

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 521 - 525

The girl was stunned after I got changed. "No wonder Ms. Moore said your beauty is out of the world. You look so beautiful just by putting on the dress," she said with astonishment.

I cast a faint smile upon hearing her compliment. "Thank you!"

Although she was exaggerating, her compliment made me feel good.

Right when we were about to leave the villa, we ran into Ashton who just came home. He was wearing a black, tailor-made suit as usual. He was tall and well-built, exuding a powerful aura wherever he was.

"Why are you home?" He should be busy with his work at this time, especially now that it was near the end of the year. The outbreak of the scandal had affected the stock prices. Although the situation was under control now, there was still a lot to deal with.

He walked toward me and sized me up. His lips curled upward into a bright smile. "You look beautiful."

He's not answering my question. I pursed my lips and habitually put my arm around his. "I'm attending Emery and Hunter's wedding. She wants me to be her bridesmaid."

Indirectly, I was explaining why I was dressed like that.

He nodded. "Let's go together then." He turned to the girl and the two men, who were staring at him with shock. "I'll go there with my wife. Since you came in your car, kindly see yourself out then."

The three of them nodded. The short-haired girl couldn't help but stare at Ashton until one of the two men elbowed her. She then got into the car and lowered her voice as she spoke to the two men, "I thought it's just baseless rumor. I never thought Ms. Stovall really is Mr. Fuller's wife."

After sending them off, I turned to Ashton. "Are you sure you don't have to go back to the company?" Today's a weekday and now it's only afternoon. Why does he...

"I'm not that busy. I can still make time for my wife to attend a wedding." He had a tender smile on his face as he pulled my shawl up a little. I instantly felt warmer.

After we got into the car, he put his coat around me. "The weather's cold. Don't catch a cold."

I nodded with a smile. "Today's a good day indeed."

He chuckled, then he started the car.

Emery was a free-spirited, open-minded and bold woman. Therefore, she chose to hold her wedding at a five-star hotel at the outskirts of the city.

There were only winter roses and a limited number of chrysanthemums available in K City since it was December.

The Moore family wanted to give Emery a perfect wedding. Therefore, they shipped all kinds of flowers from different cities to the hotel.

The hotel entrance was decorated with the flowers of all four seasons. The view of the venue for the outdoor wedding was breathtaking as if it was a palace surrounded by blooming flowers.

I was captivated by the beautiful view before I got out of the car. I leaned my head on the window and couldn't move my gaze away.

Perhaps I was in a good mood, I unwittingly tugged at Ashton's sleeves. "It's my first time seeing so many different kinds of flowers. I've never seen them before!"

R Province had the most suitable weather to plant flowers. Besides, many kinds of flowers could be found in R Province.

However, the hotel was filled with almost all kinds of flowers on earth. It was eye-opening indeed.

Suddenly, I felt a tinge of warmth on my forehead. I turned to Ashton and met his tender gaze as he placed his palm on my forehead.

It was cold outside, so we kept the car windows closed. My forehead bumped into the glass as I was too excited to admire the scenery through the window.

He was worried that I might get hurt.

Smiling, he pulled me into his embrace. "You can see it from here."

He had the car parked at the hotel's nicely decorated parking lot, then he opened the door for me.

The ground was laid with a red carpet. Ashton insisted on keeping the coat on me to keep me warm.

As we walked along the red carpet, a well-dressed hotel staff led us into the hotel.

We were to have our lunch in the hotel first. The wedding ceremony would be held only in the evening.

"I'm looking forward to the wedding ceremony," I whispered in Ashton's ear as we walked.

I kept my eyes on the red roses that were placed on both sides of the red carpet. They were evenly speckled with gold glitters which made them sparkle under the sunlight, creating an ambience of passionate love.

We hadn't even set foot in the hotel yet. Thinking of that, I leaned toward Ashton and said, "The decorations of the red carpet at the wedding must be even more glamorous."

I suddenly remembered that I was the bridesmaid. Looking into Ashton's dark eyes, I couldn't help but grin wider. "I'll follow right behind the broom and the bride, so I get to enjoy a different view from what you see."

A bright smile flashed across his handsome face. "There's a fruit plantation behind the hotel. We can take a stroll there after lunch," he said softly.

I was surprised. "How do you know?"

However, I didn't think there were any fruits in winter.

Ashton read my mind. "Those plants are shipped from Sumanthova. We can have some fruits," he explained.

My eyes widened as I gasped, "How do you know?"

He only replied with a smile, then he took me into the hotel.

