

The More the Merrier Chapter 701

Chapter 701 Darius Saved Her Some Soup

At that sight, Benjamin knitted his eyebrows tightly, leaned over to grab the takeout, and placed it on the center console. "Leave it here."

Arissa's lips twitched when she looked up to see how stern he seemed. "It's more unlikely to spill if I hold it."

In response, he glared at her before fastening her seatbelt for her. "Sit tight."

Arissa leaned back as she watched Benjamin help her with her seatbelt.

After shutting the car door for her, he went around the front of the vehicle and got into the driver's seat.

Darius, who had not left yet when Benjamin and Arissa reached the hospital, chatted with Mary after having lunch with the children.

Benjamin followed Arissa upstairs and into the ward.

Mary was excited when she saw him behind the young woman. "Benjamin, you're here!"

"In the flesh," Benjamin responded with a nod and only decided to leave after asking about her condition.

"I'm going to the office now. If you don't want to go home, you can rest there," he said to Arissa and then instructed Edwin to send her to the office later.

"Okay. Get going now," responded Arissa with a nod.

Only after taking one last glance at Arissa and the children did Benjamin leave.

"Sweethearts, I got you guys something to eat. Would you like to have them now?" Arissa asked as she beckoned the kids over.

Upon hearing that, Oliver smiled. "What did you get us, Mommy?"

"Yummies!" replied Arissa as she showed the children the takeout.

Even though the kids had just eaten, they were thrilled to see what their mother had brought them.

“Go wash your hands first!” Arissa instructed upon noticing that Jesse was reaching out to grab some food.

Jesse giggled before hurrying to clean her hands as told.

“Let’s go wash our hands!”

Gavin then gestured for Zachary, Tim, Oliver, and Jasper to follow him to the restroom to do the same.

After the kids hurried away, Edwin approached Arissa and helped her lay out the dishes on the table.

“Would you like to have some, Old Mr. Graham?” Arissa asked Darius.

“No. I ate a lot just now,” he answered with a smile. “I saved you some soup. You should drink it before it gets cold.”

“You did?” Arissa was pleasantly surprised.

“Old Mr. Graham made it just for you! Enjoy it, Mrs. Graham,” voiced Edwin before he gladly went to get Arissa the soup.

“Not too much, Edwin. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to finish it,” uttered Arissa, who then sat down to talk to Mary.

Since the elderly woman already had the soup, she decided to pass when Arissa asked if she wanted to try the food she had brought.

Before long, the children rushed back to Arissa and began munching down on the lamb chops beside her.

“Do you want some, Grandpa?” The kids had voices so sweet that they immediately melted everyone’s heart.

Darius smiled warmly at the children in response. “No, thank you. You guys enjoy it. An old man like me doesn’t have a digestive system as strong as yours, so it’d be a bad idea to overeat.”

Amused, the kids chuckled for a bit before shifting their attention to Arissa. “Mommy, is the soup good?”

“Oh, yes!” Arissa replied with a smile, glancing at Darius.

With that, she kept the children company as they ate. Just like her, they relished all kinds of food.

Unlike Tim, Gavin and Benjamin used to be picky-eaters.

However, the two started to accept more food because of Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse.

Slowly, they were no longer picky about food.

At that moment, Darius, Mary, and the butlers had doting expressions on their faces as they watched the kids enjoy the food.

“You should go home and rest, Old Mr. Graham. It’s already noon,” Arissa urged.

“Don’t worry. I can stay a little longer,” responded Darius, smiling.

After finishing her soup, Arissa was about to prepare some fruits for the others.

However, before she could do so, Darius stopped her. “Don’t worry about that. Come and sit here, Issa. There’s something I have to talk to you about.”

“What is it, Old Mr. Graham?” inquired Arissa as she sat down as requested.

“You remember agreeing to marry Benjamin last night, right?”

Darius’ words immediately attracted the kids’ attention.

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Chapter 702 He Did Not Even Propose

After steeling herself, Arissa nodded. “I do.”

“I’ve already asked around, and tomorrow seems perfect. Get ready to head to City Hall tomorrow. I’ve already made the arrangements with the personnel there. You two can go there straight away!” informed Darius cheerfully.

Arissa had no choice but to agree to it with a forced smile. Why didn’t Old Mr. Graham mention it when Benjamin was still here? Has he told him already?

“Old Mr. Graham, did you tell Benjamin?” she asked.

Darius cleared his throat before answering, “I forgot just now, but I’ll tell him tonight.”

Upon hearing that, she breathed a sigh of relief, glad to know that she did not have to be the one to bring up the matter.

“Do be mindful of the timing because the children have to pay respects to their ancestors next Friday,” Darius pointed out, to which Arissa nodded as she had decided to let Benjamin handle the matter.

