

The More the Merrier Chapter 417

Chapter 417 No One Dared To Tell The Truth

The kids were plagued by guilt and fear of being scolded, so they felt a little better when they saw Benjamin comforting them instead of scolding them.

"Is Gavin really okay?" Zachary asked.

Benjamin cast a quick glance at Gavin, who was lying on the bed, before nodding at them. "Yeah, he'll be fine. Mr. Bailey is an amazing doctor, after all."

Shaun was nearly touched to tears when he heard Benjamin's compliment, but he was so busy treating Gavin that he didn't have time for such emotions.

Darius sat down beside Gavin and slowly loosened up his fingers that were tightly curled.

"We were scared witless when Gavin fainted all of a sudden, Mr. Graham!" Jasper sobbed.

Benjamin pulled him into his arms and wiped his tears dry before giving the other kids a hug.

"Don't be scared. Everything will be all right."

Zachary slowly calmed down when he saw that the adults were all present, especially with one of them being a doctor.

"Kids, did any of you say anything to Gavin before he fainted?" Benjamin asked.

Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper fell silent due to their guilty conscience.

"Did you guys say something you shouldn't have?" Jesse asked while glaring at them.

Would it be too much if we tell Daddy that he won't be able to find our missing brother anymore?

The three of them exchanged glances before Zachary, being the leader of the three, spoke up hesitantly. "W-We were talking about where the evil woman took Gavin... Maybe it reminded him of some unpleasant memories, so he couldn't stand it and fainted..."

As Zachary really did feel guilty, his act looked so convincing that Benjamin suspected nothing at all.

"Don't worry. Gavin will be fine," he said reassuringly while patting Zachary on the head.

"When will Gavin wake up?" Jesse asked with tears in her eyes.

"Gavin is asleep after receiving an injection, so he won't be waking up so soon," Benjamin comforted her before turning toward Shaun to ask, "Is Gavin all right?"

"He's fine. Good thing it wasn't anything serious. His body was tensed up due to extreme stress and emotions, that's all," Shaun explained.

Benjamin caressed Gavin's cheek, feeling relieved that his jaw wasn't tightly clenched anymore.

Meanwhile, Arissa woke up from her sleep all of a sudden.

Feeling an inexplicable sense of anxiety when she saw no one in the master bedroom, she quickly went out looking for her kids.

"Gavin! Zachary! Oliver! Where are you, my sweethearts?"

Arissa felt relieved when she found them inside the room. However, her relief was soon replaced by panic the moment she saw Gavin lying on the bed with Shaun, Benjamin, and Darius sitting beside him.

"What happened to Gavin?" Arissa asked worriedly as she rushed over to the bed.

"Gavin is fine. He just got a little stressed out, that's all," Benjamin replied with a frown when he saw that she didn't have any shoes on.

Arissa frowned when she saw how pale Gavin's face looked.

"Dr. Bailey, is Gavin really okay?"

"He's fine, Mrs. Graham. Don't worry. He'll be all right when he wakes up," Shaun reassured her.

Benjamin pulled her aside and said, "Go put some shoes on first. The floor is really cold."

Arissa nodded. "What happened to Gavin? Why was he stressed out?"

"They say he was reminded of some unpleasant memories of the past," Benjamin replied.

Still unconvinced, Arissa turned toward Zachary and asked, "Sweetheart, what happened to Gavin?"

"What Daddy said is true, Mommy."

Naturally, Zachary didn't dare to tell Arissa the truth.

Mommy has just woken up a while ago, so she probably can't handle worrying about Gavin too much. I don't think her heart will be able to take it if I tell her that our missing brother is most likely gone forever!

"Gavin is fine, so you should go put some shoes on," Benjamin said as he helped her to her feet.

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Chapter 418 Were You Home This Whole Time

Arissa ignored Benjamin and made her way over to the bed. "I'm staying here with Gavin!"

It pained her deeply to see her son lying there hooked up to an IV drip.

"You've only just woken up, so your body is still weak at the moment. How about you lie down in the same bed with him?" Benjamin advised her.

Realizing that everyone was looking at her worriedly, Arissa nodded and climbed into bed with Gavin.

"Get some rest, you two. Just let me know if anything happens," Shaun instructed as he adjusted the drip rate of the IV drip before packing his kit and leaving the room.

Darius then brought the four kids outside so as to not disturb Arissa and Gavin.

"Come on, let's go play downstairs."

"Okay, Grandpa."

Zachary glanced at Arissa to make sure she was feeling better before leaving with Darius.

Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse soon followed along.

Just like that, the room fell silent in an instant.

Noticing how Arissa was looking worriedly at Gavin, Benjamin poured her a glass of water.

"Here, have some water," he said while handing her the glass.

"How long has Gavin been like this?" Arissa asked as she took the glass over from him.

"Just a moment ago. He has already been given an injection, so he's fine now," Benjamin replied.

Arissa nodded and downed the glass of water in one go.

"Do you want me to pour you another glass?" Benjamin asked.

