

The More the Merrier Chapter 551

Chapter 551 No Trouble

Arissa glanced at the clock and was startled to find that it was already very late.

She went over to Mary. "What would you like for dinner, Mary?"

"Let's just eat at the hospital. As I'm not a big eater, there's no need to trouble yourselves for me."

Mary thought about the amount of food she had brought back at noon and felt it was a waste if she did not finish it.

"It's no trouble," Arissa said as she tucked Mary's quilt in for her. "We want some dinner anyway. There's no trouble in having you join us. I'm just happy to be able to care for you. Are you hungry now? I'm about to head to the hospital cafeteria to get a snack myself."

Mary shook her head. "I'm not hungry. I just had some breakfast food with you, remember? That hasn't even been digested yet!"

At that moment, Ethen entered with a big bag of food. "These are from Mr. Graham, Ms. York."

Arissa did not expect Benjamin to follow through with his promise. "What is it?"

"It's a delicacy around these parts." Ethen placed the box on the coffee table as he spoke. "These are for you and the children."

Arissa came over. "Is there anything Mary can have?"

"I asked Mr. Bailey. He said she could have these saltine crackers."

Ethen opened a packet and filled the whole ward with its fragrant aroma.

Though they looked like dessert crepes, these crackers were of the savory kind.

With a side of horseradish sauce and sprinkled with crushed peanuts and sesame seeds, it made for a very authentic and satiating snack.

Just looking at it made the children's mouths water.

Jesse swallowed. "Wow! It looks delicious!"

Ethen smiled. "There's more in there! Hurry up and have some, Ms. York. They taste their best while they're hot!"

Arissa nodded and gestured at Ethen. "Please, join us."

"Would you like to try some, Mary?" she said after bringing some back to the hospital bed.

Mary waved her hand. "Enjoy it, my dear. Don't mind me! I'm not hungry."

"Just a taste?" Arissa coaxed, aware that the older woman was simply being polite.

Mary gazed at the remaining crackers in the box. "Do you have enough for yourselves?"

"Plenty for all," Ethen replied with a smile as he beckoned the children to eat. "I bought enough for everyone to each have their own packet!"

Arissa sat beside the bed and fed Mary.

"Set up the tray, will you, Issa?" Mary requested with a gesture. "I can manage on my own."

"All right." Arissa agreed it would be at Mary's convenience to have a table, so she obliged the latter before continuing to feed Mary.

"I can't finish the entire packet," said Mary. "Leave me a few pieces, and you can have the rest. You can have some too, Tim!"

Mary told Arissa that as she spent most of her time lying on the bed, her digestion was so slow that she was still full from the snack she had had prior.

"All right, Mary."

Noticing Mary's uncomfortable squirming, Arissa obliged the old lady by apportioning a few pieces for her.

"Hurry up and eat it while it's hot! I'll do the same."

Mary picked one up and nibbled at it slowly.

Arissa watched her for a while. She only began to eat at Mary's second reminder.

She looked at the children and saw to her satisfaction that all six were seated and eating obediently.

"I'm going to see if Bradley is here."

Arissa walked to the door as she ate and found the corridor outside empty.

“Have you seen Mr. Hinton, kids?” She turned back and asked the children.

“Mr. Hinton?”

“Mr. Hinton was just here!”

“Did he go to the bathroom?”

The children exchanged confused glances.

Arissa pursed her lips. Turning to glance at the corridor again, she saw Benjamin engaged in discussion with Shaun, Kingsley, and several doctors.

She put her cracker down and hurriedly wiped the corners of her mouth before walking over.

“Why isn’t Mommy eating anymore?” Jasper wondered aloud as he hurriedly followed her to the door.

Oliver followed suit. Bringing with him his morsel, he leaned against the door to peek outside.

“Mommy went to look for Mr. Hinton!” Jasper announced, his interest piqued in an instant.

Oliver giggled.

“I don’t see anyone else. I’m positive that’s not where she went!”

Oliver glanced at Jasper as he spoke and deduced something from his brother’s expression.

The More the Merrier Chapter 552

Chapter 552 The Report

Jasper saw the doctors in white coats frowning when he got closer.

“Are they discussing Grandma’s illness? Let’s go have a listen!”

Oliver’s eyes flashed as he pulled his younger brother in the other direction.

“Where are you going?” Zachary shouted after their shifty figures.

"We're going to pee!" Oliver called back and ran in Jasper's wake.

"They're over there!" Jasper indicated to Oliver.

"We have to eavesdrop," Oliver declared as he took Jasper for a detour around the back, "they won't let us listen when they see us."

Meanwhile, Benjamin shot Shaun a look of warning as Arissa approached.

