

The More the Merrier Chapter 486

Chapter 486 So The Boy Knows

While Tim was getting water for Benjamin, Arissa took over and fed Mary.

When she heard Benjamin talking to the child, her eyes widened.

Since when did he tell the child about his identity?

He should have told me, so I won't have to tiptoe around.

If that's the case, the boy must know who we are then.

Arissa glanced at them and saw Tim sitting rigidly on Benjamin's lap.

Even Tim's small face looked really tense. She reminded Benjamin, "Benjamin, don't scare Tim!"

Benjamin looked up and glanced at her before returning his attention to the boy.

That was when he released his hands and said, "If they bully you, you have to tell me!"

"They never," responded Tim softly.

Feeling that he was acknowledging Benjamin, the boy pursed his lips, jumped off from Benjamin's lap, and even smoothed his clothes.

Benjamin's heart skipped a beat. This boy is very endearing.

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse saw that Tim seemed a little scared of their daddy.

"Tim, come over here and take a seat. Let's have some fruit!"

Zachary was very welcoming to Tim.

However, Tim shook his head and ran over to Mary.

When he saw that Arissa was feeding Mary, he tugged at her clothes before saying, "Ms. York, I'll feed Grandma. You go and sit over there!"

Arissa turned to look at her son lovingly and said, "It's fine. I will do it. Go play with Gavin and the rest of them!"

Tim remained by the bedside and watched as Arissa fed Mary.

When Arissa saw Tim standing next to her, she pulled him over and said, "Help me blow at the soup and cool it down!"

Tim just cast a glance at her and used the spoon to stir the soup to cool it down.

When Arissa saw that, she was thrilled. She was not expecting him to accept her so soon. She could wait.

"Mdm. Mary, take your time and eat slowly!"

Arissa was very patient and fed Mary as if she was feeding a child.

Once in a while, she would clean Mary's mouth and even coax her.

Mary was very touched. "Issa, there's no need to feed me. I can eat by myself."

"It's all right. Anyway, I have nothing to do. I slept on the way here, so I'm not tired at all," said Arissa with a smile.

She continued to feed her.

Seeing that she was so determined, Mary did not refuse her kindness anymore.

Once Mary was done with her meal, Arissa fed her with some soup.

Worried that it might be too hot for her, Arissa cooled it down by blowing on it before giving it to Mary.

"Be careful."

"Okay."

Mary looked at her adoringly. This girl is genuinely good to me. She isn't putting up a front.

Mary was very happy for Tim.

It looks like I don't have to worry about Tim if he lives with Issa.

Before Mary could finish her soup, Shaun and the others arrived.

They were very glad to see Benjamin and Arissa there.

"Arissa, Benjamin, both of you are here."

Shaun looked at them with a smile on his face.

"Yes!"

Arissa replied, "We have been here for a while now."

Benjamin glanced at them and asked Shaun, "Have you taken a look at Mary yet?"

"When I got here, Mary was still asleep, and I checked her after she woke up. Her condition is still quite stable, but a full body checkup is needed. After she has finished taking her meal and rested for a while, we can perform some parts of the checkup first," said Shaun.

After all, there were several things to be done for the full body checkup, and it would be too tiring for Mary to finish everything in one day.

Shaun planned to do some parts of the checkup for Mary later that night.

Benjamin gestured to Shaun for a word outside, so Shaun went out with him.

After greeting Arissa and playing with Tim, Bradley went over to sit with Gavin.

Ethen greeted Arissa before going out with Benjamin.

When Gavin and his four siblings saw that there was nothing to do in the ward, they followed suit to eavesdrop.

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Chapter 487 Thanks To You

When Tim saw that, he bit his lips. He was tempted to hear about his grandma's health condition too.

Arissa rubbed his head and assured him, "Don't worry."

Tim looked up at her before looking down.

Looking at his quiet face, Arissa smiled gently.

After feeding Mary some fruit, Arissa proceeded to clean up the small dining table and was about to clear the trash.

Tim snatched the trash from her and ran out.

Arissa was taken aback.

“Let him do it!” Mary laughed.

Arissa smiled and said, “That was very fast of him!”

With a sigh, Mary explained, “Our family has always been very poor. Hence, he has been used to doing chores at a young age! It’s a pity we have never been able to provide a comfortable life for him.”

When Arissa heard what Mary said, she consoled her.

“Grandma, please don’t say that. We are very grateful to you. If not for all of you, we may never see this son of ours again.”

Pain showed up on Arissa’s face. Tim had nearly lost his life when Danna took him away.

