

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 815

I replied impassively, "Don't worry, you're not the only one who cared about the project. I care about it, too."

She scoffed. "I don't think so. Scarlett, I've really underestimated you. I initially thought that you've gotten Ashton to fall for you by sheer luck. But I guess I was wrong. Even though you look average, you seem to be good at seducing men. It's no wonder Ms. Larson loses to you."

I dried my hands and glanced at her. "Ms. Zimmer, I like how you're always dedicated, professional, and cool-headed when you're at work. But I would like you to be rational thinking in your interpersonal relationships as well. I'm indeed not as good as you, but that doesn't mean that I'm a good-for-nothing. Perhaps it was sheer luck that Ashton had married me. However, do you think that one can rely on pure luck to get through all the challenges in a ten-year marriage? Don't be so narrow-minded, Rachel. You don't get to judge if one is worthy of something."

Then, I continued, "Besides, as a well-educated person, I hope you can utilize your thinking skills when you are trying to make sense of a situation. Yes, Marcus and I know each other. Him liking me doesn't necessarily mean that I must have seduced him or tricked him to get on his good side. Have you ever thought about the reason why two of these outstanding men fall for me? And why do other people admire your capability at work, yet they are not interested in getting to know you more? Life is not all about work, Rachel. When a man loves a woman, he is not just attracted to her appearance and her ability. It was the warmth that they give one another that keeps them together."

I said that not because I hated Rachel. On the contrary, I had always thought that she was admirable and deserved to be loved. I did not hate her, at least for now.

By the time I came out from the restroom, I saw Ashton, Joe, and Rebecca in the lobby.

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Ashton was sitting on the couch, smoking. The billowing clouds of smoke shrouded his face.

Meanwhile, Rebecca put on her innocent facade and tugged at Joe's sleeve. "Joe, Ms. Stovall and Mr. White seem to be quite close to each other. He treated her like she is someone special to him."

Joe took a glance at Ashton and rebuked her, "Stop talking nonsense!"

Oblivious to the change in Ashton's demeanor, she continued to say, "No, I'm not. I saw Mr. White kept looking at Ms. Stovall, and she was also sneaking glances at him. I'm just saying that they look quite close."

Me, sneaking glances at Marcus?

Hah! That's got to be the biggest joke of the century.

I almost burst out laughing at her words. Then, I walked over to them and said sarcastically, "Ms. Larson was quite observant during the dinner, huh? Did you notice how many shrimps Joe peeled for you?"

When Ashton glanced up at me, I took away the cigarette in his hand, stubbed it out, and threw it in the trashcan. "You should quit smoking."

He curled his lips and placed his arm around my waist. "Okay. Whatever you say."

Shocked at my presence, Rebecca froze for a moment before turning to Joe and pouted. "Joe, I didn't mean what I said. I was just..."

Joe immediately comforted her, "It's fine. I know you didn't mean it. Don't worry about it."

I tried my best to hold my laughter. I think I know why Rachel hates it whenever I acted that way. Because it looks downright disgusting.

It was getting late, so Ashton and I went for a quick stroll outside the hotel and returned to the hotel after that.

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It had been a busy day. I was tired and sleepy by the time we got back to our room. After taking a bath, I fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

Before I drifted off to sleep, I vaguely remembered that Ashton saying something to me. But I was too tired to listen to him, so I simply nodded and slumbered the night away.

The following day, I looked at the calendar and realized that it was almost Independence Day. However, I knew that it was impossible to finish the tasks at hand before that.

But if I planned my work well, maybe I could finish some of them within these few days.

Looking around the suite, I realized that Ashton was no longer around, and he left me a note with a short line written on it: I'm going downtown. Some matters came up. Remember to have your meal on time.

I guess he has urgent matters to deal with.

After I got out of bed and freshened up, I headed to the base. The construction of the work was slightly delayed after the involvement of the third party as the third party focused mainly on the quality of work instead of the progress. Therefore, all of us who were involved had to work as best as possible to provide the details to Marcus.

And that also meant that our workload was increased.

When Marcus arrived at work today, he took a quick look around the site with his hard hat on. After that, he came to the office to see me.

Skipping the pleasantries, he got straight to the point. "You're the project manager of this project?"

Seeing the serious look on his face, I nodded promptly. "Yes."

