In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1161

The phone call from Emery was supposed to be a sign of hope, but I felt like I had fallen so far down an abyss of self-doubt to the extent that I was unable to muster any energy for the rest of the day.

I did not expect Ashton to show himself, but at eight in the evening, he and a bodyguard walked in with dinner. I sat sluggishly on the couch and stared whilst they made preparations.

There was no expression on Ashton's face. He walked over to me and helped me to the dining table. Like every expecting father, he held his wife and took small and measured steps.

We sat across from each other at the table. Ashton looked as if he was busier than before; he spent the entire meal replying to messages. I tried to engage him in conversation but did not manage to find an opening to.

After a half hour, the messages finally stopped coming in.

I set aside my cutlery and was about to speak when brash and insolent footsteps came from the door.

"Wow, Ashton. Are you sure that this dead slump is the home of the president of Fuller Corporation?" Holden did not seem very different from the last time we met. He was still the same delinquent clad in an expensive suit. Somehow, he had managed to make the suit look cheap.

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Holden paused in the middle of the living room and took a look around. He caught my eye and went on spewing insults without a pause. "For someone who doesn't know you, they'd think that what you've constructed here is some sort of a private prison. I already feel like I'm in jail just by being here thirty seconds. Scarlett, this has got to be your idea, isn't it? You wanted to meet me, didn't you?"

Well, I stand corrected. I'm not the only one unafraid of death. He was another one brazen enough to flirt with Ashton's wife in front of him. It was difficult to find another scoundrel as despicable as Holden.

I felt angry at how he spoke to me but noticed out of the corner of my eye that Ashton seemed to have expected him. He chewed placidly as he watched the scene.

Holden exhausted all of his theatrics. He pulled out the chair next to me and held his forehead in hand in a pretense of sorrow. "To be honest, I can sense how much you are missing me. However, I've been really busy recently to come to you. You wouldn't blame me, would you?"

I was rather embarrassed. "Can we help you, Mr. Taylor?" I asked pointedly.

Holden had just taken over the Taylor family. He would have been busy culling out those who stood against him; thus, he must want something for him to be here instead of busy doing that.

Holden wasn't happy when I refused to play along. He pulled a face and resumed his infuriating behavior. "How dreadfully boring. If this is how you plan on receiving your guests, don't bother inviting me over again."

I had no way of dealing with his tricks. I glanced at Ashton for help.

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Ashton was calm the entire time. After his last bite of dinner, he turned his dark eyes up at me and spoke calmly. "You wanted to look for someone in M Country, didn't you? Holden's men have gone on your behalf. You can relax now."

"You?" I said incredulously, skeptical of Holden's abilities to do what needed to be done.

"What's wrong? You can't accept this arrangement?" Holden said smugly. "Don't you know that the Taylors control the flow of information in K City? If my men couldn't locate your fellow, you can consider him dead."

"How could you say something like that?" I demanded hotly, though I was delighted to hear that his family had access to that much information. However, I still wasn't convinced. "Besides me, Marcus had not communicated with anyone else. How sure are you that he wouldn't avoid your men?"

Marcus was at M Country, the home turf of GW Group. He was already at the edge of the lion's jaws. It was no doubt that he would be extremely careful if he wanted to stay alive to rescue Camelia and their child. This was possibly why he wouldn't even make any contact with his employees.

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Holden smirked as he retrieved a dictaphone from his vest pocket. He pressed play and placed it on the table. "Marcus, get in touch with me as soon as you can. We need to discuss something." It was my own voice.

Dear God, even I don't remember saying these words! "The Taylor family has a lot of connections in the underworld," Ashton explained with uncharacteristic patience. "Once they got a hold of your phone and analyzed the data, it wasn't difficult to imitate your voice."

"This was imitated by AI?" I asked in amazement, my eyes as wide as saucers. I had heard a lot regarding the advancement of AI within the industry recently, so it occurred to me that this may be one of its applications.

Holden smiled smugly as he placed the dictaphone back in his pocket. "Those machines work, no doubt. But the end result is too stiff and inorganic. My new girlfriend is the queen of mimicry. She can literally imitate any style of anybody you can think of. Especially those in bed... hehe. It's a new experience every night."

"Mr. Taylor, your tastes are... rather exotic," I said uncomfortably. The extent of his lust has left me speechless.

But if this was what it took to gain Marcus's trust, albeit falsely, it would still be a big help. At this comforting thought, I breathed a reluctant sigh of relief.

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Though Holden was Ashton's man, he wouldn't use the imitated voice to harm Marcus as the interests of the Taylor family were at stake. Like it or not, he was the best candidate for this mission.

Ashton did not fail to notice the change in my expression. I looked up and met his weary eyes. "Now would you believe me?" he asked before I could say anything.

I turned towards Holden. He was a wily fox who only cared about the interests of his family. He must want something in return for his help.

Ashton must have dealt with him beforehand. Probably even agreed to his unreasonable demands. I turned away and looked at Ashton in earnest. "If you are willing to help Marcus, why did you mention having to compete with GW Group and drive the share price down?"

White Corporation was in shambles. Foreign investment took the opportunity to encourage the shareholders to sell their shares for scraps.

When Fuller Corporation joined the fray, nobody felt secure.

Otherwise, Emery wouldn't have promised me so heartily to look into it.

Ashton took a deep breath and sat up straight. His dark eyes suddenly flashed with a glint of danger. "So according to you, the way for me to repay Marcus was to pay for his company which is currently in a mess at a high price, at a loss to Fuller Corporation. Is that it?"

His gaze was so fierce it looked as though it would pierce right through me.

I frowned with discomfort at being stared at like that.

Even a company larger than White Corporation had things that they want hidden. The fact that Leonard Yondel had embezzled was not even considered out of the ordinary for someone like Ashton.

It felt like he had already decided that I did not know my boundaries in handling Marcus's case. He had intentionally exposed these to see the limits of which I would disregard him, my husband, by helping Marcus.

After Rebecca, I was more familiar than anybody with Ashton's possessive nature. I sighed heavily. "I have never thought that there was anything wrong with the situation. Marcus had already thought of a solution. If he hadn't disappeared, it wouldn't have turned into the mess it is today."

After a brief pause, I reached out and touched Ashton's hand. "Think of how you take pains to protect and advance the interests of Fuller Corporation. The only thing that Marcus's parents left for him is White Corporation. I hope that we can help him salvage his family business. It's not about compelling you to buy his entire company to save it, or to have any foreign company acquire it. Do you think we can do that?"