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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1751

Chapter 1751 We Can Trust Ashton

Seeing that his attempt was futile, John slumped onto the couch and crossed his legs. "Then I'll just follow my own will. I'll go out when I want to go out and come back when I want to come back."

I folded my arms, unfazed by his threats. "You'd better not try that with me. I don't mind taking turns with Emma to monitor you round the clock. If it doesn't bother you, then please go ahead and behave recklessly."

John's face instantly turned sullen as he complained, "You only do this to me. If you're so good at it, why don't you keep Ashton in check instead?"

At the mention of Ashton, I subconsciously knitted my brows. After pondering for a moment, I replied, "I'll keep him in line as I have always done."

I knew that Ashton didn't change. It was just that he couldn't express it for the time being.

Thinking that he had triggered me, John quickly cleared his throat and rephrased, "I'm not blaming you. I just want you to think about the matter from my perspective. You can't let go of Ashton, and there's no way I can allow Emma to manage such a huge company by herself. Her family... I'm a man too, Letty. You are my family, and so is she. I have to be fair. I can't support you unconditionally while enjoying the results of her efforts and then back out like a coward at a time when she needs me the most, can I?"

"What? Did something happen to her family?" His words brought a sinking feeling to my stomach, but I expected it to be not as bad as I imagined.

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Unfortunately, John gave me a heavy nod. "Someone has manipulated the stock exchange and trapped all of the Lyons family assets."

"Was it... Nathaniel?" The look on John's face confirmed my suspicions. My teeth began to chatter in disbelief as the matter caught me by surprise.

How is this possible? I acted as if I didn't care about any of it, yet he still proceeded to destroy them. Did he see through my ruse?

I felt as if I had missed a step and fallen into a deep abyss.

Why can't I ever figure out what his next step or who his next target is? Will it be the Stovall family or the Fuller family next? Or perhaps both at the same time?

I swallowed a lump in my throat, feeling a chill down my spine. Maybe Ashton was right. Nathaniel was a lot more terrifying than I thought. The more I tried to probe, the deeper the trouble I would land myself in.

Given the circumstances, I no longer had any reason to stop John from leaving the hospital. "Fine, you can recuperate at home. But you have to promise me that you will come back for your check-ups as scheduled. Also, don't even think about shouldering the matter with Emma's family alone. We'll fix it together."

That was the ideal solution that would satisfy both sides.

"No problem, you're the boss." John's face lit up, but suddenly remembering something, he asked seriously, "Millie mentioned that you met Ashton again today. Did you manage to verify what you wanted to?"

I harked back to that day when Ashton threw me the atropine syringe while making smug comments.

He had obviously prepared to use it on Joseph. After all, no one would walk around carrying such a thing.

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In truth, it was a blessing in disguise. If Joseph's life hadn't been hanging by a thread, Ashton wouldn't have risked being discovered by taking out the syringe at the abandoned factory. It was that very gesture that allowed me to confirm that he was still the Ashton I loved and that he hadn't changed at all.

John didn't press on with his questions when he saw that I had spaced out. He patted me on my shoulder and comforted me, "It's all right if you don't want to talk about it. I believe you know what you're doing."

Regaining my senses, I replied with a smile, "No, I was just thinking about something else."

"John"—I wore a serious expression after getting a grip of myself—"we can trust Ashton."

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1752

Chapter 1752 You Are In Charge

John furrowed his eyebrows in disbelief. Looking thoughtful, he asked, "You're saying that everything Ashton has been doing recently is a lie and that he is doing this undercover? Are you sure about that?"

As smart as he was, he quickly grasped the meaning behind my words. I nodded with my lips pursed, my eyes filled with undeniable conviction. "I'm certain of it."

"Hmm..." Unconvinced, John let out a long hum and didn't reveal his thoughts.

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I could understand his skepticism. After all, even the Lyons family had been dragged into this war, which was one that we couldn't afford to lose. It was too risky for him to have faith in Ashton, who had never pledged his loyalty to anyone.

If he was still a youth, he would make the same bet as I did without a care for the consequences. But now, he was all grown up and was a legitimate head of a family. Hence, he could no longer make decisions recklessly.

That day, his scathing words were not just meant to frighten me. If Ashton had really changed, he would go all out to take him down. But even so, he was apprehensive when faced with my decision to trust Ashton still.