Like Tim, Gavin was thrilled when he heard Darius’ words.

However, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper did not feel the same way. “Grandpa, Mommy can’t marry Mr. Graham!”

Jesse quickly nodded to agree with her brothers.

Surprised to see how Zachary and the others reacted, Darius lowered himself before the kids before inquiring, “Why is that?”

“Mr. Graham hasn’t passed our test yet, so he can’t be our daddy,” answered the children.

Amused, Darius chuckled. “It doesn’t matter because he is your father!”

“No, he isn’t. He has to pass first!” insisted Zachary in all seriousness, as stubborn as Gavin.

“I thought you agreed to be on our side.” The boy then turned to glare at Gavin.

“You have my support!” the latter responded.

At that point, Zachary was even more confident as he continued to speak with Darius. “He can only marry Mommy if he passes. And there has to be a wedding, not just a marriage registration!”

Since they were all objecting to him, Darius knew there was no other way but to go along with his grandchildren. “Okay. I’ll keep an eye on your daddy. I just want them to register their marriage first so that it would be better for us to reveal you and the others’ identities to the public. As for the wedding, we’ll prepare it for her.”

“No!” protested Zachary as he looked at Arissa. “Mr. Graham must prove himself if he wants to marry Mommy. We’re not satisfied with him yet, so they can’t get married until he has our approval!”

“You better take us seriously, Grandpa, because we mean it. We’ve already talked to Mr. Graham about this,” advised Oliver.

“He agreed with us. Nobody can force Mommy to marry anyone!” Jasper chimed in.

“You can’t talk to Grandpa like that!” Arissa chided the kids, for she knew Darius just wanted what was best for the family and that he was not forcing her to do anything. “I agreed to marry your father. Nobody forced me to do it.”

The kids were stunned when they heard her. “Mommy, you agreed to marry him?”

Faced with the children’s doubtful looks, Arissa nodded in response. “Yes, I did.”

However, the woman knew the answer was somewhat forced.

When she looked apologetically at Darius, he smiled warmly at her.

“It’s true that I agreed to marry him,” Arissa added seriously.

Immediately, Zachary questioned, “Does that mean Mr. Graham proposed to you?”

To answer the boy’s question, Arissa shook her head, which caused him to drop his jaw.

“Mr. Graham didn’t propose to you, yet you agreed to marry him? How did it happen?”

Darius felt guilty when he saw how embarrassed Arissa looked, so he decided to explain the situation to the boy. “I talked to both of them yesterday and suggested that they get married so that you can all reunite with the Graham family, and your mother agreed to do so.”

Zachary was not happy with what he had heard. “I don’t care about that, Grandpa. Do you think this is going to make them happy? Mommy’s pride would be hurt since she agreed to marry Mr. Graham when he didn’t even propose to her!”

Arissa stroked the boy’s head, signaling him to curb his anger through her gaze.

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Chapter 703 Clean Up Your Mess Yourself

“All I did was make a promise. It doesn’t necessarily mean I’m going to marry your daddy.” “Really?” the kids asked.

“Really. I’m not that stupid,” Arissa reassured them. While the kids were happy with what she said, Darius wasn’t all that pleased about it.

“Issa, were you lying to me?”

Arissa blinked nervously at him. “Old Mr. Graham, I…”

Darius pursed his lips. "You don't have to explain it. I know you were only saying it to make me feel better. Honestly, I can't believe how useless Benjamin is! It's been so long, and he still can't win you over! He may not take this seriously, but it's making me very anxious! I might end up dying without seeing him get married!"

Tears started flowing down Darius' cheeks after he said that, much to Arissa and the six kids' surprise.

Mary felt moved by his emotions and teared up as well.

"I'm sorry, Old Mr. Graham! I shouldn't have upset you by saying such things!" Arissa said apologetically.

She felt guilty for letting her emotions get the better of her.

"You are not to blame. It's Benjamin's loss for not marrying you. I just don't know how I'd answer to his mother when I see her in the afterlife," Darius replied while his tears continued to fall.

"Please don't cry, Old Mr. Graham!"

As Arissa had little to no success consoling him, she could only turn to the two butlers for help.

Edwin and William tried their best to console Darius but failed all the same.

"Don't be upset, Grandpa," Tim said as he came over and held Darius' hand.

However, that only seemed to worsen things as his face reminded Darius of Benjamin.

"Oh, Benjamin... It's all my fault! Will you please forgive me?" Darius wailed and cried even harder.

Arissa glanced at the two butlers, only to see them shake their heads helplessly in response.

