

## The More the Merrier Chapter 556

### Chapter 556 Tim Wants To Go To School

Benjamin looked down at the boy before kneeling, pulling the latter's tiny hand over to him, and wrapping it with the handkerchief.

"Be careful next time." The man's voice became much gentler.

"Okay."

The child blinked, feeling the man's concern for him.

Benjamin then walked out of the ward while continuing to hold Tim's hand.

"Where are we going, Mr. Graham?" the boy asked in confusion.

"To see your mommy."

•

Benjamin shot him a glance.

Tim remained puzzled. But she'll be back soon.

Still, he agreed to follow the man.

Gavin and the other children watched as the two left, their eyes widening.

"Mr. Graham can't leave Mommy alone, can he? He just doesn't want to admit it!" Jasper exclaimed with a sigh, imitating the way adults spoke.

"Right? She'll be back real soon, but he can't even wait another second," Oliver chimed in while adjusting his glasses.

"Does Mr. Graham like Mommy now?"

Jesse stared at her older brothers with her large eyes.

Mary chuckled upon hearing the children's conversation.

"Isn't Mr. Graham your daddy? Why do you still call him Mr. Graham? Is he not together with your mommy?"

She had initially thought Arissa and Benjamin were a married couple, but after spending more time with them, she soon noticed that the two didn't seem as close as husband and wife should be.

"Mommy's not with Mr. Graham," Jasper remarked with a smile.

"They're not together?" Mary was bewildered.

"Nope. Mommy only came back to Chanaea a while ago," Gavin explained. "She and Daddy barely knew each other, and she was just working at Daddy's company. They only started talking to each other more after she found me."

Mary was still in the dark. Does that mean Issa became pregnant before marriage?

That poor girl. It must've been so hard for her, having to raise four kids on her own.

Her heart broke for Arissa.

"Your mommy must've worked so hard to raise you on her own."

Zachary nodded. "It was hard for her, but things are better now. Don't feel like you're troubling Mommy, okay? She'll be sad if you do."

Mary was touched. "Okay. Thank you, children. I'm so thankful for your mommy too. She's so much better than my good-for-nothing son!"

"We'll take good care of you from now on. Don't you worry!"

Jesse beamed at her, looking utterly adorable as she revealed a toothless smile.

"Okay." Mary was beyond elated.

"We shouldn't disrupt her sleep," Gavin reminded his siblings before turning to Mary. "Get some rest for now."

With a nod, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse sat next to the old woman.

Mary was delighted to see that.

Meanwhile, Benjamin had left the ward with Tim not to look for Arissa, but because he had something to discuss with the boy.

He carried Tim to a chair on the hallway and sat down.

The child glanced up but quickly looked downward after meeting Benjamin's gaze, feeling nervous.

What does he want to talk about?

Benjamin stroked the boy's head.

"Tim."

"Yes?"

Tim looked up again, only to hastily avert his gaze once more.

Seeing how nervous the boy looked, Benjamin put on a gentler demeanor.

"Have you been to school, Tim?"

Tim shook his head and kept his head low. Many other kids from the village don't go to school.

Even those who do would only start going when they're seven. I'm not old enough.

There are people who do send their kids to kindergarten, though. But we can't afford it.

It costs a few thousand per semester. That's way too much.

I still have to make sure Grandma gets treated. Will there even be enough money for me to go to school when she gets better?

But I want to go to school like other kids do.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 557**

Chapter 557 Benjamin Signs An IOU With His Son

Feeling sorry, Benjamin carried his son and seated him on his lap.

"I'll let you go to school, then. Do you want to?" he asked gently.

Tim nodded before hurriedly shaking his head.

Benjamin was befuddled.

"Do you want to go, or do you not want to?"

The boy bit his lip. "I don't want to. I want to look after Grandma."

Benjamin was glad to see how thoughtful and appreciative this child was.

“There’ll be other people looking after your grandma, but you’re at the age where you should be learning. This isn’t something you should hold back on. I’ll sign you up for school so you can go with Gavin and Zachary, then you can keep your grandma company after your classes are over.”

Tim was visibly fazed, but he still worried about Mary.

“Who will look after Grandma?”

Benjamin noticed the boy’s concerned gaze. “There’ll be nurses and your mommy to care for her. If you’re still worried, I can get the butler to look after her at the hospital too. She’ll also have Mr. Bailey and the other doctors tending to her, and they’d be any time better than you taking care of her!”

Tim pondered for a moment and frowned. “Won’t it cost a lot of money?”

