

The More the Merrier Chapter 751

Chapter 751 He Is Probably Having IMS

After hanging up the phone, Arissa turned to speak to Benjamin, only to see him with an icy expression. That startled her for a moment. Whoa! What a sudden change in mood!

“I’ve asked Mr. Frank to go and look for the document in your office. I’m certain I delivered it to you.” Even if he wasn’t lying to me, perhaps the document had been misplaced. As such, I must get to the bottom of this matter.

“Got it,” Benjamin muttered a cursory reply, his voice cold and indifferent. Arissa eyed him for a moment. Pursing her lips, she scooted back to the children’s side.

Similarly sensing Benjamin’s mood change, the six children stole a peek at him. “What’s wrong with Mr. Graham, Mommy?” Jasper queried in a whisper.

In response, Arissa curled her lips. “He’s probably having IMS!”

At once, curiosity showed on the faces of all six children. “What’s IMS, Mommy?”

At that, Arissa guffawed. Benjamin frowned, likewise intrigued about the meaning of IMS. After laughing for a while, Arissa explained in a low voice, “It’s something like PMS. When someone has IMS, he has mood swings.”

The corners of Benjamin’s mouth twitched, and he pinched the woman’s ear. “Ouch!”

Pain shot through Arissa, upon which she jerked her head to the side and shot daggers at the man, smacking his hand away.

“What are you doing?”

“What did you just say about me?”

Benjamin’s gaze was sharp and radiated a strong sense of warning. Arissa blinked, guilt flooding her. I spoke so softly earlier, yet he heard me?

She flashed him a sheepish smile. “Nothing!”

Subsequently, she surreptitiously sneaked a look at the man’s expression. Seeing that he wasn’t mad, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Benjamin snorted and shot her a glare. Looking away, Arissa asked the children, “What would you all like to eat for dinner, Sweethearts?”

All six children fixated their eyes on her. "Are you cooking, Mommy?"

"Nope. But if you all would like to eat my cooking, I don't mind making a few dishes!"

Who knows, dinner might be ready by the time we arrive home. After all, Edwin has gone back to prepare dinner.

"Mommy, you're deliberately saying that, right? By the time we arrive home, dinner will be ready!" Zachary giggled.

Exposed by her son, Arissa was embarrassed for a moment. Benjamin stared at the back of her head fixedly. "I'd like to eat steak!"

Arissa's lips twitched. I wasn't asking him! Upon receiving no response from her, Benjamin murmured in a deep voice, "Well?"

Sensing great pressure washing over her, Arissa turned and glanced at him. "In that case, ask Edwin to grill it!"

"You know how to grill a steak, no? I'd like to eat your cooking!"

Benjamin gazed at her deeply. Arissa's heart skipped a beat before it pounded wildly.

Goodness! I really can't stand him looking at me in such a manner. It makes me waver and relent!

"Fine!"

The corners of Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper's mouths twitched. Couldn't she have declined?

Conversely, Gavin and Jesse were over the moon that they would get to eat the steaks she grilled.

Tim was also very much looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, Benjamin's thin lips curled up slightly.

Just when they arrived at the Graham residence, a phone call from Ethen came in.

Arissa hastily answered the call.

"Have you found it, Mr. Frank?"

On the other end of the phone, Ethen paused for a second before answering in a hushed voice, “Yes, but there are only a few pieces of blank paper in the document you submitted, Ms. York.”

Arissa was entirely stunned.

“Blank paper?”

“Yes. The label indicates that it’s from your office, so that should be it.”

At Ethen’s words, Arissa’s lips twitched.

Don’t tell me I didn’t print them out? But I did press the button.

Benjamin carried the children out of the car.

Standing beside the car, he bent over and looked at her. “Are you not coming out?”

Arissa cast a glance at him, mortified to the core. Ethen then uttered a call-closing statement before ending the call.

“Perhaps I forgot to print the document out, Mr. Graham. I’ll print it out for you in a while!”

She voluntarily admitted to her mistake.

Benjamin harrumphed softly.

Arissa took a peek at him. Puzzlement swamped her when she saw that he wasn’t surprised in the least.