"Old Mr. Graham, I'm not saying I won't marry Benjamin. I will marry him eventually if he truly likes me and treats my kids right," Arissa explained, but Darius was too upset to listen.

"Benjamin has always hated me and would often go against my wishes just to spite me, but I like these kids of yours. Not only are you two most suitable for each other, but you two are also the parents of six kids. Imagine what would happen to them if you two weren't married! Everyone is going to laugh at them forever!"

Arissa gave him a gentle pat on the shoulder. "It's not that serious. They've been separated for five years in the past, so what's another year or two?"

"That's easy for you young ones to say! I'm not getting any younger, you know? I might actually end up dying without seeing you two get married!" Darius replied with a snuffle.

As Benjamin was the one who had to make that decision, there wasn't much Arissa could do about it.

Left with no other options, she could only give Benjamin a call.

Benjamin answered the call after a few rings and asked in a commanding tone, "What is it?"

"Old Mr. Graham started crying, and I can't seem to console him," Arissa replied with pursed lips.

Benjamin fell silent, and she couldn't tell what he was thinking at the time.

Feeling a little guilty, Arissa continued, "The kids objected to us getting married when they found out about it earlier, so I comforted them by telling them I only said that to set Old Mr. Graham's heart at ease, and that I didn't mean it—"

"You created this mess, so you're going to clean it up yourself!" Benjamin cut her off coldly and hung up the phone.

Arissa froze when she heard the line go dead.

Oh, no... He's angry! I shouldn't have said that on a whim yesterday!

As that thought flashed across her mind, she turned around, only to see that Darius was still crying.

"Please stop crying, Old Mr. Graham. It's really bad for your health."

The kids tried to console him too, but to no avail.

"As long as..."

Arissa was about to say something but quickly held her tongue when she realized an issue.

Wait, this isn't something I can just decide on my own. Even if I agree to marry Benjamin, the kids will object to it. I don't have a solution that satisfies both Darius and the kids at the same time.

“Will you give me a bit more time, Old Mr. Graham? I’ll work on convincing the kids about this. I promise I’ll marry Benjamin if the kids agree to it.”

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Chapter 704 Work Hard To Win Benjamin Back

Darius stared at her after hearing that. “Issa, do you really mean that?” Arissa nodded when she saw how upset he was. “Yeah!”

Darius’ eyes lit up with excitement. “You don’t find Benjamin dissatisfactory?” Arissa shook her head. “Nope!” Darius was so happy that he quickly wiped his tears as he continued, “Do you like him, then?”

Arissa blushed a little from embarrassment. “Well, I don’t hate him.”

Darius let out a heavy sigh. “So, you don’t like him, then.”

Realizing that he was about to start crying again, Arissa quickly said, “I do! I do like him!”

Darius, the two butlers, and the six kids all stared at her in surprise.

“Mommy, you like Mr. Graham?” Jesse asked.

Arissa’s face burned bright red from embarrassment when she heard that.

“Like I said, I don’t hate him.”

Gavin narrowed his eyes and asked with a snicker, “Does Daddy like you too, Mommy?”

Arissa felt rather speechless when she saw him staring at her lips. “You should go ask your daddy that.”

Benjamin got mad at me just now. I wonder if he actually likes me...

Darius chuckled in amusement when he saw her acting like a young girl that had fallen in love.

“Come on, William. We’re going home.”

Darius didn’t want to stick around for too long as he felt a little awkward after crying in front of them.

“All right. Please slow down, Old Mr. Graham!”

William resisted the urge to laugh as he stepped forward to hold Darius steady.

“I’ll get going now, Issa,” Darius said.

Arissa nodded. “I’ll walk you to the door.”

“No need. I know my way out.”

Darius waved at her and turned toward Mary as he continued, “Take care, Mdm. Mary. We’ll drop by for a chat some other time.”

“I will. See you soon,” Mary replied with a smile.

Darius nodded and asked the six kids, “Would you kids like to stay over at my place?”

Gavin was the first to shake his head. “No.”

The other five followed in his lead and shook their heads as well.

“Make sure you kids behave yourselves here, okay? Listen to your mommy, and don’t cause Mdm. Mary any trouble,” Darius said with a sigh.

“Got it, Grandpa. We’ll behave ourselves, so you can head on home now,” Gavin reassured him.

Darius nodded and shot them a reluctant glance before leaving the ward.

Arissa followed him out the door and walked him to the elevator.

“Make sure to rest well when you get home, Old Mr. Graham.”

“I will! You should head back and rest too,” Darius replied with a sigh.

Arissa glanced at him worriedly. “Are you feeling unwell, Old Mr. Graham?”

“I’m fine. Just a little depressed, is all. You shouldn’t overwork yourself, Issa. Benjamin has an office here, so you can use it to get some rest. Edwin will take you there.”