I can’t afford to hire so many people to look after Grandma.

Benjamin smiled. “It’s definitely going to cost a bit to look after a patient, but an amount like this means nothing to me. You don’t have to worry!”

Tim gazed at the man seriously. “I can’t squander your money like that... How about this, Mr. Graham? Lend me some money, and I’ll return it when I start making my own. You can also charge me interest. Is that okay?”

Benjamin froze in surprise. This kid even knows about interest charges?

“Sure.”

To ease the boy’s unsettlement, he could only agree.

Then, Tim flushed slightly. “I don’t know how to write, Mr. Graham. Could you write up an IOU? I’ll sign the document with my thumbprint. I promise I won’t bail!”

Benjamin turned to a bodyguard, signaling him to do as requested.

Arissa returned after getting some ointment only to spot the father-and-son duo seated outside. She didn’t know what they were up to, but she had arrived just in time to see Tim placing his thumbprint on a piece of paper.

The woman strode over.

“What are you two up to?”

Tim immediately tensed up as his face turned crimson.

Benjamin glanced at her before putting the IOU away. "Nothing."

However, Arissa swiftly grabbed the piece of paper from him.

She exploded upon reading its contents.

"Are you that shameless, Benjamin? How could you sign an IOU with your own son? You should be the one paying for all this, to begin with! Why are you being so calculative?"

She was so close to calling him a cheapskate.

Benjamin merely frowned and said nothing.

"No, Ms. York! I'm the one who asked to sign the IOU, not Mr. Graham. Please don't blame him!"

Tim hastily tried to clear up the misunderstanding.

"You wanted to sign it?" Arissa asked in shock.

She then glanced at both the father and son.

"Yes." Tim nodded gravely.

The woman shot Benjamin a glare in response to the smug look he was giving her. Why didn't he say so earlier?

Then, she carried the boy and began to rub the ointment on his hand.

"I can afford to pay for your grandma's treatment, Sweetheart," she explained. "You don't have to borrow money from him."

Tim stared at her. "It's okay, Ms. York. I'll make lots of money when I grow up."

Seeing how determined the child looked, Arissa felt relieved yet heartbroken at the same time.

What a kind boy he is. He's always thinking about others.

Benjamin leaned into her ear and whispered, "If he wants to borrow money, let him. It's not like I'll ask him to repay me."

Arissa gave him a side glance.

He hinted at her to respect the boy's decision.

With that, the woman sighed internally before turning to the child in her arms.

“Do you feel better now, Sweetheart?”

Tim nodded. “Thank you, Ms. York.”

Arissa ran her fingers through his hair before carrying him back into the ward.

“Does Grandma have other illnesses aside from diabetes, Ms. York?”

The woman gave her worried-looking son a peck on his forehead.

“Nothing serious – just some common issues that many older people have.”

She didn’t want to tell him too much, lest he grew even more fretful.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 558**

Chapter 558 Too Spoilt

Tim looked at the woman. “Really?”

“Yup. Mr. Bailey and his team will take a close look at your grandma’s condition and find out the best way to treat her. When that happens, she’ll slowly get better, and she won’t be as sick as she is now,” Arissa assured patiently, hoping to make the boy feel better.

“Thank you, Ms. York!”

Arissa couldn’t resist his smile. “You’re welcome. It’s all thanks to your daddy. He’s the one who brought together such a wonderful team of doctors!”

Tim turned in Benjamin’s direction. Despite answering a call, the latter kept his eyes on the mother and son.

“Thank you, Mr. Graham!”

Benjamin nodded in response.

Arissa glanced at the man who had picked up the phone before turning away and carrying Tim back into the ward.

After eating dinner with Mary, she then had Benjamin take the six children back to the hotel to rest.

“Let’s head back and get some rest. Shaun and Kingsley will be here keeping watch.”

While speaking, Benjamin gave Shaun and Kingsley a glance.

Kingsley opened his mouth and wanted to disagree, but he ultimately kept his mouth shut.

Meanwhile, Shaun was Mary's attending physician and had to stay either way, so he was amused to see how stumped Kingsley looked.

"You can keep me company!" he exclaimed, patting his friend on the shoulder.

The latter merely shot him a glare.

"There's no need for that. You should all go home and rest. There'll be nurses to check on me, no?"

Mary didn't want to trouble them.

"It's fine, Mary. I'm always up late," Kingsley urged nonchalantly. "Besides, I can also get some shuteye after you've fallen asleep. I've looked after my grandfather, so I'm kind of experienced!"