“Did you already see my document?”

“Nope!” Benjamin glanced at her.

A while later, he added, “I only saw the folder.”

Words eluded Arissa.

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Chapter 752 He Does Not Eat Minced Garlic

Couldn’t he have cleared things up earlier? Instead, he sat there and watched as I investigated the matter! “How could you?”

Arissa's temper spiked. "I indeed didn't see your document."

Benjamin regarded her steadily, his tone emphatic. Arissa sulked. Well, it's true that my document wasn't there. "You should have clarified things. Yet, you merely watched at the side as I made a fool of myself!"

Bending, she climbed out of the car and shot him a glare before entering the house. Benjamin merely quirked an eyebrow. "Serves you right!" Gavin threw the man a taunting look.

In response, Benjamin shot his son a sidelong glance. Shouldering his schoolbag, Gavin chased after his siblings. "Let's go in!"

Zachary held Tim's hand while Oliver and Jasper held Jesse's hand. In a flash, all six children sprinted into the house. The schoolbags on their shoulders bounced about, rendering them absolutely adorable.

Benjamin's eyes were trained on their petite figures, his thin lips curving upward. Gavin had become much livelier with the company of the other kids. At the sight of their return, Edwin trotted out to greet them. "You're back, Mrs. Graham, kids!"

"Yup!" Arissa replied with a smile. Grinning, Edwin cast his gaze at Benjamin, who came in last. "Mr. Graham, one more dish and dinner will be ready!"

"Okay." Benjamin inclined his head at the man before going upstairs to change. Taking a gander at him, Arissa pivoted and went into the kitchen. When she saw that there were steaks left, she made garlic butter steak.

In the meantime, the six children sat in the living room. Tim was revising with a textbook in his hand while Gavin and Zachary taught him the parts he didn't understand.

Arissa then headed over to call them for dinner. Upon seeing that they were studying, she walked over with a smile. "What are you studying?"

"Mommy!" The children snapped their heads around to look at her. "Gavin and the others are teaching me the parts I don't understand," explained Tim, lifting his head to look at his mother with slight bashfulness.

"Ah, that's good. Ask them whatever you don't understand, Sweetheart. It's dinner time, so let's eat first. You can continue later."

Arissa stroked his head. "Yay! Dinner is ready!" Jesse cheered excitedly.

"Let's wash our hands and eat!"

Jasper scrambled up and dashed to the washroom. Chuckling, Arissa urged the other children, "Go and wash your hands before eating!"

After they had all run off to wash their hands, she went upstairs to call Benjamin upon seeing that the man had yet to come downstairs.

Benjamin was on the phone, standing on the balcony in the room. His expression was rather grim. Glimpsing that, Arissa didn't approach him. She merely stopped by the door and knocked, whispering, "Dinner is ready."

Benjamin jerked his head over and nodded in acknowledgment. Arissa continued studying him for a long moment before spinning on her heel and going downstairs.

Quite some time passed before Benjamin ended the call and went downstairs for dinner. Taking a seat with the six children, Arissa told them to drink some soup first while waiting for the man.

"Daddy is here!"

"Mr. Graham is here!"

The children swung their gazes in Benjamin's direction. Arissa turned and glanced at him as well.

He carried an innate sense of authoritativeness, so she sensed his strong aura as he drew near.

"Dinner is ready, Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin nodded. "Got it. Let's all eat!"

He proceeded to sit down to eat.

Arissa stole a peek at him. Her curiosity was piqued when she saw no sign of his fury earlier.

Nonetheless, she didn't ask him about that.

Glimpsing the steak in front of him, Benjamin narrowed his eyes imperceptibly. "Who made this?"

A sense of foreboding washed over Arissa, and her heart lurched. "What's wrong? I made it."

Didn't he say he wanted to eat steak? I just grilled the steak in a different way.

“Mr. Graham doesn’t eat minced garlic, Mrs. Graham,” Edwin hurriedly explained when he saw the tense situation.

Throwing the man whose expression was as black as thunder a look, Arissa moved the dish away. Oh well, he really doesn’t appreciate good food!