Arissa shook her head. "No, one glass is enough."

Noticing that Gavin still had a tight frown on his forehead, she reached out to loosen up his furrowed brows and gave him a kiss on the forehead.

"Sweetheart, I'll stay right by your side from now on, so no one will bully you ever again!" She then turned toward Benjamin and continued, "I'll look after him, so you can carry on with whatever it is you were doing."

"All right."

Benjamin headed over to the master bedroom after a brief pause.

Has Benjamin been home the whole time?

Arissa wondered as she pulled the blanket over Gavin's shoulders.

"Were you home this whole time?" she asked in surprise when Benjamin came back into the room later.

"Yes," Benjamin replied while looking up at her.

Arissa felt touched upon hearing that. "Were you also the one who brought the kids home?"

She was feeling guilty as she had promised to pick them up from school but ended up going back on her word.

"My father was the one who picked them up from school," Benjamin replied calmly.

Noticing the look of surprise on Arissa's face, he added, "They know that you're not feeling well, so they don't blame you for not picking them up from school. They even made sure not to disturb you while you were sleeping."

Arissa nodded in relief when she heard that, but felt worried when she saw how unwell Gavin looked.

Darius and Shaun tried to play with the kids downstairs, but none of them were in the mood to smile at all.

Eventually, Darius brought them into the kitchen and had them help prepare dinner.

Having something fun to do helped take their mind off the unpleasant situation, and their smiles slowly returned to their faces as they tried to make Gavin and Arissa the tastiest food possible.

Upon feeling something nuzzling against her chest an hour later, Arissa opened her eyes and saw that Gavin had woken up.

His face was still a little red as he snuggled his way into her embrace.

"Mommy!"

His adorable voice softened her heart up instantly.

Overjoyed, Arissa hugged him tightly as she exclaimed, "Sweetheart, you're finally awake!"

Gavin nodded, but he was still in a daze and struggled to figure out how he fell asleep.

"Are you feeling any discomfort anywhere?"

"Nope!"

Gavin shook his head, only to frown when he recalled what he was doing before he passed out.

Arissa felt her heart ache when she saw how upset he looked.

"It's all right, Mommy will protect you," she said while hugging him tightly.

Gavin froze in confusion as he couldn't understand why she would say that all of a sudden.

"I'm really fine, Mommy."

He only fainted because he got too worked up, but Arissa insisted on checking him for injuries anyway.

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Chapter 419 He Hates People Using Her Name

"I only fainted because I got a little too angry, Mommy!" Gavin exclaimed with his face red from embarrassment.

Arissa's heart softened up a little upon hearing that. "Are you sure you're not feeling unwell?"

Gavin nodded. "Yeah, I'm sure! How about you, Mommy? Are you feeling better yet?"

Arissa nodded as well. "I'm fine too. Do you want to carry on sleeping?"

Gavin shook his head. "I'm sorry for making you worry, Mommy."

"It's okay. I'm just glad you're all right," Arissa said while gently running her fingers through his hair.

She then carried him into the bathroom, sat him down on the chair, and began wiping his face with a wet towel.

"Where are Zachary and the others, Mommy?" Gavin asked when he realized he hadn't seen everyone else.

"They're playing with your grandpa downstairs," Arissa replied while washing her face.

"I'll go find them then, Mommy," Gavin said as he turned around and ran out of the room.

Arissa paused briefly in surprise, only to shake her head with a smile as she didn't think much about it.

She saw Benjamin busily working on something when she came out of the bathroom, but she called out to him anyway, "I'll be heading downstairs now, okay?"

Benjamin simply looked up at her and nodded before getting back to work.

Arissa then followed Gavin down the stairs, and everyone came rushing over the moment they saw him.

"Please don't scare me like that ever again, Gavin! I don't think my heart can take much more of this shock!" Shaun exclaimed as he gave Gavin a quick examination.

Gavin simply nodded at him in response.

"Are you all right?" Zachary asked worriedly.

"Yeah, I'm fine now. Looks like I really scared you guys, huh?" Gavin said apologetically.

"Yes, you did! You just stopped moving all of a sudden! Zachary was so scared that he started crying!" Jasper replied with a mischievous smile.

Zachary burned bright red from embarrassment upon hearing that. "You're the one who started crying first!"

"Exactly! Jasper had snot all over his face!" Oliver chimed in as well.

Darius, Shaun, and Edwin had smiles on their faces when they saw the kids having fun again.

"Old Mr. Graham," Arissa greeted as she made her way over.

"Are you feeling better? Go on and have a seat in the living room," Darius said as he continued to cook in the kitchen with an apron on.

This was the first time she had seen him looking like this.

"I'm feeling much better now, Old Mr. Graham. Why don't you go play with Gavin and the others instead? I'll do the cooking."

She couldn't bring herself to let an elder do the cooking while she rested on the sidelines.

"No, that won't be necessary. Edwin and I can handle this on our own. The kids were depressed because you and Gavin fell ill, so you should spend more time with them instead," Darius said while waving at her.