There was a huge flower cluster at the hotel's entrance. It was extraordinarily magnificent. I almost dropped my jaw upon seeing that. However, I didn't want to behave like a country bumpkin in front of the crowd, so I pretended to be collected.

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Ashton chuckled as he saw the changes in my expression. "This kind of flower cluster is used by Ustrana's aristocratic families. It's not that valuable, but what makes it precious is that it's decorated with peacock feathers which symbolize happiness and peace."

"I don't think it's Emery's idea, though," I said.

"The Moore family got this for her."

As soon as we entered the hotel, Emery welcomed us with open arms. She was wearing a white, off-shoulder wedding dress. Her dress was long and the hem was dragged on the floor like long, white waves.

"Wow, Babe. You look stunning! I was right to make you my bridesmaid." Emery grabbed my arm and pulled me away from Ashton.

I smiled at her. Looking at the hem of her dress, I was confused. "Why aren't you wearing a phoenix coronet? I saw the decorations of the venue. I thought the wedding is held in Chinese style."

Emery shrugged. "Yes, it is. Hunter's parents admire Chinese culture very much, so they prefer to follow Chinese wedding traditions. What do you think about my wedding dress?"

"You look very beautiful!" I wasn't lying. She was absolutely gorgeous in that dress.

Emery lamented, "Actually, I prefer to have a Western wedding, but Hunter's parents insisted on doing it their way. Therefore, they have the venue decorated in Chinese style. Before the ceremony, I have to get changed into a red gown adorned with embroidered flowers. I have to put on the phoenix coronet too."

She paused for a few seconds before she continued. "Later, you have to get changed too. I can only wear my favorite wedding dress for an afternoon." Emery let out a deep sigh as she looked at her dress.

Hunter came over with a cheerful smile on his face. He looked elegant and gentle in the white suit that fitted his tall and slender figure.

"You must be hungry. You should eat something first. After the guests arrive, you won't have time to eat."

"Right! We have to serve the guests in a while. Let's have some good food." Emery pulled my arm as she said.

Before we walked away, Emery turned to Ashton who was standing next to me. "Mr. Fuller, your wife belongs to me today. Mr. Quinn and Mr. Crest are in the lounge. There are some other facilities in the hotel too. Please help yourself!"

Ashton stared at me with his eyebrows slightly furrowed. Right now, the elegant, suave man whom I know was like a displeased child who just had his toy taken away.

I couldn't help but chuckle. "Wait a moment, Emery."

I walked toward Ashton and looked at him. "You take a walk first. I'll come to you after I'm done."

After saying that, I tiptoed and planted a light kiss on his cheek. He held my arm before I could walk away.

"Just like that?" Ashton wasn't satisfied.

Looking at his flickering eyes, I took the hint immediately. I tiptoed to give him a kiss on his lips. "Are you satisfied now?" I asked with a smile.

He nodded and finally smiled. "We'll continue tonight."

“Oh my! Just cut the crap. Save it for your raunchy night later!” Emery said with slight frustration.

My face flushed upon hearing that.

Emery was open-minded indeed.

After bidding goodbye with Ashton, I went to the bridal suite with Emery.

The food was ready.

We chatted while eating the food. “Have you and Ashton ever thought about holding a grand wedding in front of everyone?” asked Emery.

I didn’t see that coming. After thinking for a few seconds, I shook my head. “If we hold a ceremony publicly, Summer’s identity will be disclosed. So I think we’ll just skip that. We’re fine anyway.”

Emery frowned. “But people have been gossiping about you. If you don’t make it clear, the situation will be worsened.”

“I’m living my own life. I can just ignore them.”

She pouted, “You’re so generous.”

Someone knocked on the door. “Ms. Moore, here’s your gown.”

Six neatly dressed attendants came in and stood in a row while holding a vintage sandalwood box in their hands.

I was stunned by the view. “Wow, you’re going through all these wedding traditions just as how an aristocratic lady did in the ancient times.”

Emery chuckled. “Should I be dramatic and run away in my red robe? The female leads in the Chinese folk tales always did that, didn’t they?”

Everyone in the room burst into laughter upon hearing her words. Emery took a look at the accessories and the apparel.

They even had the shoes prepared. I was amazed as I stared at the exquisite hairpin in the box. "This hairpin is so delicate. The designer studded it with saga seeds."

Emery nodded. "It's made by Hunter. He told me saga seeds symbolize eternal love and happiness in the Chinese culture."

It's such a meaningful wedding.

After lunch, Emery took me to the hotel lobby to welcome the guests.

The guests invited by the Moore family were mostly from prominent families in K City.