"There shouldn't be too many men standing guard over Mary's ward, Benjamin," Shaun said tactfully to change the topic. "She needs some quiet. A man or two should be all the help she needs."

"Good point." Benjamin looked at Arissa. "Tell her that."

"I heard you." Arissa glared back at him before turning to Shaun.

"Has Mary's examination report come out, Dr. Bailey?" she asked, anxious to find out beforehand if Mary's condition was severe.

Shaun glanced at Benjamin before answering Arissa, "It's out. Her condition is slightly more complicated than we anticipated."

Arissa became nervous. "What complications are we talking about here?"

Benjamin glared at Shaun.

"Mary's diabetes is more serious than my initial diagnosis," Shaun admitted, deeming it better to tell her the truth than to have her anxious imagination run amok. "Her other ailments are not easily treated as well, I'm afraid. Surgery is required to get rid of her kidney stones, for starters. Aside from those, the rest are just common symptoms of the elderly. Being as fragile as they are at that age, even the smallest bumps and bruises has the potential to become something much worse if left untreated."

"Are those the only two serious conditions?" Arissa urged.

Shaun nodded. "This is Mary's test report. Here, have a look."

Arissa took it from him. Skipping the jargon, she went straight for the summary.

"Mary has a pretty bad cough too," he continued. "Being a victim of bronchitis, her heart and lungs are more vulnerable than most. We have a gradual treatment plan, so it'll be a load off your shoulders. However, there is no cure for diabetes at this point, so the best course of action would be to control the disease."

Arissa nodded, thankful that that was the extent of it.

Carefully perusing Mary's physical examination report once more, Arissa read the details she had skipped earlier.

In addition to what Shaun said, Mary was also afflicted with gynecological inflammation, arrhythmia, and cerebral vascular sclerosis.

Arissa sighed.

Benjamin took the report in her hand before turning to Shaun.

"Work out the best possible treatment plan for her you can and let me know what you come up with."

Shaun nodded.

Kingsley and Bradley also sighed when they heard that Mary was so sick.

"I wouldn't worry too much," Shaun went on. "As long as sufficient rest is had post-surgery, Mary would still regain the health a person her age has the right to be. However, long-term consumption of medication is necessary to control her other diseases. Some may be cured, but others, such as diabetes, will never be."

"Right." Arissa nodded. That's not so bad. I'd expected it to be much worse.

"Dr. Bailey, can Mary return to Dellmoor for treatment?"

As Arissa was expected to be at work and to send her children to school, having Mary treated in Dellmoor would be the most convenient for her. Besides, modern medical amenities in the big city were more readily available.

Shaun maintained his smile as he gazed at Benjamin.

Arissa, too, was watching the man.

"Why don't two of you talk it over?" Shaun grinned uncomfortably. "It's not my place."

"Aren't you a doctor?" Arissa demanded hotly after an initially startled pause. "I'd say it is your place. What would he know? He isn't a doctor!"

Shaun was stunned at her bravado for daring to challenge Benjamin.

Though Benjamin was not an expert in medicine, Shaun was familiar with the former's capacity to learn. If Benjamin devotes himself to medicine, he will be a far greater doctor than I could ever be.

The More the Merrier Chapter 553

Chapter 553 My Boss Is A Pro

Even Kingsley couldn't stifle his laugh and teased Benjamin. "I guess there are still some things you don't know, huh?"

Benjamin scowled in response.

Ethen turned around, trying to conceal a smile.

Bradley merely shot Benjamin a glance and dared not laugh. Still, he greatly admired Arissa. My boss is such a pro!

"Can we change hospitals?" Arissa asked Shaun.

With a nod, Shaun turned to Benjamin and began to explain after seeing the latter remain silent.

"Yes, but you'll have to wait until Mary's condition stabilizes. If nothing critical happens from now until tomorrow, there won't be any problem changing hospitals. She'll just be transferring to Dellmoor, anyway, not to some other hospital in Northstream."

More From The Web



"Okay. I'll let Mary know."

Arissa nodded and returned to the ward.

"I'll come with you."

Benjamin followed her.

Arissa paid him no attention.

She could feel the man giving her an occasional glance, but she pretended not to notice.

"Are you upset?"

Benjamin's lips curled slightly at the sight of the woman looking angry.

"I'm not!" Arissa huffed.

"You look like a puffer fish with your cheeks like that," Benjamin remarked while pinching her face.

Arissa turned and glared at him. "Did you ask Shaun to hide the truth from me?"

Benjamin's brows knitted slightly. "Didn't you see the report?"

The woman pursed her lips. It was true she had seen it.

"Is Mary really okay?"

Seeing how worried she looked, Benjamin gave her cheek another pinch.

"She's fine. Shaun was telling you the truth. I initially told him not to, but that moron went against me anyway!"