There was no way she could forget that pain and sorrow.

Mary looked at her.

“Issa, that young man, Ethen, told me that Tim had been taken away back then. Is that true?”

Arissa nodded and sniffled. “It’s true. Back then, I was being locked in a place...”

Without withholding anything back, Arissa went on to share with Mary everything that had happened to her back then.

Mary sighed after hearing her story. “You have had such a hard life. How can there be such a vile and wicked woman in this world? Issa, if Tim knows about this, he won’t blame you too. He hasn’t seen you for so many years. Perhaps, that’s why he isn’t used to you yet. Give him some time, and he will be fine!”

Arissa nodded with a smile. “I’m very thankful that we have found him. The rest of it can wait.”

Mary agreed with her too. “I’m only an old and sick woman. Not only can I not look after him well, but I will also be a burden to him. He is the one who dragged me here to see the doctor. The money used is also earned by him!”

Arissa’s heart ached when she heard that.

She felt sorry for her son and also for Mary as well.

“Mdm. Mary, don’t worry. Just get well and don’t worry about the medical fees. I will handle everything!”

“H-How can I let you do that?” Mary was embarrassed by the offer.

“Grandma, please accept our token of appreciation. You have taken very good care of Tim. Footing your medical bills will make us feel better. No matter what, you are still Tim’s grandma. Therefore, you are our relative too. It’s only right that we take care of you. Please don’t feel bad about it. I don’t even know how to thank you!”

Arissa tried very hard to convince Mary because she wanted her to get well without any worries.

“Once you are well again, I still require your help to look after the children!”

Mary was perplexed.

Arissa explained, “Both Benjamin and I have to work during the day. We have no time to look after the children. If you are around to keep an eye on them, we will feel a lot at ease. Tim will also feel much better with you by his side. Don’t you think so?”

Mary was aware of her kind intention, so she nodded with contentment.

“All right then. I understand. I will do my best to get well!”

Arissa poured Mary a glass of water and only gave it to her when it cooled down a little.

“Mdm. Mary, take some water to soothe your throat and take a rest. After that, you still have to go for a checkup.”

“Of course.”

Mary said, “Please go and check on Tim. Is he still outside?”

Arissa tucked Mary in before heading outside.

There was no sight of the men and the children anywhere.

Where have they gone to?

“Where did they go?” she asked the bodyguards at the door.

“Ms. York, the children have followed Mr. Graham to the doctor’s office.”

She instructed the bodyguards to keep an eye on Mary before heading in the direction they were pointing at.

From a distance away, she could see Tim hiding outside the door.

Chapter 488 Call Me Tim

Arissa cleared her throat.

Tim jumped. When she caught him eavesdropping, he blushed and ran back toward the ward.

"Sweetheart, where are you going?"

When Arissa saw Tim's reaction, she realized she should not have caught him off-guard.

Tim shot her a look and answered, "I'm going to Grandma!"

After a pause, Tim continued, "My name is Tim, not sweetheart!"

Arissa smiled and walked up to grab his hand.

"You are a sweetheart!" My sweetheart!

Arissa's heart sank the moment she touched Tim's hand.

His wrists were particularly smaller than her other five children.

They were down to the bones.

In fact, they were as thin as matchsticks.

Tears started welling up in her eyes, and she turned away.

"I know your name is Tim. But, I like to call you sweetheart! Let's go over to Grandma!"

Tim noticed that Arissa sounded different and sneaked a peek at her. He saw her wiping her tears away, and he pursed his lips.

It was only after a while before Tim asked, "Ms. York, what's wrong with you?"

Arissa was stunned. She did not expect him to be so observant.

Sniffing her nose, she calmed herself down, got down on her knees, and placed both her hands on Tim's shoulders.

"I'm fine. I recalled something and felt upset. That's all."

Tim eyed her carefully as if he was making sure that she was all right.

Arissa smiled very gently at him and caressed his face.

"Really! I'm fine. I'm very happy to see you!"

She wanted so much to hug him, but she was afraid that she might freak him out.

Tim pursed his lips before running toward Mary's ward.

Arissa was startled. Did I scare him again?

Tim ran to the door, stopped, and turned around to look at her. All of a sudden, Arissa felt very happy.

It was very likely that he was not used to her yet.

She walked over and said, "Let's go in!"

Tim went in.

"Grandma!"

When Mary saw her, she invited her to sit down.

Arissa went and got the presents that she had prepared before coming.