Arissa shifted her gaze toward the kids in the living room upon hearing that.

All five of them quickly looked away when they noticed her staring at them.

Thinking they were just embarrassed to admit it, Arissa simply smiled at them without thinking too much about it.

Unbeknownst to her, the kids were actually feeling guilty about keeping a secret from her.

"Why don't you stop worrying and just go play with them, Mrs. Graham?" Shaun suggested as he joined Darius and Edwin in the kitchen.

"Shaun, you need to stop calling me 'Mrs. Graham.' Just address me by my name," Arissa protested helplessly.

"Well, Benjamin doesn't seem to mind, so why are you complaining? In fact, he hates it when I address you by your name," Shaun replied with a chuckle.

As if they had just discovered a huge secret, the kids stared wide-eyed at them upon hearing that.

Arissa cleared her throat awkwardly and said in her most casual tone possible, "That's his business then, not mine!"

Not wanting to argue with her any further, Shaun simply flashed her a smile and went back to work in the kitchen.

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Chapter 420 Thank Daddy

The five children held Arissa's hands and led her to the living room. "Let's go there and play, Mommy!"

"Sure!" Arissa nodded and went with them.

After making her sit on the couch, the children started pouring her a glass of water, bringing her snacks, and offering her fruits.

Some of them even gave her shoulders a massage.

Arissa chuckled. "What are you guys doing?"

"You'd better eat something first, Mommy. We're still hours away from dinner time. I don't want you to feel dizzy," Zachary advised.

"He's right, Mommy. Please eat something. You don't want us to be worried about you now, do you?" Oliver knitted his brows.

Arissa grinned and responded. "All right. I'll eat something."

"Here, Mommy. Drink some water first!" Gavin gave her a glass of water.

Arissa took a sip and placed the glass right next to Gavin's mouth. "Here, Gavin. Drink some warm water too."

Gavin smiled and took a few sips.

Zachary could not believe his eyes. Did Gavin just drink directly from Mommy's glass? Isn't he a clean freak?

Upon noticing how shocked Zachary looked, Arissa raised her brows and asked, "What's wrong?"

Zachary giggled cheekily and replied, "Gavin just drank from Mommy's glass even though he's a clean freak!"

Arissa's mouth twitched, and she gave his son's forehead a light flick. "You find my mouth disgusting, huh?"

"Of course not, Mommy!" Zachary immediately grabbed the glass and gulped the rest of the water down.

Gavin grinned in delight. He had no problem sharing the same glass of water with Arissa.

Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse leaped forward and tugged on Arissa's arms. "We want to drink it too, Mommy!"

A glint flashed across her eyes. She smirked and asked, "What do you want to drink? Milk?"

The three little ones giggled.

"We don't want milk, Mommy. We're going to have dinner soon, after all," Jesse said in a sweet and soft voice.

Arissa could not help but pinch her little nose.

"I didn't get to pick you guys up after school. Please forgive me, okay?" she apologized.

"It's all right. We don't blame you. You didn't pick us up because you're sick. We understand that," Gavin said.

"Thanks, Sweetheart." Arissa gave him a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

Zachary and the rest, too, ran up to her, hoping to get a kiss.

One by one, Arissa planted a kiss on their cheeks.

Benjamin was pleased to see how Arissa interacted with the children. The corners of his lips curled up into a smile.

After watching them from the corridor upstairs for a moment, he turned around and left.

Sensing someone was looking at her, Arissa lifted her head to look around, but she did not see anyone.

She froze for a moment before telling the children, "Kids, why don't you bring some snacks to your Daddy too?"

The five children exchanged glances. None of them wanted to go up to see Benjamin.

While Gavin was still mad at Benjamin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper felt a pang of guilt. They were afraid that Benjamin might ask them what they were doing in the room earlier.

Jesse, too, dared not go upstairs since none of her brothers were willing to make the first move.

"Why don't you go instead, Mommy?" Gavin took a glance at Arissa. "When you were taking a jab, he was there with you. I'm sure he'll appreciate the snacks you bring for him."

Upon hearing that, Arissa could not help but sigh. She leaned forward and gently pinched the boy's cheek.

"Don't you blame Daddy anymore, okay? When you were sick, your daddy was super worried about you. He even stayed in the room to keep you company."

Zachary and the others could attest to that.

"Yeah. Mr. Graham was so worried about Gavin when he fainted," Jesse said.

She then turned to Gavin and said, "Mr. Graham was very, very worried about you!"

Zachary nodded in agreement, and he went on to describe how Benjamin looked at that time.

A surge of warmth filled Gavin's heart when he heard what Benjamin did for him.

Arissa stroked his head and said, "You should go and thank Daddy."

Gavin glanced at her and ask in a low voice, "Can you come upstairs with me, Mommy?"

Arissa grinned. "I don't feel like moving. So why don't you go alone? Remember to bring some snacks for your daddy, okay?"