

## The More the Merrier Chapter 471

The More the Merrier Chapter 471 Explaining To Mary

“Tim, my boy, could you go buy some apples? I’m suddenly in the mood for some.”

Mary caressed the boy’s head. She wanted to find out the truth, but not with him around.

Tim glanced at the two adults before nodding.

“Okay, Grandma. I’ll go buy some now. Wait for me.”

Then, the child ran outside, only to return a while later to eavesdrop on the conversation.

But after remembering that it was wrong to eavesdrop, he eventually left once again.

“Tell me, young man, is that man from before Tim’s biological father?” Mary asked after a moment of hesitation.

Ethen nodded and poured her a glass of water. “Here. Have some water.”

He then continued, “My boss is Benjamin Graham. And yes, he’s Tim’s biological father.”

“Then... why was Tim inside a garbage bin five years ago?” Mary asked indignantly, her voice beginning to shake. “The poor boy was all alone and on the verge of death! If my husband and I hadn’t walked past, the child would’ve... On top of that, no one came even after we filed a police report.”

“You made a police report?” Ethen was taken aback.

Mary nodded. “We did. We went to the station in town.”

Ethen remained bewildered. But we never came across such a file.

Then again, the systems in rural areas were a little behind five years ago. Did the police not use a computer for this?

Maybe it was a case of negligence.

Or maybe, Danna was behind this.

Ethen set the question aside and began to explain.

“The truth is Mr. Graham never abandoned Tim, and his mother certainly didn’t, either.”

“Then, what was he doing in the dumpster?”

“It’s a little complicated, but I’ll try to make it simple.”

Ethen removed his glasses and continued, “Someone had plotted against Mr. and Mrs. Graham. Back when Mrs. Graham had just given birth, two of her children were taken from her, Tim and Gavin, but only Gavin ended up with Mr. Graham. On the other hand, Mrs. Graham and her four other children were nearly killed.”

Mary was utterly shocked. “How could anyone do something so cruel?”

“My thoughts exactly.”

A look of disgust appeared on Ethen’s face. “That vile woman did all that just because she wanted Mr. Graham to marry her. I’m telling you the truth, ma’am. Mr. and Mrs. Graham never even realized that they had Tim until they captured that woman, and she told them about him just to save herself. They never tried to find Tim because no one even knew that he existed. That’s the only reason he had spent all these years...”

Ethen refrained from saying the word “suffering.”

“We are thankful to you for raising Tim,” he resumed. “That’s why Mr. Graham has told me to continue looking after you both. He’s gone back to tend to the missus. She’ll come over and see Tim when she gets better. For now, all you need to do is rest. We’ll handle everything else.”

Mary couldn’t believe her ears.

Never did I think anyone would take someone else’s child! Isn’t that illegal?

Then, a question came to mind.

“Why wasn’t Mrs. Graham aware of how many children she’d given birth to?”

Afraid that Mary wouldn’t believe him, Ethen could only recap what Arissa had gone through.

“Thanks to that wicked woman, Mrs. Graham was locked away. She was also nearly killed after giving birth. There were likely some complications during the delivery process, and she was also injured in the head, so she couldn’t remember how many children there were. You’ve had children too, so I believe you know what it must have been like for her. In fact, one of the babies was stillborn.”

"I get it now. That explains why no one ever came to take the poor boy home."

Mary sighed in frustration.

The More the Merrier Chapter 472 He Thinks He Was Abandoned

Mary noted how well-dressed Ethen was.

"Uhh... What does Mr. Graham do, if you don't mind me asking?"

Ethen stared at the old woman warily.

They didn't know each other well, after all, so he couldn't help but question her intentions upon hearing her question.

"Don't get me wrong! I just want to know what Tim's life will be like when he returns to Mr. Graham."

Now, Ethen felt sorry for doubting her.

"Don't worry. Tim will have the best possible environment to grow up in. Mr. Graham is a businessman."

Mary nodded. "I suppose that doesn't really matter as long as Tim's parents love him. The poor boy doesn't say anything, but I know he's been a little resentful ever since he found out he was adopted. He thinks his real parents abandoned him."

Ethen could tell from the way Tim behaved and spoke after finding out who his real father was.

"I think he'll understand after Mr. and Mrs. Graham explain everything. They care very much about him."

