

The More the Merrier Chapter 506

Chapter 506 Absolute Sweethearts

Arissa wished to accompany her son, but she knew he felt a little uncomfortable when she was around.

Thus, she decided to stay away for a bit or she might have the urge to feed him more food.

“Thank you, Ms. York!” Tim piped up gratefully.

“You’re welcome!”

Arissa fondly stroked Tim’s head before addressing Benjamin, “Sit with him while he takes his breakfast. I’m going to visit Mdm. Mary.”

Benjamin mumbled an acknowledgment of her words.

Meanwhile, Jesse declared, “I’ll sit with them while they eat breakfast, Mommy.”

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As she spoke, she ran toward Tim and sat beside him, shooting him an eager stare.

Arissa smiled and said, “Don’t keep staring at your Tim, Jesse!”

“Oh!” Jesse looked away briefly before returning her stare to Tim.

Benjamin stared at the adorable girl and waved her over, calling out, “Jesse! Come and sit beside me.”

She glanced at her father before replying, “I like Tim. I want to sit with him.”

Her rejection rendered Benjamin speechless.

Meanwhile, Arissa stared at them one last time before she turned and left. She headed to the neighboring ward to check in on Mary.

Zachary, Oliver, Gavin, and Jasper greeted her at the same time, “Mommy!”

Arissa chastised, “Don’t be so loud. You’ll disturb Mdm. Mary. She’s not feeling well.”

“Nonsense! They’re not noisy at all. I feel much better with the children around. They liven up the room!” Mary immediately defended the children.

Smiling, Arissa replied, “You should get some rest, Mdm. Mary.”

Then, she poured the elderly woman a glass of water and added, “Keep yourself hydrated! You’re going for an ultrasound first.”

Mary nodded and drank the water.

Arissa then turned her attention to her children and asked, “Sweethearts, have you all seen Mr. Bailey?”

“Mr. Bailey just left!” Gavin continued, “Mommy, are you looking for him?”

She nodded and explained, “I’ll look for him and see if we can bring the check-up forward.”

“I’ll get him, Mommy!” Zachary offered and ran out the door.

He shouted, “Mr. Bailey! My mommy’s looking for you!”

Arissa was tickled by her son’s actions. Soon enough, Shaun strolled into Mary’s ward.

“Mrs. Graham! Are you looking for me?”

Unamused but too lazy to correct the way he addressed her, Arissa asked, “Can Mdm. Mary go for her ultrasound scan now?”

“Yes. We can bring the test forward. I’ll make the arrangements.”

After replying to Arissa, Shaun approached Mary and asked, “Do you need to use the restroom, Grandma? We’ll begin with the ultrasound scan shortly.”

“Yes, I think I’ll need a trip to the restroom.”

Mary had not gone to the restroom since waking up that morning. The doctor had informed her last night that the staff needed to inspect her urine and feces from then on.

“All right! We’ll go now.”

Shaun supported Mary as she got out of bed, and Arissa stepped forward to help out.

Her four sons steadied the wheelchair for Mary.

Arissa cautioned, “Be careful, Mdm. Mary!”

She and Shaun gently placed the elderly woman in the wheelchair.

Arissa wheeled Mary out of the ward just as the latter reminded, "My crutches!"

Gavin rushed forward with the crutches and said, "Here they are, Mdm. Mary!"

Arissa turned toward her four sons and corrected, "All of you should address Mdm. Mary as Grandma."

Then, she asked, "Why don't you all stay in the ward instead of following us?"

"We want to go too!" Zachary piped up.

Oliver and Jasper both nodded in agreement and said, "We'll follow Grandma!"

Arissa smiled and shook her head wordlessly at her children's behavior. She turned and wheeled Mary out of the ward after Shaun.

"Mommy, should we tell Tim?" Gavin lifted his head and asked Arissa.

She shook her head and replied, "No. He's still eating breakfast."

Her eldest son nodded and smiled. "Okay, let's not disturb Tim while he's having breakfast."

Just then, Shaun turned around and offered, "Why don't I help Mdm. Mary alone?"

Arissa shook her head and insisted, "It's fine. It's not hard labor!"

Their sincerity warmed Mary's heart.

She asked, "Why did you come over so early in the morning? You should sleep more, Issa. Aren't you tired?"