After all, other than being stubborn and soft-hearted at times, John was someone who would deliberate upon matters comprehensively.

"John"—I suppressed the emotions in my heart and adjusted his jacket that had flipped over by his shoulder—"just prioritize Emma this time, all right? What you have done for me is more than enough."

After a brief pause, I continued, "Although all good things must come to an end, I know that both of us are different. No matter what you choose this time or whether we're on the same path, I will always remember that you are the biggest source of my courage."

John let out a long sigh. "The way you talk really unsettles me."

Taking a deep breath, I hid away my sorrows and looked up at him. With a confident smile, I answered, "You should get used to it because the conclusion will show that my judgment is correct."

John grinned in response. "Are you really that confident in Ashton?"

I shook my head. "It's more like I'm confident in my own choice. After all, I picked it up from you, no?"

With nothing to retort, John laughed in resignation.

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“What’s so funny?” At that moment, Emma entered with her assistant.

“Nothing.” John turned to her while maintaining his smile. “You won. I admit my defeat.”

After shooting him a knowing glance, Emma laughed alongside him.

Sandwiched in the middle and being the third wheel, I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Can the two of you please stop flirting in front of me?”

“I didn’t. I’m innocent...” John raised his left hand. Instead of asking for mercy, he looked as if he was greeting someone.

After all, pleading for mercy required two hands, but he could only use one now.

Holding that thought, I couldn’t bring myself to laugh anymore.

As for Emma, she warmly put her arm around my shoulder, just like old times. “Don’t listen to his b*llshit. We were betting whether you would still take Ashton’s side this time. I put my chips on you while he did the opposite. The loser will be second-in-command at home forever.”

Second-in-command? Doesn’t that mean he no longer has any status in the family? On second thought, John never did possess any authority at home to begin with.

“I have lost miserably this time.” John began to put on a pitiful look. Although he was just pretending, it did lighten up the atmosphere significantly.

Shrugging, I quickly apologized. “I’ll let you be the top dog in my house in the future, just as how it was when Ashton lost his memory. You were in charge of everything then.”

With his spirit suddenly reinvigorated, John pointed to the air and said, “Remember what you said.”

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I looked down at his well-defined fingers and pushed them aside with a smile, just as how I would coax a child of Audrey's age. "Of course, and I won't go back on my word. You'd better remember it."

John chuckled like a child. "You don't even have to remind me. This is something I will definitely remember. By the time Ashton returns, I'll make sure I claim it from him."

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1753

Chapter 1753 Joseph Vanishes

"Yes! Do it!" As I bantered with him, I sensed that something was amiss and wondered if he had just chosen to trust Ashton.

Having read my mind, Emma explained, "It was my decision. I thought it was worth betting on Ashton's character, so I convinced John to stop stressing you out. Unexpectedly, you came back with this pleasant news. Now that we are certain Ashton is on our side, we are free to plan our next move."

"Really?" I looked at her in surprise, and at once, all my worries disappeared.

Emma nodded to reassure me.

"Emma." I was so moved that I was lost for words. I simply extended my hands and hugged her to show my appreciation.

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Emma patted me on my shoulders and quickly let go of me. "There, there, it's not the time to be sentimental. The Lyons family needs me now, so I'll have to head over with John."

I nodded in understanding but stopped her again after a second. "Would going to the office affect John's injury?"

Emma replied with a smile, "It's no big deal. He's just going to meet some of the shareholders. Even though John and I have been married for a few years, he has not shown himself to everyone associated with the Lyons family. Now that my family is in trouble, and the elders refuse to listen to my explanation, I have no choice but to bring John to see them. After all, he is the only one they trust to rescue them."

Suddenly, a sense of bitterness crept into me when I imagined how tough it had been for Emma over the years. She was a capable wife who had built a business empire worth billions together with John. And yet, she barely had any authority within her own family.

It was fortunate that I didn't insist on John keeping himself warded. Or else, I would have added to Emma's pile of problems.

I nodded in agreement and said in concern, "Since you're heading to see the Lyonses, it wouldn't be convenient for me to show up now. I suppose Nathaniel is attacking the Lyons family in an attempt to test whether I can truly forsake everything for Ashton's sake."

To win this psychological war, I needed to refrain from showing myself. In terms of the finances of the two families, we had to ensure that they were not tied together. After all, data was the best form of evidence. In the event Nathaniel discovered it, we would lose the best opportunity to gain his trust.