"I'll be sure to talk to him." Mary smiled. "I'm getting weaker. I was worried about what might happen if I were to suddenly leave this world one day. My... my son is such a pain. I don't know what Tim's future would be like if I were no longer there to protect him. That's why I'm so happy and relieved that you've finally come for him."

The more she spoke, the more depressed she sounded.

Even Ethen had a hard time hearing her words. "Don't be too upset, ma'am. You look pretty healthy! You should be able to live many more years."

Yet, Mary shook her head. "I'm old. I know my own body best. Seeing Tim return to his real family is more than enough for me. At least I can now leave without having to worry about him."

"But ma'am, think about how Tim feels! He really cares about you. Even if he's finally found his parents, I'm sure he'd be sad if he won't get to see you anymore."

Mary stilled upon hearing that. She had absolutely no doubt about how much Tim adored her. She had raised him after all.

"I'll do my best to undergo my treatment. Now, it all depends on fate."

Not knowing how else to console her, Ethen pulled a chair out and sat next to the bed.

Mary turned to him. "Why don't you take a stroll outside, young man? You don't have to stay here with me."

"I have to look after you while Tim is away. Do you need to use the bathroom?"

"Yes, I do. Sorry for the trouble." Seeing how adamant he was, Mary chose not to refuse his kindness.

"Not at all."

Ethen went up and lifted Mary carefully. "Let me know if you're not feeling well."

"I'm fine. Don't you worry!"

"We were so scared when you coughed blood. You wouldn't have had to go through that if we had told you who we were from the start," the man said apologetically.

"It's not your fault. I'm just getting weaker."

Ethen helped Mary get to the bathroom.

Meanwhile, Tim headed to the fruit vendors next to the hospital. Most of them were rather pricy.

He then walked up to an old woman's stall.

"Is it okay if I just get one?" he asked timidly.

"Fine," the elderly woman responded curtly. She didn't like how such a well-dressed boy didn't seem to want to buy a lot from her.

Tim was stunned by her demeanor and was now unsure if he wanted to buy anything from her.

He had come over just because she seemed older than the other vendors.

Unfortunately, not every elderly person was as kind as his grandmother was.

"If you're not buying anything, then get out of here. You're in the way!" the old woman demanded.

With a bite of his lip, Tim turned and left.

Suddenly, another vendor called out to him. "Hey, kiddo! Come on over! I'll give you a good deal!"

This poor kid must be scrimping because his family's been hospitalized.

Hearing that, Tim headed over with sparkling eyes.

The More the Merrier Chapter 473 How Dare You Talk To Him Like That

"Hey, ma'am. Did you say you'd give me a good deal?"

"Yup! Two bucks less for each pound!"

"Thank you!"

Delighted, Tim hurriedly chose the largest apple he saw.

Then, he began to ponder. Maybe I should get two for Grandma.

Wait. But what about Gavin and the others? I'll get four more.

"Weren't you going to get just one?" the vendor asked despite feeling overjoyed.

"I'll take six instead!"

Tim looked down and counted the apples again. Upon remembering Ethen, he took one more.

"I'll get seven instead. Please give me a good deal for them!"

"Sure thing! Anything else?"

The woman's aim was to make money, after all.

"That's all. Please weigh these apples."

After paying up, Tim carried the large bag of apples back into the hospital.

The old woman who had initially chased him away was now filled with regret.

"That d\*mn brat! He was supposed to buy my fruits but ended up running off elsewhere!"

Jack had just spotted the boy and was about to call out to him, but the latter left too quickly.

He so happened to the old woman's complaints, though, and he shot her a glare.

"With that mouth of yours, it's no surprise if no one buys your stuff! What an old hag!"

The rest of the people nearby couldn't help but laugh.

"Hey! Who are you calling an old hag?"

"You!"

Jack glared at her ferociously, not caring that she was older than him.

Petrified, the woman immediately stopped talking.

"How dare you treat Mr. Graham's son like that!" Jack added.

He then strode into the hospital to help Tim carry the bag of apples, but the boy was already nowhere to be found.

Wow, he's fast.

Glancing at the toys and food he had bought, the man happily walked upstairs.

Meanwhile, the five children were now interrogating Shaun.

"You lied to us, Uncle Shaun. Mommy's fallen sick, hasn't she?"

Gavin stared at the man furiously. He looked very much like Benjamin when he got upset.

"Tell us what happened to our mommy, Uncle Shaun," demanded Zachary.

The children were livid that Shaun had told them that their mother was fine.

It's no wonder we couldn't reach her, and she didn't call us, either!