Arissa explained, "I fell asleep once I got home. When I woke up to use the bathroom, I felt refreshed and couldn't fall back asleep. Hence, I decided to prepare some breakfast and visit the hospital earlier."

"We can't eat much. You could've bought something along the way. It must've been exhausting for you to cook for us in the morning!" Mary exclaimed.

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Arissa merely replied to Mary, "It's not tiring, Mdm. Mary. I have to prepare breakfast for Gavin and the rest anyway, so it was no trouble to make a little extra! Gavin and Zachary helped out too. Don't worry about it!"

Mary smiled at the young woman's efforts to reassure her.

Once they arrived at the examination room, Arissa accompanied Mary inside.

Mary advised, "Why don't you wait outside, Issa? The doctor and nurse will tend to me."

"It's fine. I don't have anything else to do, so I'll sit with you."

Arissa promptly refuted Mary's arguments and assisted the old woman onto the hospital bed under the doctor's instructions.

She eventually sat with Mary throughout the entire examination while Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper waited outside.

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Outside, Shaun reminded the four boys, "Be good boys while you wait here. I'm going to check on Mdm. Mary."

He did not trust the doctor in this hospital to do a careful enough job of examining Mary.

Gavin quickly piped up, "Don't worry, Mr. Bailey. Hurry on inside!"

He promised he would look after his younger brothers.

Shaun glanced at them before telling a bodyguard to keep an eye on the boys. Then, he entered the examination room.

Once he was inside, he coaxed, "Please relax, Mdm. Mary."

He also checked the ultrasonogram.

At the same time, Shaun caught the doctor's attention and pointed at the ultrasonogram, "Move the wand a bit. Look over here!"

Arissa grew nervous as she observed Shaun frowning and appearing more serious.

She would have asked if something was horribly wrong if Mary was not in the room.

The examination was completed ten minutes later. Arissa cleaned the ultrasound gel off Mary's abdomen and helped her to her feet.

She also asked, "Can Mdm. Mary use the restroom now, Mr. Bailey?"

"Right, remember to collect samples of her urine and feces," reminded Shaun.

Arissa grabbed Mary's crutches and assisted the woman as she walked.

Meanwhile, Mary knitted her brows and asked Shaun, "Were there any major issues during the examination?"

Calmly, Shaun answered, "Everything's fine. There might be some inflammation, but it's not a big deal."

That earned him a disbelieving stare from Mary, which prompted Shaun to insist, "Everything's really fine. It's just some inflammation. We'll need to do some more tests to check on everything else."

With that, Shaun hastily helped Mary to hobble out of the room.

Arissa coaxed her, "Don't worry, Mdm. Mary. Let's just focus on the tests for now!"

"All right!" Mary nodded in response.

After helping Mary into the restroom, Arissa left to retrieve some sample cups.

Still, she called out worriedly, "Can you support yourself in there, Mdm. Mary?"

"Yes!"

Mary received the sample cups from Arissa and entered a cubicle. "Just wait outside, Issa!"

"I'll wait here. Once you're done, pass the sample cups to me under the cubicle door. I'll hand it to the doctor for further tests."

At the same time, Arissa explained the usage instructions of the sample cup to Mary.

Horrified by Arissa's lack of disgust, Mary sputtered, "It's fine. Really, I'll do it myself! It's too dirty."

Arissa merely smiled and reassured her, "It's fine. Don't hold it in for too long, Mdm. Mary. It's not good for your body."

Mary eventually relented and collected her urine and feces samples.

“Once you’ve urinated, Mdm. Mary, pass me the urine sample cup first. Be careful not to spill it.”

“I’ll give it to the doctor!” Mary did not want Arissa to dirty her hands touching the sample cup.

Arissa stood her ground. “It’s fine. Quick, pass it out to me, or I’ll stay in the restroom until you do so!”

Alas, Mary lost their argument, and she capped the sample cup tightly before handing it to Arissa.

The younger woman placed it in a basket before calling out, “Have something to clean your hands, Mdm. Mary!”

Then, she passed two pieces of wet wipes under the cubicle door.

“All right, Issa. Off you go now!”

Mary immediately urged her to leave after receiving the wet wipes.

“You have enough tissues inside, right?”