Although the wedding was made public, only one or two well-known media companies were invited.

They were all experienced reporters who knew what to, and what not to publish.

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The media industry adhered to a set of rules. Only those who followed etiquette and played by the rules were able to gain a foothold in the high society.

Cameron and Zachary were making arrangements at the lounge.

Actually, there was nothing much for me to do, so I just helped Emery to get some things.

However, Emery was worried about me, so she asked the attendant to get the things she needed instead.

Therefore, I could only follow Emery around while wearing a smile on my face.

"Mr. Murphy will arrive soon. He's the leading figure of the firearm and ammunition industry in K City. I guess Louis will be coming with him." Emery put an almond into her mouth as she spoke.

Noticing her unusually good appetite, I intuitively gazed at her belly. Why does she keep eating all the time?

Sensing my gaze, she shrugged. "It's two months but I don't get any symptoms though. I just feel like eating."

I was shocked. "Are you really pregnant?"

Emery nodded. "Yes. I'm already thirty-one. It's the most ideal age for pregnancy. Of course, I won't miss that."

She paused mid-sentence, then looked at me before she continued, "You're already thirty as well. Don't you and Ashton plan to have a baby of your own?"

"It's still too early for us." I gave a perfunctory answer. Right then, a group of people were walking toward the lobby.

I changed the topic. "I think the Murphys are here."

Emery turned around and saw a group of people escorting an old man with a head of white hair.

The latter looked like he was in his nineties.

"Mr. Murphy!" Emery greeted Robert with a smile as soon as the latter entered the lobby.

Robert smiled at her. Despite his age, his gleaming eyes radiated a majestic aura. "I can't believe how time flies, Emery. You've grown up in just a blink of an eye and now you're getting married."

"Mr. Murphy, don't get emotional. You'll live a long life with a healthy body."

Robert was pleased by Emery's words. He held her hand and headed to the lounge.

Emery pulled me close. "Mr. Murphy, this is Scarlett Stovall, my brother's daughter."

Robert froze and scrutinized me for a few seconds. "Are you saying she is the one whom your brother was searching for?"

Emery nodded. "Yes, we finally found her after all these years."

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Murphy,” I greeted.

Robert held my hand with a puzzled face. “Four years ago, I was told that the girl’s surname is Larson. Why is it changed to Stovall? Why don’t you go by the surname of the Moore family?”

I knew he was referring to Rebecca. I only replied with a smile.

Emery explained, “No, Mr. Murphy. There isn’t anything about the Larsons. You’ve been staying overseas, so you haven’t met her in person. You must take a closer look this time. The woman standing in front of you is the daughter of the Moore family.”

Robert nodded and smiled. “Alright. I’ve always remembered all the pretty daughters of the Moore family.”

The guests who just arrived at the lobby escorted Robert to the lounge.

Emery dragged me along and said, “Let’s go get changed now.”

We had to redo the makeup to match the gowns and accessories.

The bridesmaid outfit that Emery prepared for me was a hanfu—the type that we only see in Chinese historical drama. I was rather surprised when I saw the outfit. “Isn’t it too luxurious?”

Emery shook her head. “Not at all. It has to be like that. I purposely customize this outfit for you.”

I didn’t understand her words, so I just smiled in response.

After we got changed, it was already six in the evening. It was time for the traditional ritual.

By the time we arrived at the venue, all the guests had been seated.

Hunter looked amazing in his wedding outfit. He looked dashing in both Chinese and Western-style costumes.

Emery handed me a sandalwood box. “Later, you stand behind me and hand this to me upon receiving my signal.” I took a look at the box. Inside, it was a pair of jade bracelets inlaid with

gold. One of them was carved into a phoenix, while the other had a dragon engraving. The jade was crystal-clear, while the gold inlays looked extremely exquisite.

I nodded, then I turned to Zachary who was dressed in a black suit. He was in his fifties, yet there wasn't a trace of a gray in his hair. There was nothing that could cover up his outstanding demeanor.

"Later, my brother's walking me down the aisle. In the future, he'll walk you down the aisle and hand you over to Ashton. Your life will be perfect then," Emery whispered in my ear.

I held a different opinion on the definition of a perfect life. The day when I was married to Ashton, I walked to him alone since my grandmother had already died.

Zachary overheard Emery's words. His gaze seemed slightly apologetic.

As the music was played, I couldn't hear anything else.

Both sides of the red carpet were covered with short-stemmed red roses. The whole place was adorned by white balloons, exuding an air of romance and serenity.

