# In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1776

Chapter 1776 Ashton And Joseph

A chill ran down my spine, and I abruptly recalled Nathaniel messaging someone when I went into the car a few hours ago.

Now that I thought about it, I realized that he had planned for everything. Bringing me to the factory for a tour was a lie, and having Ashton intervene in the business was a lie too. He wanted to use this opportunity to make me see Ashton hurt for his choice.

So that was what he meant when he said that everyone had to pay the price for their choice.

His words were not only directed to the people on the island but also to me.

I was foolish enough to presume that Nathaniel would stick to the rules and protect the man I love; I was foolish to assume that Nathaniel would be too preoccupied with the game to care about Ashton. As it turned out. I had underestimated how cruel he could be.

He wanted to play the game, but he also wanted to kill Ashton.

What do I do now?

My hands shook. Before I could think of anything, I slapped Nathaniel.

Smack!

At that very moment, the world fell silent.

One observant employee who witnessed the scene dropped his jaw and nearly made a mistake in his work. Despite recollecting himself, he could not wipe away the look of shock on his face.

No one thought that their god—Nathaniel Hall—would be treated in that way.

Nathaniel's face was turned to the side by the force of the slap, and he did not turn his head back as he went still for a moment.

When the numbness of my palm traveled up my arm, I finally sobered up a little.

Oddly enough, the most genuine reaction was my only way of getting away with things when I was around Nathaniel.

I nervously gulped before shooting him a glare. "You deserved this."

It was then Nathaniel came back to his senses and turned to me. As he grimly stared at me, he cracked his stiff neck.

If I were to let my fear appear on my face at that moment, I would lose. Thus, I gritted my teeth and steeled myself for what I was going to say next. "The game is over. I'm not going to play this anymore. It's a waste of my time to play a game with someone like you—someone who has no principles and won't even stick to the rules."

"When have I not stuck to the rules? I promised that I would leave Ashton alive. Is he not alive right now?" Nathaniel narrowed his eyes as he studied me. "So can I assume that you've made a mistake slapping me?"

For a moment, I was so taken aback by his words that no words formed in my head.

However, Nathaniel did not urge me for a quick reply. Instead, he abruptly reached out his hand to grab my chin.

He then leaned his face closer to mine. For a second, I thought his breath was as cold as he was. "Since you've done that, you'll have to endure the punishment. Now, coax me in front of everyone else."

I thrashed, but that only made him tighten his grip on me. A pang of pain shot up into the top of my skull, and I was forced to relent and mutter, "What do you want?"

"It's simple." Nathaniel smiled. "Kiss me. Hug me."

I frowned when I heard that before silently letting my eyes flick toward Ashton.

At that, Nathaniel tightened his grip and used pain to force me to pay attention to him. "I've fulfilled many of your requests, and you should do the same. You shouldn't reject me. Otherwise, I'll have to use another way to resolve this misunderstanding."

With that said, he turned to grin at Ashton and Joseph with a homicidal look in his eyes.

It was right then I realized what kind of situation Ashton was trapped in. He would sacrifice everything to save the one he loved, and so would I.

"Okay." I dropped my arms and let them hang beside me before closing my eyes. After a heavy sigh, I continued, "I'll do as you say, so let go of me."

Instantly, Nathaniel released his grip on me and started caressing me gently instead. "I love the way you are right now."

What way? The way I'm forced to submit to him even though I feel nothing but hatred? The way I have to let him order me around as if I'm his maid? Forget it. I can't always have the upper hand in this. That'll only raise his suspicion.

"Let's start then." Nathaniel patted my cheeks before retracting his hand. He then hunched over and waited to receive his reward from me.

# In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1777

Chapter	1777	Another	Slap
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There was no use crying over spilled milk, but I could not help but glance at the silent Ashton. All of a sudden, a thought popped into my head. The moment Nathaniel closed his eyes, I raised my hand to swing it downward again, leaving a clear palm print on his face.

Finally, Nathaniel was infuriated. He immediately grabbed my neck and hissed, "You're pushing your luck!"

"Mrs. Fuller!" Joseph tried to rush over to rescue me, but after a loud bang, he collapsed onto his knees.

At some point in time, Nathaniel had fished out a gun and shot Joseph's calf.

By the time I came back to my senses, the warm muzzle of the gun was already pressed against my forehead.

He won't pull the trigger. That was what I guessed.