She placed some steak on the children’s plates, and they all loved it, smacking their lips as they ate.

“I want more, Mommy!”

“Me too, Ms. York!”

“There’s still much left. Here.”

Arissa added more to the children’s plates.

She tried a piece of steak herself and found that it tasted superb.

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Chapter 753 Or Are You Unwilling

Seeing that Arissa and the children were all enjoying the steak, Benjamin eyed the plate of garlic butter steak. “Give me a piece.”

Arissa cast a look at him. “I thought you don’t eat minced garlic?” At that, Benjamin swept a sharp gaze over her. “Didn’t you make it for me?”

Warmth suffused Arissa, and she took a piece of steak for him. “Don’t force yourself if you really dislike it. The kids and I can finish it.”

Benjamin looked at her. Surprisingly, he finished the piece of steak. He stilled for a second when the taste hit him, for the minced garlic didn’t taste as bad as he expected. “Not bad!” he commented.

Arissa gaped at him. Shooting her a sidelong glance, Benjamin motioned for her to give him a few more pieces. Thus, Arissa took another piece of steak for him. All six children loved it as well, so they quickly took more.

With that, the entire plate of steak was gone. Benjamin directed his gaze at the children, and they giggled. “Mommy made this, so we can also eat it!”

“I’ll make it again next time if you all like it,” Arissa turned and promised the children. She then prompted them to savor the other dishes.

The six children were all delighted. When Arissa saw them all eating with relish, her mood remained upbeat. Following suit, Benjamin had another helping of pasta as well.

As Edwin clocked it all, sheer gratification deluged him. At that precise moment, Darius came with William. Arissa swiftly greeted them and invited them to join in for dinner.

The six children were even more exuberant to see their grandfather. They all greeted Darius, putting him in seventh heaven. After dinner, Darius played with the children in the living room.

Arissa brewed coffee for him in warm hospitality. "There's no need to bustle about, Issa. I'll go and look for Benjamin for a moment," Darius remarked smilingly.

He then told her to keep the children company while he stood up and went to the study in search of Benjamin. "Benjamin!"

Benjamin lifted his head, only to see Darius walking in. "Have a seat, Dad."

Taking a seat on the chair in front of the desk, Darius stared at his son, who was busy with work. This youngest son of mine is outstanding in everything he does and is my pride, but he's worrying in some aspects.

"Did you not bring Issa over to register your marriage today?"

"It isn't time yet," Benjamin murmured placidly. Darius' eyes remained fixated on him. "Is it not time yet, or are you unwilling to do so?"

Benjamin frowned, saying nothing at all.

"Benjamin, Issa is a girl. Don't put her in an awkward position when she has given birth to six children for you. If you really don't want to marry her, don't have her stay with you. How is she going to get married in the future?"

Raising his head, Benjamin pinned his eyes on Darius. "Do you want to see her taking the six kids away?"

"How is she going to raise six kids alone? She still has to go to work. The kids must be in your custody. If she misses them, she can come and visit them," Darius asserted solemnly.

Benjamin narrowed his eyes a fraction as he continued eyeballing the old man.

"You previously promised to allow her to have custody of the kids. Why did you suddenly change your mind?"

“That was because I thought she might marry into the Graham family. Now that you’ve got no feelings for her, it’s better to draw a line between you both.”

Darius regarded his son stonily without giving the game away.

In response, Benjamin merely snorted. “Instead of worrying about this, you’d be better served worrying about those few sons of yours.”

Darius’ brows creased deeply in puzzlement. “What’s wrong with them?”

Pressing his lips into a thin line, Benjamin remained silent.

Knowing that he wasn’t getting anything out of his son, Darius heaved a sigh.

“Benjamin, how am I to resolve the problem if you won’t tell me about it?”

Benjamin’s expression went cold.

Helplessness inundated Darius. “I failed to fulfill my responsibilities as a father. I didn’t take good care of you when you were young. I caused you much suffering. Now, you’ve got children and have become a father yourself. You have your own family, so you need to consider your children in everything you do. Don’t follow in my footsteps and make them drift increasingly further away from you.”

He didn’t spell things out, but he knew that Benjamin would understand his meaning.

