

The More the Merrier Chapter 641

Chapter 641

Chapter 641 Do You Like My Mommy

Jasper's cheeks puffed up indignantly. "Did you all leave me behind?"

"Didn't we ask you if you wanted to come?" Arissa pinched his cheek affectionately.

"Don't even think of abandoning me, Mommy," Jasper cried as he ran after them. "I want to go home!"

"Come on," Arissa said as she beckoned the children to go downstairs. "We'll come back here on our next vacation. I'll bring you around then!"

The five children nodded happily as they bounded down the stairs after her.

Meanwhile, Benjamin turned to Bradley. "What did she say to you earlier?"

Bradley glanced at Benjamin hesitantly, not as outspoken as he was in front of Arissa.

"She asked me if I found anything out about Tim's living conditions."

Benjamin narrowed his beady eyes at him. "What did you tell her?"

Bradley shook his head hurriedly. "Nothing. She wants me to spend the next few days digging."

Benjamin appeared satisfied by that answer.

"Don't let her find you!"

Bradley was dumbstruck.

"Coincidentally, Mdm. Mary is going to have a house built. I'm placing you here to keep an eye out."

Benjamin gave the order as if Bradley was his employee, not Arissa's.

"All right," Bradley replied. "How long should I remain hidden from my boss, Mr. Graham?"

Benjamin frowned. "Until her condition improves. I will tell her myself and you won't have to hide from her then."

Bradley stared at him. Isn't she in a good enough condition now?

Before he could respond, Benjamin saw Jasper tumbling down the stairs and disappearing outside before he could make sense of it.

He strode over to the other adults and found Kingsley, Shaun, Mary, and Ethen similarly baffled.

Benjamin glanced at them. "What happened to Jasper?"

They shook their heads in confusion. "Not a clue. We only saw him come downstairs and run out."

Benjamin followed him out and saw the boy crawling onto the plane.

He frowned and quickly got on the plane with a frown.

Benjamin raised his eyebrows at the boy easing into a seat and buckling himself in. "What's going on?"

Jasper looked up as an idea occurred to him. "Mommy doesn't want to take me back!" he wailed.

Startled, Benjamin sank into the seat next to his son and stroked the child's hair. "Why?"

Jasper pouted and met the man's gaze. "Mommy doesn't want me anymore!"

Benjamin laughed. "Out of all the people in the world who may not want you, your mother is the least likely one to!"

That woman is devoted to her children!

Jasper hid his smugness by scoffing in disdain. "All you do is say good things about Mommy."

Benjamin was helplessly amused at the boy's angry frown.

"I'm telling the truth!" he persisted gently, stroking the boy's hair as he did so. "Your mother is simply teasing you. She doesn't dislike you, I promise. Don't be angry, or your mommy will be sad."

Jasper looked at Benjamin with widened eyes. "Are you afraid that Mommy will be sad, Mr. Graham?"

Benjamin glanced at boy. "Are you?"

Jasper pouted. "I asked you first," he muttered in a low voice, "and you're asking me?"

The corner of Benjamin's mouth curled slightly upward.

Jasper stared at him. "Do you like my mommy?"

Benjamin was caught off-guard. A trace of embarrassment flashed across his handsome face.

"Do you think she likes me?"

Jasper scowled. "It's so hard to talk to you, Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin caressed the boy's head before turning to the bodyguards stationed outside. "Have them prepare to leave."

"Yes, Mr. Graham!"

The bodyguard hurried into the house to relay the instructions.

Soon after, Arissa descended the stairs with the five children and was puzzled to see no trace of Benjamin and Jasper.

"Have you seen Jasper come down?"

"He came down earlier," Kingsley replied as he sipped his tea leisurely. "Benjamin followed him."

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Chapter 642

Chapter 642 Jasper Is Fast

Arissa nodded. "Get something to eat, Sweethearts. We'll be heading back soon."

"Yes, Mommy."

The five children hurried over to join Kingsley's table.

"What happened to Jasper earlier?" Shaun asked with concern.

Arissa laughed. "He must have been afraid I would leave him behind."

"No wonder Jasper runs so fast!" Ethen laughed.

Arissa sat next to the children and helped herself to one of the pastries. She also brought some for Mary.

