

## The More the Merrier Chapter 821

### Chapter 821 Still Not Calling Her Mommy

Arissa finished cooking the pasta, and Edwin helped to serve the food on the table so that the children, Kingsley, and the others could help themselves.

“Uncle Kingsley, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Bailey, please enjoy the food,” Gavin said as he pushed a plate of food in Kingsley’s direction. Zachary pushed his plate toward Shaun too.

“Mr. Bailey, please enjoy the pasta.” “Mr. Patterson, you too,” Tim said as he passed a plate to Jonathan. The three of them were elated and accepted the children’s offer.

“Hurry up and eat. I’m going to cook some more if this is not enough!” Arissa said as she went to fetch some plates for her kids. “Mrs. Graham, the barbecued meat was really good!” Kingsley said with a wide grin.

“We don’t have any streaky bacon at home anymore. I’m going to make you some more next time,” Arissa remarked. “Thank you, Mrs. Graham. I sure hope I am welcome here every day.”

Kingsley wolfed down the scrumptious pasta, the delectable taste making him grin from ear to ear. Shaun and Jonathan found his demeanor amusing. “You’re truly the one with the most time to spare, huh.”

Shaun was always busy at the hospital, while Jonathan was busy with his cases at the law firm. Of the three of them, Kingsley was indeed the one with the most time to spare.

“Don’t worry, I’m going to take photos and show them to you guys,” Kingsley said.

Shaun and Jonathan exchanged glances with each other and shook their heads.

“Is the food not enough to stuff your mouths?”

All of them dared not utter a single word more after Benjamin spoke up.

Arissa chuckled. Then, she reminded her kids, “Be careful of the hot foods.”

“Thank you, Mommy.”

“Thank you, Ms. York!”

The six children piped up.

"Tim, are you still calling your mommy Ms. York?" Kingsley asked the little boy in a teasing manner.

Tim lowered his head awkwardly.

Arissa smiled and patted her son's head. "It's all right. Just ignore him and eat your pasta."

"Okay," Tim nodded.

Arissa was delighted to see all her children enjoying the pasta.

"You take a seat and eat too." Benjamin tugged at her.

"Do you want some?" Arissa turned around and asked.

"I'd like some soup," Benjamin said as he looked at the others enjoying their food.

Arissa went over to the kitchen to fetch him a bowl of soup full of seafood and vegetables.

"You have to finish it," she said.

Benjamin did not protest.

"Mrs. Graham, do have some too. I'm going to prepare some snacks," Edwin stated.

"Could you get us some fried chicken wings, please?"

Kingsley took it upon himself to order some food.

Edwin chuckled in amusement.

"Mr. Watts, do you want anything else?"

"Get me some beef skewers, corn on the cob, and some beer," Kingsley added with a chortle.

Edwin asked Shaun and Jonathan if they wanted anything else, and the two did not add more to Kingsley's list.

"Mrs. Graham, what about you?" Edwin asked as he looked at Arissa.

"It's all right. Just prepare what Mr. Watts asked for but in a bigger portion. I've already had some food outside," Arissa replied with a smile.

Edwin then headed inside to prepare some more food.

Benjamin enjoyed his scrumptious soup without another word.

It was a bowl of warm and comforting soup.

Arissa, Kingsley, and the others were satiated after enjoying the delicious pasta.

“My sweethearts, do you want some more?”

Arissa kept her eyes on her children’s bowls.

“I’ve had enough, Mommy,” Gavin replied.

“Me too,” Zachary said.

“Ms. York, I’m good,” Tim informed.

Oliver and Jasper shook their heads as well as they stated, “Mommy, we’ve had enough too.”

“Mommy, I want one more serving of this,” Jesse chimed in after looking at her five brothers.

“I’m going to get you some more after this,” Arissa said dotingly as she patted her daughter’s head.

“You have such a good appetite,” Kingsley quipped.

He found Jesse’s little cheeks plump and adorable.

Shaun cast a glance at the little girl, amazed by her huge appetite.

Kingsley looked at Jesse and then at Arissa. “Jesse looks just like you, Mrs. Graham!”