“Don’t obsess over the past anymore. It’ll only hurt you and those around you.”

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Chapter 754 He Must Have Fought With Daddy

“It’s time you go home!” Benjamin uttered coldly. Verily, he didn’t want to hear Darius saying all that. Darius sighed, rather worried to see how stubborn his son was.

“Issa has feelings for you, so don’t wait until you lose her to regret it! If you have feelings for her, too, do something to reciprocate her feelings. Otherwise, keep your distance from her. Don’t keep your relationship ambiguous like this.”

“I’m not you!” Benjamin interrupted icily. Darius’ expression changed. He gazed at the man for a while before getting to his feet and leaving. When he returned to the living room, he called William along to leave.

“Are you not going to stay for a while longer, Old Mr. Graham?”

Noticing that his expression was gloomy, Arissa was very much worried. "No, it's okay. I'm old, so I've got to go home and rest earlier."

Darius flashed her a forced smile. Waving at her, he then left. All six children were wholly perplexed. "Why did Grandpa leave so abruptly?" Oliver wondered.

Gavin glanced at the study. "He must have fought with Daddy."

At once, everyone swung their gazes at Gavin. Looking at her son, Arissa inquired, "Do they fight often, Sweetheart?"

Gavin blinked. "It has happened many times."

"Do you know why?"

Arissa tried to pry information out of him. Alas, Gavin shook his head, for he had no idea either. Arissa caressed his head. The moment she saw Edwin approaching with some snacks, a flash of something flittered across her eyes.

"Old Mr. Graham has left?" Edwin asked when he didn't see Darius around. Arissa nodded. "Yeah, he just left a while ago."

Subsequently, she queried, "Edwin, do you know what's wrong between Old Mr. Graham and Benjamin? Could you tell me?"

"Don't worry about this, Mrs. Graham. That's a problem between the two of them. If I were to tell you, Mr. Graham would fly into a rage when he learns about it."

Edwin didn't dare tell her about it. Arissa's brows furrowed deeply. If that's the case, the problem between them is really not trivial. "Don't worry, Mommy. Daddy and Grandpa have always gotten along like that!" Gavin asserted in consolation.

"Did Mr. Graham do something wrong, or did Grandpa?"

Zachary looked at Edwin curiously. Edwin chuckled, not quite sure how to explain it to the young boy. "Both of them did something wrong."

They've both got their faults. Seeing that he was reluctant to say anything, Arissa didn't continue pursuing the question, lest she put him in a difficult position.

She accompanied the children while they did their revisions in the living room. Tim read to her. Clocking his seriousness, she felt proud on his behalf.

"Sweetheart, this is pronounced without the alphabet 'h' in the front."

Tim hurriedly noted it down and read it aloud to her once more. "Was that right, Ms. York?"

Arisa nodded. "Yup, that was exactly it! How amazing, Sweetheart! Keep up the great work!"

Tim smiled shyly upon receiving her compliment. "I will!"

Arisa continued checking on the other children. All that was a piece of cake for Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper. Only Jesse was having trouble reading. In fact, she was even worse than Tim.

"Jesse, you've got to learn from Tim. He has only started attending school, but he has mastered it. Yet, you're still unfamiliar with it when you've studied for a few semesters!"

Sometimes, Arissa was quite worried about Jesse's studies.

"I can't master it, Mommy. I understood when the teacher taught me, but I can't remember after that."

Jesse pouted, looking all pitiful.

Arisa was tickled pink by the girl's expression. "You've got to memorize it! If you can't remember, read it a few more times."

"She's just lazy, Mommy!" Jasper chimed in.

Oliver eyed Jesse with amusement in his gaze. "She doesn't remember even if I teach her."

Amused and slightly exasperated at the same time, she said, "Sweetheart, if you don't study hard, you'll become a silly billy."

"No! I don't want to become a silly billy!"

Jesse stuck out her lower lip.

"Don't be sad. I'll teach you!" Gavin consoled.

"If you can teach her, Gavin, I'll be very much impressed!"

Arisa was at her wits' end when it came to Jesse, for the latter wasn't as intelligent as her brothers and was slow in whatever she learned.