"You'll be sorry if you don't tell us the truth, Uncle Shaun!" said Oliver.

"You're not a good doctor if you lie, Uncle Shaun!" added Jasper.

Shaun's mouth twitched.

The other doctors could barely stifle their laughs.

"Who told you guys about this?" Shaun asked, brushing his nose.

"Mr. Frank did!" Jesse lied.

"It's not that I didn't want to tell you. Your father told me not to. He didn't want you guys to disrupt his alone time with your mother," Shaun explained despondently. "Your mother was so worried about Tim that she collapsed. It wasn't helping that she kept staying up late, either. But she was already okay before I went to see her and before I brought you guys here! You can ask them if you don't believe me."

Shaun quickly pointed to the medical team he had brought with him while shifting the blame on Benjamin.

"Your daddy's looking after her, and that's more than enough. Don't cause a scene, okay? You're all here, anyway. Are you planning to go back now? Have you forgotten what you came here for? You're supposed to look after Tim!" he reminded.

With a loud huff, Gavin shot the man a glare and left the room. "Let's go."

The other children did the same to Shaun before following their oldest brother outside.

Shaun was at a loss for words. Why are they all mad at me? It's not my fault!

"Are we going back to see Mommy, Gavin?" Jesse asked, unsure what her siblings intended to do now.

"No," answered Gavin. "We have to keep Tim company."

Jesse nodded. "Let's hurry back to him, then."

Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper agreed. There was no point going back now, anyway.

The More the Merrier Chapter 474 Sharing Apples With The Other Children

"Let's stay here for now. I'll call Daddy and ask him how Mommy's doing," said Gavin.

"Okay." Zachary nodded.

"Hurry up!" urged Jasper.

"I wonder if he even knows how to look after Mommy," Oliver pondered.

Still, they secretly commended Benjamin for rushing home just for Arissa.

With a nod, Gavin took out his phone, adjusting his tone a little.

"Are you still with Mommy?"

"Yeah," answered Benjamin. "Why?"

"Why didn't you tell me that she's sick?" the boy questioned sternly.

Benjamin paused momentarily before responding, "And what if I did tell you? You'd just come and bother her while she's asleep."

"I wouldn't do that," Gavin replied dejectedly. "How is Mommy doing now?"

"She's still sleeping. She's fine now."

The man glanced at Arissa, who was still in bed.

"You'd better take good care of her," warned Gavin. "I'm coming after you if I get home and find out that you don't treat her well."

Benjamin scoffed. "Is there anything else?"

"No."

After hanging up, Gavin turned to his siblings. "Mommy's fine. She's asleep now."

The other children nodded in response.

"That's great!"

"Let's head back to where Tim is," said Zachary.

"Let's go."

They made their way back under Gavin's lead, only to freeze in surprise as they spotted Tim heading up the stairs.

Seeing the boy drenched in sweat and panting heavily, they rushed over to him.

"Tim! You walked all the way up using the stairs?"

Jasper stared at Tim, who turned red and nodded.

Gavin, Zachary, and Oliver were dumbfounded.

"But Tim," said Jesse while pointing to the elevator. "You could've taken the elevator. You'd be so tired coming all the way up climbing the stairs!"

"I..."

Tim found himself unable to speak. He had taken the stairs because he didn't know how to use the elevator.

"It's healthier to use the stairs," Zachary chimed in as he noticed the boy's embarrassment.

Then, he walked toward him. "I'll help you carry that."

"It's okay!"

Tim opened the bag and gave them each an apple. "I got you apples!"

The boy then headed back into the ward with the two remaining apples.

Holding the fruit in their hands, the five children exchanged glances before breaking out into a smile.

"He doesn't seem to hate us! He even gave us apples."

Oliver gave his apple a quick rub and began to eat it.

"You should wash that first."

Being the clean freak he was, Zachary couldn't stand seeing his brother behaving that way.

"It'll be fine!"

With a grin, Jasper wiped his own apple with his shirt and took a bite. "Yum! It's really sweet."

Zachary shook his head. "Let's go wash our apples," he said to Zachary and Jesse.

"Okay," Jesse replied delicately before following the boy.

Jack soon returned, and his eyes lit up at the sight of each child holding an apple.

"I'll go in first," he said to them while heading in the direction of the ward.

He still had to rush back to Dellmoor right after this.

The man entered the ward and saw Tim handing Ethen an apple.