## The More the Merrier Chapter 822

### Chapter 822 Only Her

Arissa smiled and patted Jesse’s head gently. “You look more and more like a girl!” Everyone turned to look at Jonathan as he said that. Shaun and Kingsley’s eyes were filled with smiles.

Gavin, Tim, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper turned to look at Jonathan as well before they snuck a glance at Benjamin. His eyes darted back and forth between Arissa and Jesse, and he realized that Jesse did look a lot like a girl.

He turned to look at Jonathan and said, "He is still young. It's normal for him to look like his mother. He's going to look more like a boy when he grows up."

Jonathan smiled and nodded. Benjamin was right. It was difficult to identify a child's gender from their looks alone when they were really young.

Jesse hid behind Arissa with a mischievous glint in her eyes.

Arissa was enthralled by the amusing exchange.

Edwin came out of the kitchen. Noticing that Arissa did not intend to let Benjamin know that Jesse was, in fact, a girl, he bit his tongue as his lips curled into a slight smile.

"I'm done with the chicken wings! Here, have one each!"

Edwin handed one to every child and the last one to Arissa before he headed into the kitchen to prepare more.

"Thank you, Mr. Whitley!"

The children were delighted and munched on the chicken wings.

It was as if they were having supper outside.

"Mr. Watts, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Patterson, please enjoy the chicken wings."

"Mrs. Graham, it's all right. We will help ourselves. You have some too."

Kingsley took over the plate of chicken wings and passed one to Jonathan and Shaun. Noticing that there were two left on the plate, he was elated.

"Haha! I have two!"

Benjamin threw a glance at him. "Give it here!"

Kingsley peered at him and hurriedly took his chicken wing. "You don't eat wings!"

Benjamin glared at him, and Kingsley hurriedly passed the chicken wing back to him.

"You take it," Benjamin said as he passed it to Arissa.

Everyone burst into a fit of giggles.

“Benjamin, be careful not to overfeed your lady,” Kingsley remarked as he looked at the two.

Benjamin rolled his eyes at him.

“Are you really not going to eat?” Arissa asked with a smile on her face.

“No,” Benjamin answered. He was focused on finishing his soup.

He still had half a bowl to go, even after everyone had finished their pasta.

Benjamin continued to enjoy his bowl of soup.

Arissa was full after eating two chicken wings. The beef skewers and corn on the cob were finished by the others.

She took care of her children as they ate.

Benjamin picked up a piece of corn and placed it on her plate.

“I can’t finish it. You take it,” she uttered as she looked at him.

Benjamin did not like corn either. Hence, he gave it to Jesse instead.

The little girl was thrilled as her eyes lit up with joy. “Thank you, Mr. Graham!”

Benjamin eyed Jesse’s rosy pink lips and fair porcelain skin as she thanked him.

Jesse does look like a little girl.

Arissa had noticed that Benjamin had spared more glances at Jesse, and her lips curved.

Will Benjamin be mad if he learns that Jesse is, in fact, a girl? Everyone but him already knows about it. Well, I can’t blame him for getting furious later now, can I?

They suddenly locked gazes with each other, and Arissa hurriedly averted her gaze guiltily.

What is this woman trying to hide from me?

Benjamin had noticed Arissa’s odd demeanor. After everyone was full, he summoned Shaun to the study to discuss the next day’s surgery.

Jonathan and Kingsley followed them into the study as well.

Arissa did not know what they were going to talk about, and she did not think it was appropriate to try to barge in either. Hence, she brought the kids upstairs for their bath.

After putting the kids to bed, Arissa returned to the master bedroom's bathroom to take a bath. After she was done, Benjamin was still nowhere to be seen. Hence, she headed downstairs to take a look.

Benjamin and the others were just heading out of the study. "Are you guys done with the discussion?" Arissa asked.

"Yes," Benjamin replied.

"We're going back now, Mrs. Graham!" Shaun, Kingsley, and Jonathan stated before they left.

"Drive safely, guys."

"Let's go upstairs and rest." Benjamin spoke as he took her hand and led her upstairs.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 823

### Chapter 823 Stay Still

"You're done with things?" Arissa asked, turning to look at Benjamin. Benjamin nodded. "Yeah."

Then, he canted his head and cast a glance at her. "Grandaunt's operation is scheduled for nine o'clock tomorrow morning," he remarked.