“Don’t worry, Old Mr. Graham. I’ll work hard to win Benjamin back,” Arissa reassured him with a nod.

Both Darius and William smiled upon hearing that.

“I’m glad to hear that. Keep up the good work, Issa! I know that dense idiot isn’t good at being romantic, but I can tell he cares deeply about you. Otherwise, he would’ve objected when you promised to marry him yesterday.”

“Got it,” Arissa replied with a smile.

She then reminded William to take good care of Darius.

“Don’t worry, Mrs. Graham. I’ll be sure to take good care of Old Mr. Graham. I assure you, he isn’t feeling unwell or anything. He was simply a little depressed, that’s all. You should head back and keep Mdm. Mary company. I’m sure she’s starting to miss you already,” William said while helping Darius into the elevator.

Arissa waited until they were out of sight before heading back to the ward.

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Chapter 705 Be In Control Of The Finances

The six kids were standing around the hospital bed and chatting with Mary by the time she returned. Arissa decided to sit down and join them when she saw how happy Mary looked.

“I need to take a nap, and the kids have been keeping me company all day at the hospital. You should all go get some rest, Issa,” Mary said.

Arissa flashed her a smile. “You can go ahead and take a nap, Grandaunt. I’ll wait till you fall asleep before I leave with the kids. Would you like to use the bathroom beforehand?”

“Yes, I do,” Mary replied as she climbed out of bed.

Arissa quickly reached out to hold her steady, but Mary gently brushed her hands off and said with a chuckle, “I can walk on my own now, Arissa. If you keep holding on to me like this, I might end up forgetting how to walk.”

“All right. Watch your step, Grandaunt,” Arissa replied and stepped to the side.

The six kids then helped make the bed while she was in the bathroom.

“Do you feel cold, Grandaunt?” Arissa asked as she gently tucked Mary in afterward.

“No, it’s just right. Make sure to get some rest later, okay?” Mary replied.

The six kids nodded in unison. “Okay!”

Arissa waited until Mary had fallen asleep before bringing them to Benjamin’s office.

Although Benjamin rarely used the office, he had someone clean it on a daily basis. As such, the air inside wasn't musty at all.

"Mrs. Graham, you and the kids can take a nap in here. I'll be right outside, so just call out to me if you need anything," Edwin said after adjusting the temperature.

"There's a couch here, Edwin. How about you lay down for a bit? Or would you prefer to rest at home instead?" Arissa asked when she saw him leaving.

"I'll be heading back at three in the afternoon, so I guess I'll be taking the couch," Edwin replied with a smile.

"I'll fetch you a blanket, then," Arissa said as she brought the kids into the office.

The lounge looked rather simple with only a bed and a wardrobe.

Even so, it was really comfortable due to its spaciousness and warm atmosphere.

"All right, it's time for you kids to go pee. We'll all be taking a nap here today!"

Arissa then brought Edwin a blanket before returning to the lounge.

The kids nodded obediently and ran off to use the restroom.

"We're done, Mommy!" they called out to her when they returned a few minutes later.

"Go on, get in bed," Arissa said as she went to use the restroom as well.

"Hurry up and join us, Mommy!" the six kids shouted excitedly when she came out of the restroom.

"Hurry up, Ms. York!" Tim called out to her with a smile.

Arissa's eyes lit up when she heard that, and she quickly joined them in bed.

"Oh, you all smell so good!" she exclaimed as she hugged them tightly and gave them a kiss each.

For some reason, Arissa really loved the scent of her kids.

A smile formed on Edwin's lips when he heard them giggling from outside the lounge.

It is as I expected... The kids are at their happiest only when their mother is around. I'm glad Gavin is laughing so happily!

“All right, that’s enough fooling around for now. Go to sleep,” Arissa said as she lay down in the middle with three of them on each side.

“Mommy, do you like Daddy?” Gavin asked.

Zachary and the others all looked at her curiously upon hearing that.

“Yes, I do,” Arissa replied with a nod.

Gavin broke into a wide grin, and Tim’s eyes lit up with excitement as well.

“You mustn’t let your guard down even if you like him, Mommy! You need to make sure that he likes you too,” Zachary reminded her.

Arissa gave him a little pinch on the nose. “I know. I have you kids to help keep an eye on him, don’t I?”

Zachary simply chuckled in response.

“We don’t object to you two being together, but you have to be in control of the family’s finances! You can’t really trust rich people like him!” Oliver added.

“Look at you, talking about finances like a grown-up!” Arissa gave him a gentle smack on the forehead.

“I won’t object to you two dating as long as Daddy treats you well, Mommy,” Jasper chimed in as well.