However, due to the fact that Ashton and I weren't powerful enough, we still needed John and Emma to lend us a hand. Thus, I added, "Although I can't prove that I am the Scarlett of old, my fingerprints and signature are still legally binding. I'll sign a document and send it to Emma's home. When the time comes, take the document to Fuller Corporation and ask for help. By pretending to sabotage Ashton, we can trick Nathaniel into thinking that there are some disagreements and lower his guard. That way, we will have more room to maneuver."

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“That makes sense. It always pays to be careful.” Emma let out a long sigh. Suddenly, as if something had hit her, she asked, “Why don’t we make it even more convincing by having a fallout in public?”

John laughed heartily. “There’s no need to overdo the drama. The lesser we do, the lesser the chance of making mistakes. Or else, we might simply attract too much attention.”

John’s words alleviated the tension in the atmosphere. In truth, I had always admired John for his ability to laugh regardless of the circumstances he faced.

After escorting them to the elevator, I did not go any further with them. John would be staying with the Lyons family going forward to create the impression that he had failed to stop me despite his injury. By doing so, we could create the illusion that we had fallen out with each other.

On my way home, I received a call from Joseph’s nurse.

“Ms. Stovall, Mr. Campbell has disappeared!”

My heart sank at the news. I recollected myself and asked, “Calm down, and tell me what happened.”

“It’s really not my fault. Mr. Campbell complained that the food in the hospital was bad and instructed me to get him something from outside. By the time I returned, he was already gone. Ms. Stovall, please don’t deduct my pay. I am really stretched with many mouths to feed at home.”

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In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1754

Chapter 1754 Supporting The Lyons

“Forget it. No one can stop him from leaving. This isn’t your fault, and I will pay you for the month as we have agreed. You can go home now.”

After ending the call, I knitted my eyebrows and wondered what Joseph was up to.

Being warded in the hospital was a wonderful opportunity for him to recuperate and wean himself off the drug addiction before it got too serious. By avoiding me like a plague, he made it look as though I was the villain.

Anyway, I figured that they probably had plans of their own. What happened to the Lyons family had served as a lesson to me. Nathaniel would never react in the way an ordinary person would. Therefore, it wasn’t surprising that Ashton had to change his behavior in an effort to challenge him.

Since I was unable to guess what his plan was, I had no choice but to trust him.

Over the next three days, the attack on the Lyons family by an anonymous financier had been widely broadcasted across many financial news channels, causing an uproar within the community. Finally, John, as the representative of Stovall Corporation, had announced that they would invest in the company of the Lyons family. His decision had stabilized the company’s stock price and arrested the losses of the Lyons family in time.

Just when everyone thought that the matter had come to a close, the financier, who had been beaten back the day before, had resurfaced to attack the Lyons family’s newly listed company. Consequently, his actions had caused them significant losses again.

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Meanwhile, I had been monitoring the situation closely. Looking at how the matter had escalated, I was worried that Nathaniel was mounting an all-out attack to wipe out the Lyons family. Hence, I quickly gave John a call.

To my surprise, John didn't sound anxious when he answered, "What's wrong, Letty?"

"Are you guys doing okay?" I was baffled. "I saw this expert on the news commenting that the Lyons family is being dragged through the mud by their powerful enemy."

"You should take what those 'experts' say on TV with a pinch of salt. Other than doing research, all they know is discuss matters from a theoretical perspective." John poured scorn on them before lowering his voice as he added, "Don't worry, the matter has been resolved. The unscrupulous attacks on the Lyons family stocks are nothing but schoolboy tactics. With the combined financial strength of Stovall Corporation and the power of attorney you have assigned to me over Fuller Corporation, the attacker is doomed to fail unless there is some form of political intervention or if it's an attempt to destabilize the nation."

It was just as Ashton had described. Fuller Corporation was highly integrated into the nation's economy and wasn't easily shaken. By buying a stake in the Lyons family company, John had directly taken it under his wing.

I sighed in relief, but I still couldn't fully understand the situation. "Isn't the stock market regulated all this while? By conducting such an attack, won't they attract the regulator's attention? Since you claimed that the Lyons family's company is safe, why is the attacker doing something that's detrimental to themselves?"

John broke into laughter. "What do you mean by detrimental? Hasn't Nathaniel already achieved his goal?"

Puzzled, I furrowed my brows until the answer dawned upon me. "Are you saying that this is the same as before? That Nathaniel is just trying to test me?"