"I see." Arissa nodded in acknowledgment before adding, "So, we're heading over after sending the kids to school?"

"Yup," Benjamin replied with a bob of his head. Indeed, we've got to go over to the hospital tomorrow.

Upon returning to the room, he gave Ethen a call, instructing him to reschedule the meetings in the morning so that he would have the morning available.

Arissa eyed him for a moment before going into the bathroom to draw a bath for him.

When she came out, he was still on the phone with Ethen. The latter was probably updating him on work.

Straightening the room for a bit, she went to bed. Even then, Benjamin was still talking on the phone on the balcony.

She heaved a sigh. Truly, he's quite busy.

Some time passed before the man finally ended the phone call.

"Quick, go and take a bath! The water is getting cold."

"Okay."

Nodding smilingly, Benjamin pivoted and headed to the bathroom.

"Do you have a lot of work tomorrow morning? If so, you don't have to go to the hospital. It'll be fine with me there," Arissa suggested, discussing that matter with him.

Benjamin glanced over his shoulder at her. "It's just some routine meetings. I've told Ethen to reschedule them."

Seeing that he wanted to go with her, Arissa nodded. "I don't mind as long as you can handle things."

At that, Benjamin quirked an eyebrow. "Sleep first. I'll take a bath."

Only after the man had gone into the bathroom did Arissa go through the emails on the phone.

When Benjamin exited the bathroom and saw that she was still awake, his lips curved into a devilish smile.

"You're waiting for me?"

Embarrassment flooded Arissa. "Nope. I'm going through my emails."

Benjamin strolled over to her.

As Arissa glimpsed his muscular figure out of the corner of her eye, her heartbeat accelerated.

He's simply a walking pheromone dispenser, astoundingly handsome when clothed and seductively sexy in the buff!

Surreptitiously gulping, she forced herself to concentrate on her emails.

Plopping down beside her, Benjamin wrapped an arm around her. Then, he leaned down and kissed her on the forehead.

"It's time for bed. Why are you still going through your emails?"

He dipped his eyes and swept a gaze over her.

Arissa lifted her eyes and glanced at him. "Aren't you busy with work as well?"

Benjamin pinned a scorching gaze on her, involuntarily taking a few deep breaths as he inhaled the alluring fragrant wafting off her.

"Have you applied the salve?"

When his hand rested on her stomach, Arissa trembled slightly.

A blush stained her face.

"Yeah."

Staring at her fixedly, Benjamin questioned sternly, "Really?"

Arissa was rendered speechless.

Sliding down in bed, she placed her phone on the bedside table and pulled the blanket over her head to sleep.

Benjamin arched an eyebrow and regarded the woman wrapped in the blanket with a smirk. "Don't you find it stuffy in there?"

He tugged at the blanket.

However, Arissa had it wrapped around her tightly.

"Come out," Benjamin coaxed gently, tugging at the blanket again.

Poking her head out, Arissa swiftly stole a peek at the man. "It's time to sleep!"

Benjamin's thin lips turned up, and he drawled, "What am I going to use when you've hogged the entire blanket?"

"It's not cold anyway," Arissa muttered.

"Hmm?" Benjamin gazed at her intently.

Wiggling, Arissa relinquished her hold on the blanket.

Following that, Benjamin lay down. Pulling the blanket over his body, he moved over to her and pulled her into his arms.

Arissa went as stiff as a board, not daring to move a single muscle.



Benjamin pecked her on the cheek. When he noticed that she didn't dare move at all, a smile played on his lips.

"Good night!"

The tips of Arissa's ears went red. She waited for a while and only relaxed upon seeing that he wasn't doing anything further.

She squirmed to ease her stiff muscles.

Thinking that the man was asleep, she moved a second time.

Benjamin tightened his arms around her and brought his lips to her ear. "Stay still!"

Arissa stilled. She sneaked a look at him, only to meet his dark gaze. At once, she averted her eyes.

"I can't sleep when you're hugging me like this!"

In response, Benjamin chuckled lowly.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 824

### Chapter 824 You Want To Win Me Over

"I can't sleep if I don't hug you." Benjamin plastered his face against hers, his breath hitting her in the face as he spoke, sending a tingling sensation racing through her.