Then, he turned to Benjamin and Arissa. "You can all head back."

With that, Benjamin bid Mary goodbye before returning to the hotel with Arissa and the children.

That was Tim's first time being away from the old woman, and he stared out the window at the hospital while seated in the car.

Arissa patted his head as she saw that. "Don't worry. The doctors will do a far better job taking care of your grandma compared to us! She wouldn't be able to sleep if we were still there, anyway."

Hearing that, Tim bit his lip, still unable to stop thinking about Mary.

"Have you never been apart from your grandma, Tim?"

Seeing how the boy looked close to tears, Zachary struck up a conversation in an attempt to distract him.

Tim nodded. "We've been apart before during the day, but never at night..."

He had to work for money during the day while still in the village, so being apart from Mary was only necessary.

"Why don't you think of now as daytime, then?" Oliver suggested.

“Why did you have to be apart during the day?” Jasper asked.

Tim pursed his lips, choosing not to tell them the reason.

“Don’t worry, Tim. I’ve been apart from Mommy before too, but I wasn’t scared because all my brothers kept me company. So even if you’re not with your grandma now, you still have us. We’re here with you, and so is Mommy!” Jesse assured while hugging Tim’s arm.

Zachary couldn’t help but chuckle. “Jesse, have you forgotten how you cried this morning just because you couldn’t find Mommy?”

The little girl turned scarlet immediately.

“You cried because Mommy wasn’t around?” Gavin felt sorry for his sister.

Jesse lowered her head and glanced at Gavin sheepishly.

“I-I just wasn’t used to not having Mommy around...”

Unable to contain her laughter, Arissa stroked the girl’s head lovingly.

Benjamin gazed at the mother and her six children before focusing on Jesse’s flushed face.

This kid is way too spoilt.

Still, he couldn’t help but feel guilty upon hearing that the girl had cried because of Arissa’s absence this morning. It was his fault.

The man also used to treat her poorly before learning that Gavin was not his only child. He even accused the other children of not belonging to him.

“You’ll always be with your mommy from now on,” Benjamin declared to the children.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 559**

### **Chapter 559 Eating Supper With Sunglasses On**

Jesse was thrilled to hear that. “Mommy! Mr. Graham says we don’t have to be apart anymore!”

Arissa beamed and tousled the girl’s hair before glancing at Benjamin.

“You’d better not forget what you just said, Graham.”

Benjamin gazed at her in amusement. Why does she keep doubting whatever I say?

Have I ever gone back on my word?

“Tim, are you hungry?”

He turned to the boy.

“Nope.” Tim shook his head.

“I’m hungry, Gavin!” Zachary yelled. “Will you buy us food?”

Oliver grinned and turned to the oldest boy slyly. “Your treat, Gavin!”

He grew up with Mr. Graham, so he’s definitely loaded!

Gavin merely smiled at his brothers. “Daddy will pay for our food.”

Benjamin huffed. “Your brothers are asking you to buy them food, but you’re shoving the responsibility to me? How are these two the same?”

“They’re not! My money belongs to me, but your money isn’t ours,” the boy argued.

Benjamin’s lips twitched in response. How is my money not theirs?

“You wouldn’t mind buying us supper, would you, Graham?”

Seeing how the children wanted to have supper, Arissa gave Benjamin a wink.

“What do you feel like having?” the man asked, his gaze softening instantly.

The children were stunned by his sudden change in demeanor.

He’s so biased!

“What do you want, Sweethearts?”

Arissa turned to them.

“Can we go to a marketplace? We’ll only know what we want after taking a look at what street food there is!” Jesse said coquettishly.

Arissa glanced at her before turning to the other five children.

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper nodded in agreement.

“Okay. To the marketplace it is!” she answered cheerily. “Let’s go grab some supper, Tim!”

Seeing that everyone was going, Tim nodded.

Arissa looked forward to taking him to enjoy some street food.

Benjamin instructed the chauffeur to take them to a marketplace.

As soon as they arrived, he frowned at the surroundings.

“Let’s go somewhere else,” he remarked with disdain.

“Why? All marketplaces are the same,” Arissa insisted. “They’re actually very clean, even if there are lots of people!”

She wasn’t overly particular about cleanliness.

“Let’s get supper, Sweethearts!” she exclaimed, carrying each child out of the vehicle.

Gavin and Zachary each took Tim’s hand, while Oliver held Gavin’s and Jesse’s. Jasper also linked hands with Jessie.