Arissa only left with the urine sample cup after Mary’s confirmation.

She shouted, “Just wait for a bit once you’re done, Mdm. Mary. I’ll be back in a jiff!”

With that, Arissa finally left the restroom.

Shaun was waiting right outside the door and said, “You can hand it to me.”

He was surprised that Arissa did not mind touching the sample cup at all.

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Chapter 508 Do You Dislike Me

Arissa asked Shaun softly, “Were you telling the truth about Mdm. Mary’s examination? Is everything really okay?”

“Yes!” Shaun nodded firmly and replied, “Once Mdm. Mary comes out of the restroom, bring her back to the same examination room as before. We have more tests to conduct.”

Arissa nodded. As a woman herself, she immediately knew what tests Shaun was referring to.

However, Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper shared looks of confusion.

Jasper was the first to ask, "Mommy, hasn't Grandma finished her tests? Why does she need to do it again? Will she still need to hold in her pee?"

Oliver tacked on and questioned, "Yeah, Mommy. Aren't all the tests done?"

Gavin and Zachary stared at her expectantly as well.

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Arisa felt awkward about explaining things to them, and she chastised them, "You're just kids. Don't ask so many questions!"

"We're asking because we don't know!" Jasper mumbled before pouting.

His reaction drew a smile out of Arissa, who declared, "I'm going into the restroom to check on Mdm. Mary."

"Okay. Don't worry, Mommy. We won't run off!" Gavin promised earnestly.

His sense of responsibility relieved Arissa to no end.

She glanced at the four kids one last time before hurrying into the restroom.

"Are you done, Mdm. Mary?"

"Not yet! Just wait for me outside!" Mary added, "I'll shout for you when I'm done!"

"Sure!" Arissa left the restroom and waited outside with her children.

Back in Tim's ward, the young boy glanced at Benjamin shyly before muttering, "I'm full now, Mr. Graham. I want to look for Grandma!"

Benjamin stared at Tim and noticed the concern in his expression. Nonetheless, he placed a breakfast platter before the boy and cajoled, "Have some more of these. If you aren't well-fed, your mommy will nag my ear off later!"

"Eat a little more, Tim. Mommy, my brothers, and even Mr. Bailey are looking after Mdm. Mary. Don't worry!" Jesse chimed in to coax her brother to eat.

Tim stared at them before eating a small omelet. Then, he claimed he was full and asked to see Mary.

Benjamin mussed the boy's hair and said, "You need to pay attention when you're eating!"

His stern expression frightened Tim into silence.

Benjamin sighed softly when Tim obediently ate his breakfast.

Jesse, who hid behind Tim, shot Benjamin several furtive glances.

Her behavior caught her father's attention, and he arched his brow while asking, "Was I that scary?"

The little girl hastily shook her head, drawing a chuckle out of Benjamin.

He asked, "Why are you hiding?"

Jesse thought to herself, I'm scared of you!

Her silence prompted Benjamin to drop the topic. He did not want to scare the kids further with his questioning.

Just then, Ethen entered the ward with some breakfast in hand. He was surprised to see that Benjamin had almost cleared his plate.

"Mr. Graham, have you and Tim eaten?"

"We're eating now." Benjamin glanced at his assistant and ordered coolly, "You can share the breakfast with the other staff!"

"Noted!" Ethen nodded and left, but not before casting a brief look at the two children and Benjamin.

"Ms. York is here? She's so early!" Ethen's comment caught Benjamin's attention, and the latter replied, "She brought breakfast for us."

The corner of Ethen's lips twitched with amusement as he asked, "Why didn't you say so earlier, Mr. Graham?"

I had to travel so far to get breakfast fitting for Mr. Graham's picky palate.

Benjamin raised a brow and retorted, "I didn't know she would come with breakfast!"

His response rendered Ethen speechless.

Still, Ethen was smart enough not to continue challenging his boss on the topic, and he wisely strolled over to the bodyguards to share the breakfast.

It was nothing short of a feast, and they gladly enjoyed the meal.

Once Tim had eaten as much as he could, Benjamin allowed the boy to leave.

“You can look for your grandma now.”

Tim immediately sped toward the neighboring room.

Alarmed, Benjamin called out, “Walk slowly! You just ate.”