Arissa's heartbeat started picking up speed. "So, I'm merely your bolster, huh?"

"That's not all you are to me." Benjamin's voice was incredibly tender. Arissa turned to look at the man, but her lips just so happened to brush against his.

An electric current spread from their plastered lips to their entire bodies, sparking a fire within them. Benjamin's gaze darkened. Cradling the back of her head, he deepened the kiss.

Arissa felt as though he was taking possession of her soul. Her mind went blank, and her heart raced. After kissing her for a while, Benjamin recalled that she still had an injury. He brought things to a screeching halt instead of going further.

He rested his forehead against hers. Both their breathings were chaotic, blending together in an amorous and intimate ambiance. Benjamin was trying his best to calm his rapid breathing and leash the desire surging within him.

Arissa, on the other hand, lowered her eyes as she panted. Despite having been intimate with him, she still lacked self-control every time he kissed her.

Her face would flush bright red, and her heart would flutter with the stirrings of love just like a young maiden. "You're also my Mrs. Graham!"

Benjamin's voice rang out, tinged with a hint of hoarseness, strumming her eardrums. A tingling sensation coursed through her. Unbidden, the corners of Arissa's mouth lifted. "How is that so?"

"Who else could you belong to if not me?"

Benjamin frowned deeply. His voice went up a few decibels, forceful and domineering.

Arissa's crystalline eyes flickered, hypnotizingly mesmerizing. "We're not married, so isn't the title of 'Mrs. Graham' unrecognized by law?"

Leaning down, Benjamin pinned her on the bed. His arms were propped on both sides of her, his eyes locked on her.

Arissa's heart pounded all the more wildly.

Meeting the man's dark and searing gaze, she instinctively swallowed. She felt as though he was going to set her afire.

"You'd like to marry me?"

Benjamin stared at her petite face with a smirk, looking roguish beyond belief.

Arissa looked away. But she then felt that she was at a disadvantage, so she met his gaze once more.

She boldly pinched the man's handsome face.

"Are you going to marry me if I say yes?"

Benjamin's eyes remained fixated on her, the curve of his lips deepening.

"Yes!"

Words eluded Arissa.

Is he for real?

She gaped at him in disbelief.

At that, Benjamin pinched her cheek with his long and slender fingers. "Is it that surprising?"

Arissa nodded in a daze.

Benjamin chuckled. "We'll go and register our marriage tomorrow!"

Again, Arissa was so shocked that her jaw dropped.

Nudging her chin up, Benjamin rolled off her and lay down at the side before pulling her into his arms.

He rested his chin on the top of her head. "Well?"

Snapping back to her senses, Arissa muttered, "I thought I'd need to expend much effort to win you over."

It really lacked a sense of accomplishment when he agreed so readily.

As soon as Benjamin heard that, the corners of his mouth arched in elation. He lowered his eyes and took in her stupefied expression.

His voice was tinged with delight. "You want to win me over?"

Arissa blinked. "Yup! I boasted of it with Old Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin quirked an eyebrow. But at the thought of her distancing herself from him in the past few days, his brows creased deeply.

Snorting, he huffed, "Why didn't I at all feel that you were pursuing me?"

Arissa looked up at him. "I thought there was someone you liked, so I didn't want to be the bad guy and break up true love."

Benjamin went silent for a moment before asserting, "You can continue pursuing me after we get married!"

Not quite believing her ears, Arissa jerked her head up to look at him.

Alas, she hit his chin. Such excruciating pain shot through Benjamin that his face contorted in agony.

"Can you please be more careful, woman?"

He kneaded his chin.

“It was an accident!”

Apologizing, Arissa hurriedly checked him out. “Does it hurt badly? Let me apply some ointment on it.”

She got up to retrieve the ointment, but Benjamin yanked her back and enfolded her in his arms.

“Don’t wander around in the middle of the night. It’s not that severe, for the pain will pass in a while.”

In truth, he didn’t want her to leave his embrace.

## The More the Merrier Chapter 825

### Chapter 825 Naturally An Auspicious Day

“It’s better to apply some ointment, lest you end up disfigured.” Prying his hand away, Arissa got up and searched for the ointment. Benjamin’s mouth twitched.