However, at the same time, I realized that Nathaniel's choices were always different from an ordinary person's choices. That bullet was something I would not be able to avoid.

Bang!

"Ah!"

Before I could think about what I should do next, Nathaniel swung his gun to the side and shot the other leg of Joseph, who was trying to clamber to his feet again. Blood pooled

underneath him, and he could only support himself to a partially upright position with his hands.

Perhaps he was afraid that he would infuriate Nathaniel. Joseph bit down hard on his lip as he shook from the pain, forcing down the whimpers that threatened to escape past his lips. He endured it to the point where even the veins on his temples popped.

Meanwhile, Nathaniel was bloodthirsty. He slowly shifted the gun to point it at Ashton, who was already injured.

I have to stop this.

Before anything else passed through my mind, I fixed my eyes on the gun in Nathaniel's hand.

In the next second, I grabbed his hand and pulled to make the muzzle point at my left shoulder instead. Then, I pressed down on Nathaniel's index finger and pulled the trigger.

Bang!

It was too late for Nathaniel to stop me. The bullet buried itself into my flesh, and it felt like I had fallen on a pit of spikes. The agonizing pain nearly rendered me unconscious.

Forcing the pain to rest at the back of my mind used up all my strength. I could not gain control over my body anymore, and I gradually lost balance and consciousness.

Even though I knew that the bullet had not hit anything vital, I could not help but look toward Ashton longingly as my vision blurred.

He's looking at me.

Upon registering that, I let go of everything and fell.

The last bit of memory I had before passing out was a tug on my waist.

My eyes rolled in their socket, and I realized that I was alive. Instantly, I opened them.

From the decor of the space around me and the scent of disinfectants in the air, I deduced that I was in the hospital.

I then moved my fingers and pinched my thigh. The pain told me that I was not in a dream—that I was still alive. Soon, the sharp pain on my shoulder sobered me up for good.

I won. What about Ashton?

In a rush to find out the answer to that, I pulled away from the blanket and struggled upright on the bed despite the pain. Just as I stuck on a foot and before I could put it onto the floor, a familiar low voice above my head said, "Are you that eager to die with Ashton?"

Ashton's dead? No. He must be lying. If he killed Ashton, then he wouldn't let me alive either.

"Of course." I lifted my head to glare daggers at him. "I live only for him. If he dies, there's no meaning for me to keep living. You can save me once, but you won't be able to be there in time forever. As long as the opportunity comes to me, I'll definitely follow in Ashton's footsteps."

"Do you think I care?" Nathaniel questioned, his voice devoid of emotions. The icy and prideful look on his face made him seem like a grim reaper who just came from hell.

Of course you do, I thought. Otherwise, you wouldn't do all these to keep me alive. Soon, you will know how terrifying one person's intense emotions can be.

"I know you don't care, so..." Halfway through my sentence, my eyes flickered toward the television stand. A second later, I jerked upright and slammed my head at it.

Although I managed to avoid its sharp corner, the force of the collision made the world spin around me. I slumped against the stand and collapsed.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1778

Chapter 1778 Pushing My Luck

Nathaniel spun around, so angry that his eyes were as wide as saucers. "Scarlett Stovall, you're pushing your luck!"

I raised my uninjured hand to press down on the wound. I could barely open my eyes, but still, I forced out a smile. "I know I am, and you are the reason for it. Y-You know that if Ashton dies, I'll be dead too. If you take his life, you take mine too. You're playing the role of a nice man visiting me, but who are you playing this role for? Yourself? Hilarious! You're a joke, Nathaniel!"

Nathaniel was completely still in his spot. The cold light of the filament lamp shone on him, casting a shadow over his eyes. The more I looked at his eyes, the darker they seemed, but the entire time, his expression was a calm one. He was not panicking from getting exposed for his lies, and neither was he refuting my words nor giving any explanations.

The spacious room was engulfed by silence. Perhaps he was ruminating about something, but that was something I could not decipher. Nevertheless, it was evident that my fake suicide attempt was effective.

After a long while, and just as I was about to pass out, Nathaniel reacted.

He walked over and gently held my wrist, about to help me out. "Get up first."

His voice was soft. It was as if he was afraid of scaring me.

It was then I finally opened my eyes wide to warily watch him. However, I did not plan to listen to him.

Nathaniel then took a deep breath, and an exasperated look and a frown crept upon his face. "He's not dead. I was only joking with you."

"Not funny." I glared at him before flinging his cold hand away. Shakily, I supported myself with the drawer and climbed back onto the bed.