Arissa's lips twitched. "Well, I would've found out sooner or later, wouldn't I? In fact, I can take better care of her now that I know how she's doing!"

"Look. You're frowning again."

Benjamin reached for her forehead.

Evading his touch, the woman turned and headed into the ward.

Inside there, she saw only Gavin, Zachary, Jesse, and Tim.

"Where are Oliver and Jasper?"

"They went to take a poop, Mommy," Zachary answered solemnly.

Nodding, Arissa stood next to Mary. "Is your head still hurting, Mary?"

"I'm much better now, thank you." Mary just had her IV needle removed.

Then, Arissa noticed how the green on the back of Mary's hand seemed to be spreading further. "Does it hurt here, Mary?"

"Yes, from the needle."

The elderly woman glanced at her hand. She had grown accustomed to its appearance.

"We have to do something about this." Arissa furrowed her brows tightly as her heart ached.

Will she be able to continue getting injected on this hand?

I can't even see her veins anymore.

Tim walked over with a frown.

"This always happens to Grandma, Ms. York. Whenever she gets hurt, her small injuries turn into big bruises. It takes about two weeks for the bruises to disappear," he elaborated, feeling Arissa's pain.

Arissa gazed at Mary in shock. "Is that true?"

"It is. I get large bruises just from bumping into something, and it takes so long to heal," the old woman replied, not thinking much of her condition.

Hearing that, Benjamin explained, "This is a sign of diabetes. Even a small cut takes a long time to heal. That's because when your blood sugar levels are too high, your white blood cells become less capable of fighting off infections.

Irregular blood sugar levels also cause your platelets to gather excessively at the site of an injury, which is good for stopping any bleeding, but not when it comes to healing. In fact, high blood glucose causes stiffening of your arteries and narrowing of your blood vessels, which then impair wound healing because of insufficient blood supply."

He continued, "Diabetes affects the nerves too, but it's worse on the legs. You'd feel numb and weak, and once you get hurt, you'd become increasingly less sensitive to pain.

All of these affect how your wounds heal. It's not as bad if you get an injury on the upper limbs; you'd probably just have a bruise. But if you get hurt on the lower limbs, every injury tends to grow into a large patch. Your entire calf could even turn black depending on how severe the injury is. These are what reduce your body's ability to heal wounds."

The More the Merrier Chapter 554

Chapter 554 Admiration In Their Eyes

"Just take care of yourself and try not to get hurt. It'd be hard to recover once you bleed," Benjamin concluded.

Arissa stared at him in awe.

How does this guy know so much?

Mary couldn't quite believe her ears. I have diabetes?

Meanwhile, the children's eyes were filled with admiration.

He's so smart!

However, Tim wasn't just amazed; he was also concerned. "Will Grandma get better, Mr. Graham?"

There was a pang in Benjamin's heart as he saw the anxious look in the boy's eyes.

"There's no way to cure diabetes at the moment, Tim," he answered while crouching down and pulling the child over. "We can only try to control it and keep her condition stable. It doesn't help that she's had this illness for a while now and that she's old, but Mr. Bailey has said that things won't get worse for her as long as she takes her medication for as long as possible."

Tim bit his lip. That means she'll have to go through this every day?

Benjamin caressed the boy's head. "Diabetes is a chronic illness. Taking long-term medication is the only way to deal with it."

Arissa gave Mary an assuring look, although the latter insisted she was fine.

Then, the younger woman came over to give her son a hug before shooting Benjamin a glare. "Couldn't you have put it in a gentler way?"

How worried this poor boy must be now!

Benjamin merely glanced at her. Mary wasn't in a critical condition, but he silently agreed to be more tactful with his words.

"Now that we've figured out the cause of Mary's condition, things will get better for her once she takes her medication. She won't have to suffer like she used to. She'll be much better for sure. We'll just have to take good care of her, make sure she doesn't get hurt, and keep track of her diet. She can live the same way we do!"

Tim nodded despite still biting his lip. He was just worried about his grandmother.

It pained him that Mary still had to go through such ordeals at her age.

The child walked over and held the old woman's ashen palm. "Don't be afraid, Grandma!"

Mary felt incredibly touched. "I'm not afraid. Haven't I gotten by all this while without any medication? Besides, your daddy just said this is a chronic illness. I'll be fine as long as I take more pills."

Tears threatened to spill from the sides of Tim's eyes, and the sight of that made Mary's heart hurt.

She reached out to wipe his tears.

“Don’t cry, silly! I’m not going to die!”

Arissa gazed at the old woman. Keeping a positive mindset was beneficial when one was ill.