Hunter gazed at his beautiful bride as Zachary walked Emery down. Placing Emery's hand into Hunter's, Zachary said earnestly, "I now entrust my sister to you, Hunter."

Hunter nodded. A gentle smile lit up his face as he stared at Emery.

They just looked at each other and it felt as if they could stay that way forever.

Unwittingly, I glanced around and spotted my man standing among the crowd.

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It was amazing how I could recognize Ashton at a glance although the wedding was full of people.

The wedding was held according to Chinese wedding traditions which included walking over a fire pit, and serving tea to parents before they gave the wedding couple red envelopes and jewelry.

After the wedding couple bowed to each other, they exchanged jade bracelets instead of rings.

The couple served tea to Zachary and Cameron as they are the closest elders to Emery.

After the ritual ended, Emery tugged me away. "Come with me. Someone has gotten you a gift."

"What?" I was startled.

"Just follow me." She took me to the garden behind the hotel.

I was taken aback when the garden full of balloon flowers came into my vision. "From where you got all these balloon flowers?"

It was nearly impossible to get these summer blooms in winter.

Emery winked at me. "That's because someone has planned this for a few months. He had these flowers planted in the greenhouse just to show them to you today. Do you know the symbol of balloon flowers?"

I pondered for a while before I answered, "Balloon flowers symbolize unchanging love. Jared once brought these flowers to Macy's cemetery."

Emery pouted, "Can't you see these are white balloon flowers?"

I nodded. "Yes. What about it?"

She explained, "White balloon flowers symbolize the one and only love."

I squinted my eyes as I stared at her. "Is this a confession? You're married, though."

Emery held her forehead. "Scarlett Stovall, you're such a fool!"

I was rendered speechless.

"Where are you going?" I took hold of her as she was about to leave.

"I have to get something. You wait for me here." She sped away after dropping her words.

Looking at the white blossoms, I was absorbed with the spectacular scenery.

As the snow flew past, I gazed up at the sky where powdery snow was falling.

The balloon flowers were ornamented with the snow. It was a very beautiful sight to behold.

"I remember what you said to me in front of the library seven years ago. You told me that one can only witness such scenery at the Kunlun Mountains when the snow complements the snow lotuses. So I was thinking perhaps I can bring it to you if I do my best."

Ashton's voice rang out from behind. I turned around and saw him holding a bouquet of white balloon flowers in his hand.

I came to a sudden realization that he was the one who had prepared all this. There was no other way to explain these white blooms at this red-themed wedding.

I gave him a sweet smile as I received the bouquet. "Well, I didn't know you are such a romantic person. What a pleasant surprise from you. I'm flattered."

Ashton chuckled. "I'll spoil you more often then."

We took cover under the eave as the snow was getting heavier. "Why are you doing this for me all of a sudden?" I asked.

He gazed up at the sky full of snow. "Do you like it?"

"Yes, I do. It's beautiful!" It felt good to have a special place in his heart.

Suddenly, a bouquet of red roses appeared before my eyes. Before I could think for another second, Ashton had stood in front of me and gotten down on one knee.

I froze on my spot.

"Wow!" A voice rang out. I turned around and saw the wedding couple standing not far from us.

The guests of the wedding slowly gathered around. Ashton took out the ring box and opened it.

I was shocked. Is he proposing to me?

“Scarlett, I owed you a proposal seven years ago. Can you give me a chance to make it up to you?”

His proposal caught me off guard, but my heart had never experienced such warmth before. After a few seconds, I asked, “Aren’t we already married?”

Emery interrupted, “It doesn’t matter. A romantic act like this is worth doing more than once. Besides, a romantic proposal is every girl’s dream.”

She then looked at Ashton and raised her voice. “Ashton Fuller, our great president, you haven’t said the most important words to her. Aren’t you going to say the three words now?”

Right now, the perfect-looking man was staring at me with affection. I could feel my face burning as our eyes met. I reached out to take the ring.

He held my hand instead and put the ring on me. “Scarlett Stovall, I’ll stay with you till the end of time.”

He didn’t say “I love you,” but what he said was an apt description of loving someone with all his heart.

Smiling, I reached out to pull him up.

Emery thought the proposal was rather dull. She couldn’t help but whine, “You two are just like an old married couple. You should be more passionate, or at least say something sweet.”

“Passion isn’t the key to long-lasting love. No matter how passionate it is at first, it’ll eventually dwindle. Love is embedded in every detail of life,” I replied.

Witnessing the proposal, Cameron’s eyes reddened as she looked at me. She was standing next to Zachary.

Stunned, I recalled what she said to me on the phone the other day. “Scarlett, I am Mom.”