Nathaniel quietly watched me from the side. Once I was on the bed, he left the ward.

A while later, a nurse came in to treat my head wound.

During that time, I asked the nurse a few questions. I then learned that I was back at K City and that no one was guarding my ward at all times. In other words, I had a certain amount of freedom, but that did not mean that no one was watching me from the shadows. Nonetheless, I could not bother myself with that.

After the nurse left, I contacted John.

He picked up the call almost immediately. "Thank god you finally called me back. Gregory told me that Nathaniel was the one who took you away. Are you okay?"

While I was unconscious, John had been spamming me with calls, but I missed them all. It seemed like I had made him worry.

"I'm fine," I replied as I took a glimpse at the injury on my shoulder. "How are Gregory and Audrey?"

I made a promise to the kids, but I broke it. I'm sure they're disappointed.

"What do you think? I've brought them to my place. Don't you know how Emma works? She's great at consoling the children; she played with Audrey and Drew, and they've forgotten about you in the midst of their fun," John half-jokingly said.

I pressed my lips tightly but smiled. "That's good."

If they only have bad memories of me, then I'd rather they forget about me so that they can stay happy.

"Yeah, right. When are you going to come back?" John asked.

"I still have something else to do. Maybe in a few days." The boy was smart, so going back while I was injured would only worry him more. Thus, I would rather recover a little bit more before meeting him again.

Fearing that John would notice something amiss, I quickly changed the topic. "I called you for something else. I think I've found Nathaniel's base."

John instantly turned solemn. "Where are you right now?"

At that, my heart leaped into my throat. Does he know that I'm in the hospital?

"On an island," I whispered.

"What island? Are you in the country or overseas?" John continued.

It was then I let out a sigh of relief. "I need your help because I don't know which island I'm on. Nathaniel has already brought me to his drug lab. I'm mostly certain that's the core of his empire is. As long as we destroy that place, it'll be much easier for us to deal with him."

"Stop," John suddenly said.

However, there was no way I was going to stop at that moment. "No, listen to me. This is a little hard, but we can—"

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1779

Chapter 1779 Pretending To Hear Nothing

"I asked you to stop!" John bellowed, scaring all the words I had on the tip of my tongue back down my throat.

Then, in a cautious but firm voice, he said, "Once a spy is exposed, they can't come back in one piece. I don't want to see only bits of you the next time I see you. What we have is time. Come back first, and we'll slowly resolve this matter. Before that happens, no matter what you say to me, I'll pretend that I heard nothing."

Rendered speechless for a moment, I then reluctantly agreed, "All right. Sorry to trouble you with taking care of Gregory and Audrey for now."

"You're right. It's troublesome," John said in a serious tone. "So get back here as quickly as possible and take them back."

What a soft-hearted person. He's clearly afraid that it's too dangerous for me out here, so he's urging me to go back. I chuckled and nodded. "All right. I'll come back once I'm done with everything. I won't even delay for a second."

"Be careful."

"I will." With that said. I ended the call.

The sky outside the window was gloomy. I could not tell what time it was, so I unlocked my phone to look at the time.

It's twenty minutes to eleven in the morning. I must have slept for an entire day and night. I wonder how things are at Ashton and Joseph's side. Nathaniel doesn't want me to die. In other words, I must mean something to him now. That will be my bargaining chip. With that, I won't be forced to do as he says the next time we meet. It's not that he can't love someone, but that he doesn't want to lose. If I'm dead, he won't be able to match up to Ashton. He'll forever be a loser. I can't die, but I have to make Nathaniel think that I'm not afraid of death. That'll be the only way I can make him wary of me.

What I had most was time while I was recovering in the hospital. While Nathaniel was not around, I tried to find out the general location of that island.

Unfortunately, when I zoomed into the map, I realized there were tons of islands around the mainland. My memory of the trip alone was not enough for me to figure out which island I was on.

It was then I came to the realization that Nathaniel must have chosen that place as his factory because of that. The news of the nearby islands getting swarmed by police would give them enough time to respond.

Around noon, the door to the ward opened again, and Nathaniel entered with a thermal food jar. It seemed like he was going to plead for forgiveness by acting like a good husband.

There was a total of six dishes, including two kinds of soup and a dessert. It was a sumptuous meal for a patient.

Nathaniel quietly unpacked the food before getting a plate with a fork and putting it in front of me. He then said, "Eat."

