benjamin. However, compared to Arissa, Benjamin's domineering presence stopped most people from approaching him.

"Okay."

Benjamin glanced at Tim before taking the glass of water.

Before Tim could turn around to fill another glass of water, Benjamin stopped him and pointed at the five other children.

"Did they say anything to you?"

Tim stared at him, not understanding the question.

Gavin didn't like Benjamin's behavior.

"You're frightening Tim!"

Benjamin shot his glaring eyes at Gavin and said, "Be quiet."

Gavin pouted.

"It's okay!" Tim whispered to Gavin.

Benjamin raised his brows, looked back and forth between Tim and Gavin, and thought it was a wise decision to bring them here.

Tim didn't seem to distance himself from them.

Benjamin carried Tim from the ground and sat him on his lap. Then, he spoke gently, "Tell me, did they bully you?"

"We won't bully him. What if Tim doesn't come home with us?" the five children murmured.

"Hm?" Benjamin looked down at Tim, who found himself in an uncomfortable situation.