I felt estranged from the word “Mom.” I almost forgot that everyone had a mother.

“What’s wrong?” Ashton hugged me in his arms as he noticed I spaced out.

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“Nothing.”

It was getting dark. The banquet took place in the hotel after the ceremony.

It seemed that Emery was the one who gathered the crowd to witness Ashton’s proposal. Actually, I preferred a simple love to a passionate one.

The wedding was very grand and the guests were all prominent figures of the city. All of them were greeting and toasting each other.

After witnessing the proposal, the others were curious about my identity. Previously, Ashton tried his best to protect my privacy when the scandals broke out.

It was hard not to attract the other guests’ attention when the Moore family and Ashton Fuller kept focusing on me.

The spotlights shone brightly, pointing toward Ashton and me. I unwittingly lowered my head.

Ashton whispered in my ear. “Are you nervous?”

“There’re a lot of people watching us.” I pretended to be collected, but my emotions were rioting inside.

“The banquets held by the Moore family are always grand. Don’t worry. We have to face it anyway.”

I nodded in response. He held my hand all the time when some guests approached us. I was rather awkward when they addressed me as “Ms. Stovall.”

I smiled in response. After a while, my face became stiffened.

We were seated at a table full of exquisite dishes.

It was a table for sixteen. Emery was busy serving the guests, along with Cameron and Zachary.

Robert took a seat beside me, followed by Louis. Upon seeing us, Louis waved his hand and beckoned me over.

“Scarlett, come here.”

I was not good at socializing. I instinctively looked at Ashton. The latter patted on my hand and said, “Don’t worry. You’ll be fine.”

I walked toward Louis and he gestured for me to sit down. “Mr. Fuller, meet my daughter, Scarlett.”

Robert nodded with a smile on his face. “I’ve met her. Emery said she’s the daughter of the Moore family. How come she’s your daughter now?” Robert was confused.

Louis gave a laugh. “It’s fate. I like this girl, so I took her in.”

Robert nodded and smiled. “I see. She’s so blessed!”

Everyone burst out laughing. I curled my lips upward but didn’t find it amusing at all.

Based on my understanding, being blessed meant having a peaceful, happy life. I don’t think so, though. I merely have good tolerance.

Emery approached me and whispered, “Scarlett, come with me. I’m going to the hotel room to get changed. I’m not comfortable in this outfit.”

It seemed that she had toasted all the guests, so she wanted to get changed. I nodded in agreement as I wasn’t comfortable in my outfit too.

After we excused ourselves, we went upstairs. My mind wandered off while taking the elevator.

“Hey, what are you thinking about?” Emery’s voice broke my train of thought.

"It's nothing." I shook my head.

After we changed our clothes, Emery sprawled on the bed. "I swear I'll only get married once in my life. It's too exhausting," she whined.

I pursed my lips and kept staring at my phone. I wasn't listening to her.

Emery called me a couple of times before I snapped back to my senses. "What's wrong?" I was a little lost.

She frowned. "No. What's wrong with you? You've been spacing out since we walked into the elevator. What's on your mind?"

"Can you do me a favor?" I asked.

"What is it?"

"My grandmother had left me a sandalwood box. Grandpa kept it for me. He then passed the box to me before he died, but I didn't keep it safe. Ashton lost it. However, I think he didn't lose it and he gave it to Cameron Anderson instead. She probably misunderstood because of the box. Can you help me look for the box? I think it may be kept in the Moore Residence. Or can you ask Cameron about its whereabouts?"

Emery hesitated. "Why do you suddenly think of the box?" she asked.

"It just popped up in my mind." I couldn't tell her everything yet.

Emery knew I was hiding something, but she didn't probe me further. "Alright. I'll try to find it."

"Thank you!" I took a look at the time. It was getting late at night.

Summer was still in the villa. I had to go home now.

When I went downstairs, Ashton was not there. I took a seat while waiting for him. Once he was back, then we could go home.

He came back after a short while. His tall figure stood out among the crowd.

I waved at him, then walked toward him. Before I could say something, he asked, "Have you taken your meal?"

I actually forgot about it. I followed Emery upstairs with an empty stomach.

"I'm not hungry." He pulled me back to the dining table before I could tell him my intention of going home.

He filled my plate with different dishes.

Someone came over to greet us with a toast. I was worried that he might need to drive later. "I don't think you should drink. Aren't you going to drive later?"

He downed it in one gulp before he answered, "We have a driver."

After that, some of them wanted to drink with him and he welcomed them all.

I ate my food in silence, but I had lost my appetite.