Thankfully, the young boy slowed his pace, and Jesse ran up to him to hold his hand.
“Let’s go together, Tim.”

Unaccustomed to physical closeness, Tim pulled his hand out of Jesse’s grasp.

His sister was devastated and stared at him with red-rimmed eyes.

“Do you dislike me, Tim?”

Her pitiful expression would cause anyone’s heart to ache.

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Chapter 509 An Adorable Younger Sister

Tim was taken aback by Jesse’s tears. He hastily explained, “No, no, it’s not that!”

He caught her hand, and Jesse smiled happily at him. She exclaimed, “My brother doesn’t dislike me!”

Tim’s heart softened at her adorable proclamation. At the same time, he reached out to wipe away the tears on Jesse’s lashes.

He used to envy Nathan for having a younger sister, yet now he had one of his own, who was as cute as a doll.

Tim was upset at himself for making his sister cry.

“Don’t cry, okay! I like you a lot!” he flushed slightly as he cajoled Jesse.

Jesse’s eyes sparkled with joy, and she squealed, “Hehe, my brother likes me! Did you hear that, Mr. Graham? He likes me!”

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She could not resist sharing her excitement with Benjamin.

“Yes, I did!” came Benjamin’s reply.

He was relieved that the two children had made up.

It’s obviously more effective for the children to approach Tim instead of we adults.

Meanwhile, Jesse wrapped her arms around Tim’s neck and said, “I like you too, Tim. I like you very, very, very much!”

She planted a sloppy kiss on his cheek, causing her brother to blush further.

“Let’s look for Grandma, Tim!”

Jesse now clung to Tim’s arm and began walking outside.

“Okay!” Tim replied sweetly before trailing his sister.

The neighboring ward was, however, empty when the two children arrived.

“Grandma!” Tim yelped in concern.

Jesse wondered out loud, “Where is she?”

Her gaze roved over the empty room as she comforted him, “Don’t worry, Tim. Maybe Mommy brought Grandma elsewhere for some tests!”

“You’re right.” After calming himself down, Tim realized it was highly likely that Arissa had accompanied Mary to an examination.

Jesse turned to stare at Tim and piped up, “Why don’t we ask Mr. Graham?”

“Okay!”

Tim led her back to his ward to find Benjamin. A question niggled at his mind, and he asked, “Why do you call your daddy Mr. Graham?”

Jesse shot him a mysterious smile and returned, “Do you want to know why, Tim?”

He nodded curiously.

Jesse giggled and said, “We call him Mr. Graham because we haven’t acknowledged him as our daddy!”

Her explanation merely confused Tim.

Noticing his expression, Jesse added cutely, "Let's look for Mdm. Mary. I'll tell you more about it later!"

Then, she ran into the ward and spoke to Benjamin. "Mommy and my brothers are missing, Mr. Graham. So is Grandma!"

Tim chimed in, "Did they go for some tests?"

Benjamin got to his feet and stroked Tim's hair. "I'll call your mommy and ask her about it."

He quickly dialed Arissa's number, and she picked up after the phone rang for some time.

"What's going on?"

Her gentle voice drifted through the receiver. Benjamin asked, "Did you bring Mdm. Mary away for some tests?"

"I did. She's doing an ultrasound at the gynecology department."

"Which floor is that?" Benjamin shot Tim a reassuring glance while he awaited Arissa's reply.

"It's near the consultation rooms on the fourth floor!"

"Okay. We'll be there in a bit." He hung up after that.

Benjamin addressed the kids, "Mdm. Mary is doing some check-ups. I'll bring you to see her."

As he walked out of the ward, he scooped both children into his arms.

Tim uttered softly, "Mr. Graham, I can head over there myself. Just let me know where she is. You should have your breakfast."

Benjamin lowered his head and glanced at Tim. "I'm full!"

The young boy met his stare before settling in the crook of Benjamin's strong arm. Tim felt safe in his hold.

Meanwhile, Jesse chimed in, "You haven't finished your breakfast, Mr. Graham!"

She spoke as softly as she could, still frightened after Benjamin's rather stern expression earlier.

Benjamin dismissed their words by replying, "Your mommy prepared too much food. I can't finish everything."