He lay on the bed and watched as she rummaged for a while before revealing, “The ointment is downstairs.” Ugh! You should’ve said that earlier!

Shooting him a glare, Arissa whirled around and left the room. She went downstairs to look for the medical box and took the ointment upstairs.

Then, she sat on the edge of the bed and poured the ointment into her hand before massaging his chin. Benjamin studied her focused expression intently, the corners of his mouth lifting a fraction.

“Are you hoping that I’ll stay wide awake that you’re applying so much ointment on me?”

The ointment was potent, so the smell of it seeped right into his lungs. Arissa threw him a look. “I’m not applying that much, and it’ll all be gone in a while.”

After screwing the cap back, she placed the ointment on the bedside table. Subsequently, she washed her hands before returning.

“Get in.” Benjamin jerked his chin up and motioned for her to climb into bed.

Arissa eyed him for a moment before she complied.

No sooner had she lay down than the man pulled her into his broad arms.

Benjamin rested his chin against her shoulder. Arissa scented the strong ointment smell as well and was much more awake.

“Stay still. Are you trying to put me out of commission?” Benjamin teased.

The corners of Arissa’s mouth twitched. “Serves you right for speaking so domineeringly!”

Benjamin arched an eyebrow. “Is it domineering to say that you can continue pursuing me after we get married? Didn’t you say it yourself that you wanted to win me over earlier?”

At his remark, Arissa giggled. “Yeah, but why should I still pursue you when we’ve gotten married?”

She turned, coming face to face with him. Her eyes shimmered, radiating a crystalline glow.

They sparkled like stars, so stunningly beautiful that he couldn’t take his eyes off them.

Benjamin stared right into the depths of her eyes. “Why not? They’re non-conflicting issues.”

It wasn’t that no women professed their love for him. In fact, there was no lack of women desiring to get into his bed.

However, he didn’t like them all. Truth be told, they even repulsed him.

Arissa, on the contrary, had his heart racing when she admitted that she wanted to win him over. He turned into a wide-eyed boy as sheer anticipation rushed through him.

In response, Arissa rolled her eyes. “Why aren’t you the one to pursue me?”

I’ve never experienced the feeling of being pampered and wooed, especially by someone I like. I’d also like to have a taste of romance while dating, okay?

Benjamin’s eyes flickered, and his thin lips curved into a devilish smile.

In an impish tone, he teased, “So, you want me to pursue you, huh?”

He pinched her cheek indulgently.

Slapping his hand away, Arissa admitted shyly, “Anyone would want that. I’m also a woman, okay? Why should I marry you when you didn’t even pursue me? What if you were to say that I offered myself to you on a silver platter when we have a row in the future?”

Benjamin raised an eyebrow. We aren't even married yet, but she's already worried about the times when we have a row in the future.

"How would there be an opportunity to have a row if you don't marry me?"

Arissa's lips pressed into a thin line. "I was referring to me offering myself to you!"

At that, Benjamin snorted. "Did you?"

Casting a glance at him, Arissa retorted in a whisper, "I did give birth to a few children for you!"

Benjamin chortled. "Those are my children. How does that count?"

Arissa was promptly left without a retort. Well, they're indeed his children.

Again, Benjamin pinched her cheek. "If you want me to pursue you, go with me to register our marriage tomorrow!"

Her heart hammering all the faster, Arissa gazed at the serious and domineering man.

"Are you proposing to me?" she inquired softly.

Narrowing his eyes a fraction, Benjamin pinned them on her.

"I'm not proposing, but informing!"

Arissa's lips twitched several times.

Gah! He just won't allow me to bask in the romantic ambiance. No one acts so bullishly as him! What's the big deal about proposing? Is it going to humiliate him or something?

When Benjamin glimpsed her cheeks that were puffed up indignantly, a flash of amusement flittered across his eyes.

"Let's sleep. We've got to wake up early tomorrow!"

He encircled her in his embrace with his arms locked around her.

Arissa remained a touch morose. "What day is tomorrow?"

Can I decline?

"An auspicious day!" Benjamin answered.

Arissa pondered for some time, but she couldn't figure out how it was auspicious.  
"You've checked the calendar?"

"The day we get married is naturally an auspicious day!" Benjamin declared imperiously.

At once, Arissa was struck dumb.