The six children stood in a row hand-in-hand.

Arissa was tickled to see that, and she tugged onto Gavin’s hand. “Stay close with each other, Sweethearts!”

“Got it!” the kids replied in unison.

The woman was beyond proud to see her six adorable children looking exactly like one another.

Benjamin had no choice but to follow them since they had already exited the car, and he walked closely behind Jasper.

Not accustomed to being around so many people, the man extended an arm toward a bodyguard, who then hurriedly removed his sunglasses, gave them a wipe, and handed them to the former.

Benjamin put the sunglasses on before taking Jasper’s hand.

Turning around to see him, Jasper let out a titter.

Benjamin gazed down at him.

“What’s so funny?”

Jasper merely chuckled again.

Then, Jesse, Oliver, and Zachary began to laugh too.

Even Tim’s lips couldn’t help but twitch.

Glancing at Benjamin, both Gavin and Arissa pursed their lips, trying to suppress a laugh.

Benjamin raised an eyebrow upon noticing their expressions.

“What’s with those looks?”

Arissa coughed. “Why are you wearing sunglasses at night, Graham? Are you sure you can see?”

With a narrow of his eyes, Benjamin removed the sunglasses and handed them to her.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 560**

Chapter 560 Being Poor

“Why don’t you put them on and find out?”

Noting the serious look on his face, Arissa skeptically took the sunglasses and put them on.

To her surprise, she could see clearly.

These weren’t regular sunglasses; they were dark, but they could easily be used at night.

She returned them to Benjamin.

I’m so ignorant.

“Sorry. Being poor has stifled my imagination,” she sighed.

Benjamin didn’t know how to respond.

Meanwhile, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper let out another giggle.

“Do you like these sunglasses, Mommy? I’ll buy you a pair.”

Gavin looked up at her and smiled.

Arissa caressed the boy's head. "But I don't like wearing them at night."

"You can wear them during the day. You looked so pretty wearing them just now, Mommy," he gushed.

Arissa chuckled.

There was nothing more delightful than being praised by one's own son.

"I'll be waiting for you to buy me a pair, then!"

She couldn't say no to such a gift.

Benjamin turned to her with knitted brows. "I have another pair in the car."

This kid sure knows how to sweettalk his mom, huh?

Arissa cast him a glance. "I prefer one given to me by my son."

Benjamin pursed his lips.

Gavin stifled a laugh at the sight of his father being rendered speechless.

Tim eyed the sunglasses Benjamin was wearing. Mommy does look good in them.

He then snuck a glance at Arissa. Mommy really is pretty!

Noticing the boy's gaze, Arissa turned to him and flashed him a radiant smile.

Tim blinked shyly before hastily looking away.

The woman's smile widened as she saw the boy's adorable side.

Then, she took the kids into the marketplace.

Many looks of envy fell on the six identical children.

Then, those same eyes turned to the children's parents, both of whom had beautiful facial features.

Most people there gazed at the children, but there were also many who couldn't stop staring at Arissa and Benjamin.

However, they couldn't observe Benjamin's looks clearly enough since he had sunglasses on, so a larger number of people would glance at Arissa instead – especially the men.

Benjamin's eyes narrowed. Those sunglasses he wore helped to conceal his sharp gaze, but his presence remained overwhelming.

The men who noticed him staring at them dared not keep their eyes on Arissa for too long.

Benjamin sized the woman up.

Her long hair cascaded down her back as she wore a white T-shirt with ruffled sleeves and a pair of culottes. Her silky, flawless skin added to her youthfulness.

Then, the man gulped as his eyes wandered down to her small waist, rounded hips, and slender legs.

He scowled upon noticing all the men turn around to look at Arissa as they walked past her.

"Get my coat," he ordered the bodyguard from before.

"Yes, Mr. Graham!" The guard quickly returned to the car.

The children didn't know what Benjamin was up to.

"Are you cold, Mr. Graham?" Jesse inquired.

"I'm not."

Passersby began to mutter among themselves, "So, he's not their dad? They're not his kids?"

Benjamin's face fell even more. Are you all blind? Can't you see they're the spitting image of me?

Hearing those words, Arissa turned to Benjamin in amusement, only to suppress her glee upon noticing his darkened expression.

"What do you feel like eating, Sweethearts? I'll buy whatever you want." She turned to the children.

"Mommy, I want ice-cream!"

"Can I get sausages?"

“Oxtail soup for me, Mommy!”

“Barbecue skewers, please!”