"I can do it, Mommy!"

Gavin nodded solemnly.

"I'll also teach Jesse when I've mastered it!" Tim vowed.

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Chapter 755 Working Overtime With Benjamin

"I'm rooting for you, Tim! You can definitely do it!" Subsequently, Arissa went on to encourage all the children. "When you've gotten good grades, I'll bring you all wherever you want to have fun and eat whatever you want!"

Putting away his phone, Zachary declared, "Mommy, I've recorded everything you said, lest you go back on your word!"

The corners of Arissa's mouth twitched. "You've promised, so you've got to keep your word, Mommy!"

Oliver was exceedingly confident, for obtaining good grades was as easy as pie to him. "I'm a woman of my word!"

Arissa nodded with a smile. "Teach Tim and Jesse everything you know."

"We've been doing that all along, Mommy!" Zachary replied, grinning from ear to ear. Hearing that, Arissa nodded. "Don't worry, Mommy. I'll supervise them and teach them whatever they don't understand!" Gavin promised.

"You're all my precious children!"

Arissa leaned down and pecked them all on the cheek. That had the children giggling away. "Mrs. Graham, Mr. Graham asked that you go to the study," Edwin murmured, approaching Arissa.

Nodding, Arissa instructed him to take care of the children before going to the study. "Help me sort all that out."

Benjamin pointed at the printer.

Upon seeing that he was really busy, Arissa went over and helped to sort the documents out.

He had already printed a few sets, so she categorized everything and stapled them together.

"Also, there's this. Go through them for a bit."

Benjamin tossed a few technical documents at her.

Following that, Arissa could only sit down and focus on reviewing the documents.

They worked for more than an hour.

When the children didn't see her coming out even after they had gone upstairs and bathed on their own, they trotted over to the study.

Six petite heads poked into the room.

At the sight of both Arissa and Benjamin busy with work, they all sighed.

"Mommy is still busy," Gavin turned and said to the others.

"Are they going to be busy for a long time?"

Tim stared at him.

In response, Gavin shook his head. "I've got no idea!"

Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse heaved a sigh.

"Let's go and see whether Mr. Whitley has prepared supper! Then, we'll call Mommy to eat!"

"Let's go!"

The children charged into the kitchen. Edwin was elated to see them.

"Kids, have you all bathed?"

All six children nodded. "Yup! We've all bathed!"

"We even helped Jesse bathe!" Gavin exclaimed proudly.

Edwin stroked their heads affectionately before telling them to wait in the dining room while he hastily went about preparing supper.

Meanwhile, Benjamin had already caught sight of the children when they poked their heads into the room. He glanced at the woman, who didn't notice anything.

Indeed, it was easy for Arissa to ignore everything around her when she was focused on work.

After an indeterminate time, she sensed the man's eyes on her and lifted her head. All at once, she met his intense gaze.

"What is it?"

Benjamin's gaze swept across her exquisite features. "Go and rest. I'll finish the remaining work."

Since there wasn't much left, Arissa declined. "Only these two copies are left. I'll finish them first. Then, you'll also be able to finish work faster."

Benjamin's thin lips turned up slightly. "It's a waste of talent to have you hold the post of technical director. Why don't you switch over and be my assistant?"

Arissa was momentarily taken aback. "There are specializations in different careers, so I'd better stick to my forte. Besides, don't you already have Ethen?"

Benjamin arched a brow. "You can learn more if you work alongside me."

"No, thanks. I'd like to spare some time to spend with the kids."

Arissa didn't want to be too busy, and neither being the CEO's assistant or secretary would leave her with much time on her hands.

Benjamin was already busy enough, yet she might be even busier.

Benjamin stilled for a second. All of a sudden, he remembered Darius' advice. Indeed, he usually had little time to spend with the children.

A heartbeat later, Arissa's voice rang out again. "If you've got time, you should also spend more time with them."

Benjamin looked at her for a while. He then got to his feet and declared, "Let's go!"

Arissa was stunned for a moment. Surprise flooded her when she saw that there were still unfinished documents on the desk.

"You've still got work, no?"