"Tim, I don't know what you like, so I bought you some clothes!"

Arissa walked toward the boy and placed the clothes against him. She noticed that they were still too big for him.

She had already chosen one size smaller, but she did not expect him to be even skinnier than she thought.

"They're a little too big, but it's okay. A little alteration and they will be fine!"

She looked at Tim and continued, "Daddy is the one who bought you the other set."

Even though Benjamin did not pay for the clothes, Arissa still wanted Tim to feel his love.

Tim had his hands clutched tightly around the clothes. It was as if he could not decide whether to accept the gifts or not.

Mary knew that the boy was shy. "Tim, accept the gifts. It's very sweet of Ms. York to get them for you."

Tim took the clothes and said, "Thank you, Ms. York!"

Arissa smiled and rubbed his head. "You're welcome. Do you want to try them out?"

Tim glanced at her bashfully and allowed Arissa to put the clothes on him. Seeing that he did not reject her, Arissa was extremely happy.

"Yes, they're a little too big. They will need alterations."

Arissa adjusted the clothes and looked all around.

"Grandma, are they too big?" Arissa asked Mary.

The elderly lady nodded. "They do look bigger, but it's still fine for him to wear them. There's no need for any alterations to be done. It's too much of trouble!"

"It's no trouble really. I'll just get someone to do the alterations."

Arissa removed the clothes from Tim and handed him the pants. "Sweetheart, give these a try and see if they fit."

The pants had an elastic waistband, so they did fit quite well indeed.

"The pants fit quite nicely. We only have to alter the shirts. Once I have them resized, I'll give them to you. Is that okay?" said Arissa to Tim.

Tim nodded. "Thank you, Ms. York."

Chapter 489 He Still Loves The Presents

Arissa fondled his head, folded the clothes, and put them aside.

"We bought you shoes too! Sit down and let me put on the shoes for you!"

She took out the shoes and left them on the side.

Tim removed his slippers and curled his toes.

Arissa knew that her son was embarrassed, so she pulled him down to the seat and put on the shoes for him.

Tim pulled back his legs and put them on by himself.

Arissa looked at him and just let him be.

"Do they fit you?"

"Yes!" responded Tim.

She pressed her fingers on the front of the shoes and realized they were a little too big.

Arissa looked at Tim and noticed that he was blushing.

"They are too big."

Rubbing his head, Arissa said softly, "Don't worry. I'll get you another pair."

Tim mumbled, "It's fine. I can wear these too."

"No. Shoes have to fit well in order to be comfortable."

Arissa brushed his hair. Seeing that he did not remove the shoes, she was delighted.

It appeared that Tim did like his presents after all.

"Remove the new shoes first. We'll go get you a pair that fits well. As for this pair of shoes, you can wear them once your feet have grown bigger!"

Tim looked at the smile on her face and pondered.

Is she genuinely nice to me, or is she doing this out of guilt?

The thought of Arissa doing all those to make it up to him turned Tim aloof once again.

"Ms. York, please don't waste your money. I don't like the shoes!"

Hearing the cold voice of the boy, Arissa felt her heart ache. He was resisting her attempt to get closer to him.

"All right then. Sweetheart, what kind of shoes do you like? Tell me, and I'll buy them for you."

Tim turned away.

Arissa felt so helpless, and when she saw the boy's frail body, tears started to well up again.

Her heart hurt so much.

"Issa, don't worry. If Tim prefers the new shoes, just let him wear them!"

When Mary saw that she was upset, she tried to console her.

Arissa nodded.

Just then, Benjamin and the rest of them came in.

"Mdm. Mary, how are you feeling now?"

"I'm feel fine!" replied Mary with a smile.

"Please follow Shaun for your checkup. The rest will be completed tomorrow," said Benjamin.

Mary acknowledged.

Shaun and the medical team took Mary for her checkup.

Tim followed behind them too.

"Tim, why don't you wait for your grandma in the room?"

"I want to go with Grandma!"

Tim held on very tightly to Mary's hands and bit his lips. He was worried that Mary would desert him.

Mary was heartbroken.

So was Arissa. She went up to touch his head and said, "Let him go with them. We will go too!"

Mary said, "It's only a checkup. There's no need for all of you to follow me. It's getting late. All of you should go back and get some rest."

"Let's go and get the checkup done first."

Arissa did not want to get into an argument with Mary. She intended to stay back and take care of them.

"Let's go, Mdm. Mary," Shaun called out as he pushed her away.

Everything had already been arranged.

Arissa wanted to hold Tim's hand, but he ran and held Mary's hand instead.