"This is for you, Mr. Frank!"

Ethen was moved to see the little boy give the last apple away. "Thank you, Tim! But you can have it."

"I don't like apples. You eat it," Tim insisted.

"Do I get one, too, Tim?" teased Jack as he walked over.

The boy was stunned as embarrassment washed over him.

But I only bought seven. There's none left!

Seeing that, Jack chuckled and handed over the things he bought earlier.

The More the Merrier Chapter 475 A Secret

"Tim, these are gifts from me. I have to return to Dellmoor now. Let's play again next time, okay? Bye!"

Jack turned to leave once he finished speaking, and before stepping out, he even snatched the apple from Ethen's hand.

Oh, this bugger!

Glaring at him, a thought surfaced in the latter's mind. I thought he left earlier. Who knew he would have gone to buy Tim some gifts.

"Thank you!" the boy quickly said.

Nonetheless, he was unsure if the man had heard him since he couldn't even see his silhouette anymore.

Having noticed the frustrated look on Tim's face, Ethen patted his head and said, "You'll still have the chance to see Mr. Jack next time."

Tim was feeling a little guilty. I wasn't even able to tell Mr. Jack my name, but he's already bought me gifts.

"Mr. Frank, you have Mr. Jack's phone number, right? Can you please help me thank him?"

"Of course!" Ethen said, nodding.

Then, he sent Jack a text right in front of the boy.

Seeing that Mary had fallen asleep, Tim had no choice but to put the apple aside.

"Your grandma was tired earlier, so she went to sleep. Don't worry," Ethan consoled.

Hearing that, Tim nodded and sat by the bed, keeping the old lady company.

Later on, Gavin and the others came back. Once they checked up on Mary, they finally asked about Jack.

"Wasn't Mr. Jack here earlier?"

"He went back to Dellmoor," Ethen answered.

Five of the kids were shocked to hear that.

"Why did he go back to Dellmoor again?" Zachary asked.

"He went there because he needs to help out with your daddy's work," the man explained.

The five kids then walked over to where Tim was and noticed that there was only one apple left.

They guessed that it was probably for Mary. After exchanging glances with each other, they went over to the coffee table and helped to cut up some apples. Then, they arranged it on a plate.

"Tim, come have some apples!" Gavin called.

"You guys go ahead. I want to stay with Grandma."

Tim took a look at them, but he didn't join them.

Eyes twinkling, the former turned to Jasper and gave him a look.

Seeing that, the latter instantly walked over and dragged Tim over to them.

"Grandma's asleep, so let's go over there. If you stay there, you might disturb her rest!"

The boy was dragged away easily since Jasper was quite strong.

"Come over and we can eat together!"

Zachary grinned brightly as he scooted over to give some space for Tim. Then, pulling him down for a seat, he took a piece of the apple with a toothpick and fed it to the latter.

Tim had no way of rejecting him at all. Taking the toothpick from him, he said, "You guys should eat too!"

"The apples you bought are delicious, Tim!" Jesse said with a smile after she gobbled a piece of apple.

He couldn't seem to look away at the sight of the girl's bright smile.

Her smile looks so good.

"Let me tell you a secret that not even Daddy knows."

Then, leaning in, Oliver whispered, "Jesse is our sister!"

Confused, Tim eyed Jesse carefully. She doesn't look like a girl no matter how I look at her.

"Hehe. I'm a girl, Tim!" the girl giggled happily, revealing her teeth and even her gums. It was simply adorable.

"Oh." Tim was dumbfounded. "I thought you were a boy."

Smiling, Gavin informed, "Mommy told Jesse to wear boyish clothes like us, and she even had her hair cut short. I used to think that she's our brother in the beginning too."

Tim understood instantly having heard that.

Ethen couldn't help but feel happy for Benjamin and Arissa when he saw that the boy was getting along well with the other kids.

This is a good thing.

He then snapped a picture of them and sent it to Benjamin.

With Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse's approach, Tim sat happily with them as they enjoyed the apples.

The five kids even played with him once they were done eating. It didn't take long for them to get close to each other.

At Dellmoor, Arissa slept for a few more hours before she finally woke up.

When she was up, her IV drip treatment was finally done.

This time, she felt rather refreshed.

Seeing that Benjamin was not around, she got up and quickly went to wash her face and fix her hair, preparing to leave.

However, once she reached the door, the bodyguards blocked her way.

"Please go back in, Ms. York."