His brows furrowed slightly. After a pause, he said, "We may need to talk over some of the details."

"What's wrong?"

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"It's not a big problem, but if it's not dealt with soon, we'll face technical problems in the later phase. Besides, something is off with the structure of the base. What do you guys have in the underground? Is it a garage or a warehouse?" Marcus asked.

I was a little bewildered by his question. "There's nothing underneath. Why?"

He frowned. "Normally, there will have something built underneath with this kind of structure."

He seemed to have realized something as he kept quiet and pondered for a moment. However, he did not ask further as he looked at me and asked, "Do you want to grab lunch together?"

I shook my head. "No, thanks. I..."

He arched his eyebrow and cut me off, "So, you plan to avoid me forever? We are business partners after all. It's totally fine to have a meal with business partners, right?"

With his personality, I knew that if I continued to find excuses, he would also continue trying to talk me out of it. Therefore, I complied. "Okay. I know we can grab something to eat behind here. It's nothing much, but it can fill our stomachs. I still have a lot to do in the afternoon, so I don't want to waste time going to restaurants that are far away from here."

He nodded with a smile. "Sure."

The on-site canteen was one of the temporary facilities built for the convenience of the employees here. It was not big, but it was sufficient for us. The hotel was too far away from the base as it took about an hour for a round trip. It would be better to let everyone rest during the break time instead of traveling on the road.

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Thus, Armond decided to build this facility and hired a chef to prepare meals for all of us. It was quite convenient.

The canteen was almost full when we reached there. I found us a place to sit and saw Marcus bringing me a glass of juice. "It's freshly squeezed."

I nodded and thanked him.

After we got our meals, we ate quietly and did not chat much.

We still had some time left after finishing our lunch, and I initially thought about resting in my office until the break time ended. However, he suggested, "You should be familiar with this place by now. Why don't you take me around the site as a walk after our meals?"

I pursed my lips. "Why don't you go ahead by yourself? We only have fruit plantations nearby." With that, I turned around and headed to my office.

But he grabbed my arm and stopped me. I frowned and raised my voice. "Let go of me!"

He paid no heed and said, "I know you don't want to see me or spend time with me. However, as your business partner, Ms. Stovall, can I request you to take me for a tour here as a survey?"

"You're just using work as an excuse!" I flung his arm away in irritation. "Let's go."

What we had nearby the base was just pear trees. Most of the pears had ripened, and the fruit farmers were harvesting them to sell them in the market.

After walking for a while, Marcus said, "You don't have to treat me like this, Scarlett. I never have the intention of destroying your life. Is it possible for us to be friends again?"

I stopped and turned to look at him. "Do you think that we can get along now?"

He gazed at me with a sincere look. "I know that you don't want me to bother you because you're worried that I might affect your relationship with Ashton. And I also understood that you don't love me. You don't need to repeat yourself; I get it."

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I pressed my lips together and did not say anything because what he said was right.

Then, he continued, "Actually, I really want you to be happy. I initially thought that with Ashton's cold attitude, it was impossible for him to make you happy. That was why I wanted to be one who gives you happiness instead. But from what I can see now, he is not as bad as I thought he would be. If so, why can't I give both of you, my blessings? So, I've thought it through and decided to stay by your side as a friend. As long as you're happy with your life, I won't pester you anymore."

Taken aback by his words, I looked at him and faltered. "You..."

He gave me a sad smile. "So, can you promise me not to keep your distance? Scarlett, I've lost so many of my loved ones. I don't want to lose you too. No matter how terrible I am, my care for you is sincere. Since I can't be your life partner to protect you, can you at least treat me like a brother? Please don't treat me like a stranger and ignore my existence."

My heart ached as I listened to his confession. Looking at him, I nodded and replied, "I'm sorry, Marcus. I owe you my life. Whatever you want me to do, I can do it for you. The only thing I can't do is to be with you. Even after all the things we had gone through, he still loves me and protects me. It's such a blessing to have Ashton as my husband. Thank you for loving me, Marcus. But I'm not worthy of your love. There are people who need you more than me. Camelia should have given birth, and she is a good girl. Since you've married her, you need to be responsible to her and the baby."

He nodded and smiled bitterly, seemingly ready to let go of the past. "I know. Since I can't give happiness to the one whom I love the most, it's better to give it to the ones who need it. This is for the best."

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