“Trust in Dr. Bailey and his team, Mary. They’ll give you the best possible medication. In fact, you may even be able to stop taking medication if you get better. What matters most is to watch your diet. Try not to eat or drink anything that has a lot of sugar.”

Mary nodded in response. “I’ll be sure to watch what I eat.”

She then caressed Tim’s head. “Help me keep track of my diet, okay?”

“I will!” Tim nodded fervently, making a mental note.

Then, Arissa took his hand. “Go pour your grandma a glass of water.”

“Okay!” The boy quickly did as told.

“Get some rest, Mary.”

After tucking the old woman in bed, Arissa began to advise her on things she had to look out for.

“Diabetes is a serious condition, but you can get better as long as you’re treated on time. We’ll have to make sure you don’t catch a cold, though, because it’d also be difficult for a person with diabetes to recover from that..”

Benjamin walked toward the couch, his heart feeling relaxed from hearing the woman’s tender voice.

Gavin and the other children were more relieved after hearing his explanation of Mary’s condition.

“Is her condition really no big deal?” asked Gavin.

Benjamin turned to the children who now gazed at him eagerly.

“It won’t be as long as she follows through with her treatment,” the man answered with a slight nod.

Gavin beamed. “We’ll take good care of her!”

Then, Benjamin’s gaze fell on Zachary and Jesse.

“Don’t you two have to go to school?”

The three children instantly exchanged glances.

The More the Merrier Chapter 555

Chapter 555 Go To School

“We still have to go to school while we’re here?” Zachary asked in astonishment.

Benjamin felt tickled to see the children’s intense reactions, but he tried to play it cool and nodded expressionlessly.

“Of course.”

He couldn’t help but want to tease them. “I’ll get Ethen to take you to school.”

The children’s jaws fell to the floor.

“But we want to go to the school in Dellmoor!” Gavin was the first to protest.

It’s not like we’ll be here for a long time! Why do we have to change schools?

More From The Web



Benjamin stared at him for a few seconds.

This kid still hates going to school?

“Your brothers will go with you.”

A look of envy formed on Tim’s face as he heard Benjamin talking to the other children about school.

He wanted to go to school too, but he didn’t have the money.

“Will Tim be going too?”

Zachary gazed at Benjamin with puppy eyes before turning to Tim, who was in the midst of bringing his grandmother some water.

“Of course! All six of you have to go to school.”

Upon hearing that, Tim became so filled with excitement that the hot water from the glass began to spill.

Arissa rushed over and put the glass aside before wiping the water off her son’s hands.

“Does it hurt?”

Tim’s heart skipped a beat when he saw the woman use her own shirt to clean him up.

“No,” he answered, shaking his head.

Arissa then observed the boy’s hand. It’s not red.

Feeling concerned, Mary sat up too.

“Be careful, Tim!”

“Okay!” The child nodded obediently.

Benjamin gazed at him deeply as the other children ran toward him.

“Did you get hurt, Tim?”

“No.” Tim shook his head.

Arissa blew on his hand before turning to leave.

Tim stared at her, not knowing where she was headed.

“Where are you going, Mommy?”

Jesse ran after her, but she was just too quick.

“Mommy didn’t wait for me!” he exclaimed after returning to the ward.

“I guess she went to get some ointment for your hand.”

Zachary understood Arissa well and immediately knew where she had gone off to.

Tim was visibly surprised. “But I’m not hurt.”

Zachary smiled. “The water didn’t hurt you, but you’d still feel better after using some ointment.”

Tim glanced at him before turning his attention back to Mary and giving her the glass of water. "Be careful, Grandma."

"Use a straw."

Gavin placed a straw into the glass for Mary.

"I'll help myself," the old woman remarked, feeling touched by the children's kindness.

Meanwhile, Arissa spotted Oliver and Jasper while making her way to Shaun's office.

"Where are you going, Mommy?" The children ran toward her.

"Tim scalded his hand, so I'm getting him some ointment."

"Is it serious?" they asked, their faces filled with worry.

"No. He just got some hot water on his hand," the woman answered before quickly walking away. "Get back to the ward."

The two boys glanced at her before returning to the ward.

"Is your hand okay, Tim?"

They quickly took their brother's hand and eyed it.

"I'm fine," Tim replied, feeling moved. "How did you know?"

Jasper grinned. "We bumped into Mommy just now. She's gone to get you some ointment."

Tim's eyes lit up as he turned to Zachary. He was right!

Zachary smiled at him.

"Wash your hand with some cold water, Tim. Mommy will be back real soon," he urged.

Tim shook his head. "It's just a slight burn. It doesn't hurt anymore."

"Come over here, Tim!"

Benjamin walked out of the restroom with a handkerchief and called out to the boy.

Seeing how stern the man looked, Tim walked toward him obediently.

"Mr. Graham?"