Then, he set off with the kids in search of Arissa, who sat outside Mary's examination room with the other four children.

Arissa walked forward to greet Benjamin and the children when they arrived.

She asked, "Have you all taken breakfast?"

Benjamin nodded and explained, "Tim's looking for Mdm. Mary, so I brought him here."

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Chapter 510 Her Hug Is Different

Arissa nodded as she ruffled Tim's head.

"Don't worry, Sweetheart. Your grandma is just getting some checks done."

Tim nodded obediently.

"Thank you for accompanying Grandma."

"You're welcome."

Arissa answered with a smile, "Mary is your family, which means she's also my family. Let's accompany her together."

She gently caressed Tim's face lovingly.

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Tim blinked his eyes as warmth spread through him.

"I'll carry you, okay?"

Arissa saw Benjamin had been carrying Tim and wanted to carry him for a change. I didn't get to carry him at all.

Tim lowered his head as a response, and Arissa's heart sank with it.

However, Tim nodded his approval a few minutes later.

Arissa's mood brightened again with excitement.

She immediately retrieved Tim from Benjamin's embrace with glee.

"Sweetheart, I've been wanting to carry you for a while now."

Throwing any concern out the window, Arissa planted a few kisses on Tim's cheeks.

"Sweetheart, I finally get to carry you."

Tim shrank into her embrace as he was not used to anyone being so close to him, especially his long-lost family.

However, Arissa's kisses didn't repulse him; instead, they made him feel warm.

"Control yourself. Don't scare him."

Benjamin was carrying Jesse when he reminded Arissa.

Arissa shot Benjamin a glance, then continued pecking Tim's face.

With a few kisses on the left cheek and another few on the right, everyone could see how much Arissa adored Tim.

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper laughed, watching their mom's antics.

"Mommy, you're going to scare him," Zachary reminded Arissa to restrain herself.

"Tim is braver than that, am I right?" Arissa asked Tim as she caressed his face.

Her gaze was trained on Tim's blushing cheeks.

He's too dark. I need to make him fairer.

Tim ducked his head with shyness and stayed stiff. Their concern and Arissa's adoration moved him.

Ms. York's embrace is different from Mr. Graham's. She smells nice and warm.

The warmth Tim felt spread all over his body, feeling the closeness intensified.

Arissa adoringly pinched Tim's cheeks. "Have you eaten, Sweetheart?"

Tim nodded shyly. "Yes, I have."

Arissa flashed him a gentle smile. "That's good."

She continued to carry him and studied him with glee in her eyes, unwilling to part with him.

“Ms. York, can you put me down?”

Tim was worried he would be too heavy and Arissa’s arms would hurt from carrying him.

“Ah, Oh!”

Arissa snapped out of her action and begrudgingly let Tim down.

“Mr. Graham, I want to go down too.”

Benjamin bent down and let Jesse get down on the ground at her request.

Jesse instantly ran toward Tim, grabbed his hand, and showed him off to her four brothers.

“Tim told me he liked me earlier when I was up there.”

“Really?”

Jasper was surprised and drew closer to them. Looking at Tim, he asked, “Do you like me, Tim?”

Tim focused his gaze on Jasper and nodded.

Jasper’s eyes went wide with delight as he turned to the rest of his siblings to brag excitedly.

“Did you guys see that? Tim said he liked me too.”

He turned to Arissa. “Mommy, Tim likes me too!”

“Yeah, I saw that.”

The corners of Arissa’s lips were tugged into a smile as she watched the kids getting along just fine.

“Tim, do you like me then?”

Not wanting to be left out, Oliver reached for Tim’s hand and asked.

Tim admitted softly, “I like all of you.”

Gavin’s and Zachary’s smiles grew wide at Tim’s revelation.

“We like you too, Tim!”

At that time, Mary came out.

“Mdm. Mary!”

Arisa immediately rushed to Mary’s side to help her onto the wheelchair.

“Sit tight, Mary. We need to go have your blood drawn.”

All the other checkups were done and having her blood drawn was the last on the list.

Arisa pushed Mary over to the next examination room.

“Let me take her, and you take the kids.”

Benjamin went up to Arissa and took over the wheelchair.

Arisa smiled when she saw Benjamin stooping down to do that kind of task.

“Okay, here you go.”