"Isn't it obvious?" John replied with certainty. "Remember, you have to remain calm. After so many years, haven't you learned not to panic?"

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Having been exposed so straightforwardly, I felt so awkward that I didn't know what to say.

Luckily, John didn't notice my embarrassment as he continued, "Anyway, it doesn't matter because I was planning to call you. I have invited Ashton for negotiations at The Jade tonight. Are you coming?"

"Negotiations? What for?" I asked.

"Of course it's about the stockholdings. Looks like you have forgotten that you own almost as many shares as Ashton does. After I took over, I've blocked many of his decisions. I figured Nathaniel must have ordered him to do something about it; that's why he has approached me to buy my shares."

I pursed my lips. "Creating conflict isn't a bad idea but will going against Ashton at every turn be detrimental to his plan?"

In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1755

Chapter 1755 Drama

"Not necessarily. We have no idea what Nathaniel is thinking, or how far he is willing to go with this game. Coming from another perspective, he still wants to see how much you are willing to sacrifice for Ashton. Or else, we wouldn't be testing your threshold repeatedly."

According to John, Nathaniel still refused to believe that I was willing to give up everything for Ashton. As a consequence, he wanted me to feel that the Lyons family was still in danger despite being under John's protection.

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Fortunately, my first reaction was to call John to understand what had happened instead of rushing off to question Ashton or Nathaniel. If I had done that, everything we did would have been for naught, as I would have exposed my own weakness.

Evidently, Ashton wasn't the only one Nathaniel understood well. Nathaniel easily saw through me too.

Since I had passed the test, I decided to continue with my act. "What time is the meeting tonight?"

"It's at seven."

"I'll see you at The Jade, then."

Since I would be heading to Emery's turf, I thought it would be appropriate to give her advance notice. Hence, I headed directly to her home upon ending the call.

After all, Audrey and Gregory were in school during the day, and John's family had moved in with Emma's family. The entire house felt empty and desolate.

When I reached Emery's house, the guard told me that she had gone out in the morning and didn't say when she would return.

Just when I was about to give her a call, Hunter, who was dressed in casual clothing and sandals, walked out the main door carrying a pair of garden shears.

"Are you here to see Emery?" Hunter's voice sounded more mature with the passage of time. Coupled with his gentle tone, he exuded a charm befitting men of his age.

Time seemed to be kinder to men. The scars of the past felt as if they had never happened before.

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"Mm-hmm." I nodded politely while scrutinizing him. From the way he looked, I wondered if he had moved in together with Emery.

Have they reconciled with each other? But it isn't like Emery to do so.

Sensing what was going through my mind, Hunter waved his shears and explained, "Xavier hasn't been feeling well lately, and Emery is bogged down at work, so I came over for a few days to take care of him. I'm staying in the guest room by the way."

Hunter's short explanation bordered between drawing a line and indirectly showing off. He sounded as if he would always be a part of Emery's world as long as Xavier was around.

As for me, I had a stubborn attitude toward such matters. Even though it had happened a long time ago, I still didn't know how I should interact with him. In the end, I replied with a smile, "That's between you and her. There's no need to explain yourself to me. Since Emery isn't around, I'll be taking my leave."

"Do you want me to pass a message?" Hunter was considerate in the way he did things. He would have made a good friend if not for his relationship problems.

"It's fine. I'll just give her a call. Bye."

With that, I returned to my car. Right after Hunter's figure disappeared from the rearview mirror, I gave Emery a call.

Since I was calling her personal line, she answered at once.

"What's up?" Emery asked directly.

She had grown used to speaking in a forthright manner due to her outspoken character. Although she seemed domineering to outsiders, those close to her knew how comfortable it was to be in her company.

"Wanna watch a drama together tonight?" I asked jokingly.

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“Drama?” Emery had no idea what I was talking about. After giving it some thought, she asked, “Are you talking about stage dramas? Since when are you into such arty-farty stuff? What drama and where is it? I’ll see if I can get us some VIP tickets.”

Giggling at how serious she was, I continued toying with her, “The Jade Theatre. And it’s titled ‘The Falling Out of the Siblings.’”

“The Jade Theatre...” Emery repeated cluelessly before she finally got it. She raised her pitch dramatically and questioned me, “What’s going on? Scarlett, are you making a fool of me to kill time?”

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