I lowered my head to glance at it before lifting it again. Stubbornly not taking the fork, I said, "I have an injury on my shoulder, and my head is spinning. How am I supposed to eat?"

Hearing that, Nathaniel glimpsed at my forehead before standing up to head out. "I'll get the nurse."

However, he halted in his tracks two steps later. After a second of standing transfixed, he turned around and picked up the plate and fork. He then stabbed a piece of broccoli and held it in front of my lips, saying, "Open your mouth."

I instinctively flinched. After a moment of hesitation, I reluctantly opened my mouth and slowly ate the broccoli.

The moment the broccoli entered my mouth, my tastebuds came alive. I had to admit that the food tasted great.

However, I kept a calm look on my face. As a matter of fact, I even taunted, "You made this? It's not as good as Ashton's, but it's somewhat edible."

Nathaniel did not respond immediately. After feeding me a piece of meat, he said, "This is made by Ashton."

I nearly choked on my own saliva.

"I was afraid that you might not eat, so we made a deal, and I got him to make a meal in exchange," Nathaniel added as he carefully adjusted the angle of the fork. He made it seem like feeding me was something so important that no mistakes could be made.

"What deal?" I asked as I continued chewing. Ashton knows me well. No wonder the food has the right intensity of flavor of my preference.

## In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1780

Chapter 1780 A Deal Made

"Something you're not interested in." Nathaniel then put down the fork and scooped some soup for me instead. "Drink this. It'll be good for you."

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Nevertheless, I did not even spare it a glance; I was more interested in finding out what deal he had made with Ashton. "What deal?"

"Are you a parrot?" Nathaniel furrowed his brows as a tinge of anger laced his voice.

I fell silent, and my mood turned foul. A scowl appeared on my face, and I turned away from him, a sign that I did not want to speak with him anymore.

"Have Ashton ever said that you're a difficult person?" Nathaniel questioned, evidently not used to courting a woman.

Difficult? This is called a sweet burden. I'm under great pressure flirting with you here. Not only are you not expressing gratitude toward my act, but you're even being picky and questioning my ability to play the role you want?

Thus, I turned my face further from him and ignored him. In other words, I was giving him the cold shoulder.

Once again, the atmosphere in the ward turned tense. Nathaniel put down the fork loudly on the table and warned, "For you not to finish this means that Ashton isn't a good enough cook. A call from me will make sure that you'll never see him again."

Hearing that made my fury spring to life as well. I instantly jerked upright and glared at him. "You're always using this same old trick. You'll even betray the ones who are loyal to you. You're shameless. Do it then! Make the call! Once you make the call, I'll bite my tongue and kill myself! Do it! Do it right now!"

Nathaniel, who had always been calm and collected, knitted his brows upon hearing that. His narrowed eyes were telling me that I was being ridiculous, but he was too furious to do anything but glare at me in silence.

He was a man born in a prestigious family; he was a drug lord. Both of his identities were high and mighty. No woman would ever try to mess with him. Perhaps he had indeed come across other fussy women but confidently thought he would be able to deal with an ever-changing woman when the time came.

However, the theory was unlike practical. In reality, he was panicking.

It was the same thing as him thinking that he could control Ashton's life. That was nothing but wishful thinking on his part.

I smiled sweetly at him before leaning closer to give him a once-over. When I saw the traces of panic in his eyes—the panic of a teenager in love—I said, "Let me take a guess. You were the first person I saw when I woke, and that wasn't because you were eager to do something to me, but because you wanted to see me at all times, right?"

Of course, Nathaniel was not going to admit to it. He gritted his teeth and forced a menacing expression back onto his face. "Don't bother trying your trickeries on me. For me to be there when you woke was only a sign of how good the doctor was. It was but a coincidence. Did you think that I'm like those foolish men who'd waste an entire day waiting for an unconscious patient to wake?"

Without missing a beat, I asked, "You won't?"

Nathaniel froze for half a second before replying, "Of course not."

That half a second was more than enough to tell me what was the truth.

So he really did stay by my side for such a long time. Most importantly, he hasn't realized that he's explaining to me. He told me he wouldn't waste his time on unimportant people and matters. He told me that himself, but now, he's arguing with me about this. Good. The more lies he utters, the likelier he will do something that he eventually has to cover up.

"Okay. Then I've been overthinking this. I thought..." Instead of pressuring him into admitting it, I lowered my head and pretended to be disappointed.