Looking at Tim's back, she reminded herself to take things slowly.

"Let's go."

Benjamin went up to her and held her outstretched hand.

"Don't fret!" Benjamin comforted her.

"Sure!"

Arissa looked at him and asked, "What were all of you discussing earlier on?"

"The treatment course for Mary. We will do whatever that can be done here. For the rest of it, we may have to return to Dellmoor and get them done there!"

Arissa found that it was a good plan. She glanced at the direction of Tim before saying, "I'm worried he may not want to follow us to Dellmoor!"

After all, it must be difficult for Mary to leave her hometown, let alone a child. They would definitely find it hard to adjust to the new environment.

"Don't worry. I have an idea. For the time being, let them stay here first. We can only transfer Mary to another hospital when her condition has stabilized anyway."

Benjamin analyzed the situation for her, and Arissa agreed.

Chapter 490 Together With Mary And Tim

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse were walking behind them along with Ethen and Bradley.

Zachary let out a sigh. "Just now, Mommy was upset!"

Oliver chimed in, "Should we explain everything to Tim?"

Gavin looked at them and said, "I don't think we should. At least, not now. Let's wait until Mdm. Mary gets better before we say anything!"

They were equally upset when they saw their mommy getting distressed. However, they could not bear to see Tim feeling terrible either, so they decided not to push Tim too much.

Jasper said, "We can discuss with Mommy and see when it will be a good time to tell Tim the truth!"

The five children were thinking the same thing.

"Not only does Tim not allow Mommy to hold his hands, but he doesn't hold ours too. Tim doesn't only do it to Mommy!" claimed the observant Jesse.

Her four brothers nodded and agreed with her.

Bradley and Ethen found their discussion amusing.

Bradley told them, "It's easier for all of you children to mingle around. Try to talk to Tim more often. Once he is comfortable with all of you, that's when you can tell him the truth. That way, Tim will feel better too!"

Ethen echoed, "That's a good idea. Don't be as straightforward as your daddy!"

The five children turned and looked at Ethen.

Ethen burst out laughing and told them how Benjamin talked to Tim that morning.

The mouths of the five children twitched. "Daddy must have scared Tim!"

Finally, all of them caught up and kept Mary accompanied while she had her checkup done.

Even her own son could not be bothered to be there. Yet, she had only known those people for less than a day, and they were more concerned about her health than her own flesh and blood.

When Mary went in to get her CT scan done, Tim was not allowed to follow her, so Arissa and the children stayed with him.

"Don't worry."

Arissa comforted Tim as she kept her eyes on him.

"Tim, Mdm. Mary will be out very soon!"

Gavin explained, "When I was young, I did this before too!"

Tim blinked before looking at him.

Arissa caressed Gavin's head too. "It's my fault for not looking after all of you well."

Gavin hugged his mommy and said, "Mommy, my ill health has nothing to do with you. Don't blame yourself."

Arissa sniffled and felt very sorry for them.

"Mommy, don't get emotional. Calm down. Be the strong woman that we know you are."

When Zachary saw that she was about to break down, he quickly calmed her down because he was worried that she might faint again.

Arissa did not know how to react to that. "Sure!"

She took a look at Tim and noticed him evading her eyes. She felt better.

"Don't worry. There are so many doctors attending to Grandma. She will be fine!"

Tim kept a close watch on the door. He was biting his lower lip, and there was a worried look on his tiny face. The helplessness on his face was heartbreaking.

"Tim, we will be with you. Mommy and Mr. Graham will definitely find the best doctors to treat Mdm. Mary. Don't be sad."

Jesse held onto Tim's hand and felt that his hand was much smaller than all her other brothers. Her eyes teared up immediately.

When Tim saw that Jesse was about to cry, he whispered, "I'm fine."

Seeing that Tim seemed to have accepted Jesse, Arissa was relieved.

She then signaled to the rest of her children.

They caught on and went up to Tim.

Jasper said, "Tim, Mdm. Mary will surely be all right. Don't think too much. Mommy always likes to think too much. That's why her health isn't so good."

Arissa wondered. Hmm... what kind of comparison is that?

Oliver asked, "Tim, other than Mdm. Mary, is there anyone else in your family?"

Tim blinked his eyes. He did not want to mention Raphael, but he was Mary's son after all. There was nothing he could do about it.

"I still have an uncle. He is Grandma's son."

When Arissa heard about that person again, she asked Tim out of curiosity, "Sweetheart, where is your uncle now?"