She only managed a few bites before the bodyguards informed them they were ready to depart.

"I'm not done yet!" Kingsley protested before glancing at the time. Sure enough, they have been seated for less than ten minutes.

"We'll pack it up and eat on the journey," Arissa instructed before leaving to procure some containers with Bradley and Ethen lending a hand.

"We're going to help you up the plane, Mdm. Mary."

Draining his tea in a gulp, Kingsley got up to push Mary's wheelchair.

"All right." The old lady looked at Arissa and the children. "I'm boarding the plane now, Issa."

"All right. We'll be ready soon," Arissa responded as she apportioned the food before her. "There's no need to pack these. We saved these for you, Bradley. Take care of yourself while you're here!"

Bradley nodded at her words. "Don't worry."

After hesitating for a moment, he cleared his throat. "Mr. Graham asked me to oversee the construction of Mary's new house, Boss. It may be impossible for me to return to Dellmoor for a while."

Arissa nodded in relief.

"All right. Keep up the hard work of supervising here."

Bradley seemed to sink with defeat. "Can't you at least pretend to be reluctant to part with me, Boss?"

Ethen laughed. "You would be in big trouble if Mr. Graham heard that, Bradley."

Bradley attempted a weak smile. "Don't you rat on me. When is the person you'd arranged for going to be here, anyway?"

"Tomorrow at the earliest. I'll call you then!" Ethen patted him on the shoulder. "Thank you for keeping an eye out over here!"

Bradley walked them out.

The five children said goodbye to him one after another. "Bye, Mr. Hinton! We are going home!"

"See you, children!" Bradley smiled dotingly. "Give me a call when you think of me!"

"We will!" Zachary promised at once.

"Let us know if you ever need anything. We'll mail it to you!"

Bradley was moved. "That's very kind, children. Send me snacks when you get back, will you? There's nothing delicious in the canteen here!"

Arissa glanced at him. "Have you been to the grocery store?"

Bradley cursed to himself. D*mn! I'd underestimated the boss' observational skills again.

"I was there earlier today when I received your call, Boss."

Arissa merely stared at him. Instead of responding, she decided to beckon the children onto the plane.

"We're off, then. Give me a call if something happens!"

At that final instruction, she followed the children up the plane.

"Don't worry, Boss," Bradley replied with a smile.

After a hasty farewell to him, Ethen, too, boarded the plane.

Jasper was waving at Bradley from the window.

"Goodbye, Mr. Hinton!"

Though the glass was made of thick, soundproof glass, Bradley heard him through a crack in the door.

He turned and returned the wave.

"I miss you already," he called, "visit me again sometime!"

Arissa gave him an amused look before leading the five children into the cabin.

Jasper immediately ran to Benjamin to sit beside him at his mother's appearance.

Perplexed, Arissa glanced at each of them in turn.

Benjamin was on the phone with somebody from his office.

After leading the five children to their seats and buckling them in, Arissa checked Mary's seatbelt before taking her seat.

Benjamin frowned at the distance she placed between them.

After double-checking that the passengers have all been seated, the bodyguards closed the cabin door.

Ethen patrolled to ensure everybody was properly buckled in before informing the pilot to take off.

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Chapter 643

Chapter 643 Relocation Of The Family

Bradley was visibly crestfallen as he watched them until the aircraft disappeared behind the clouds. I wanted to return as well.

However, he was determined to make the best of his temporary solitude for the happiness of his employer by thinking of it as a vacation.

"Goodbye, Boss! Goodbye, children!"

Gavin recognized the waving figure as Bradley when the aircraft turned. "Mr. Hinton is waving at us!" he cried.

Though all of them looked out the window, only Zachary managed to see the speck on the ground. The other four children could not see a thing.

Arissa, too, craned her neck and saw Bradley waving reluctantly.

She smiled. "He probably won't be able to stand being here alone!"

"Let's send Mr. Hinton some snacks when we get back, Mommy," Jesse suggested with a toothy smile.

"We'll do that." Arissa stroked her daughter's head while her eyes remained worriedly fixed on Tim and Mary.

Several minutes into the flight, she seemed to ease up in relief upon seeing that the pair of them were in less discomfort than she had initially anticipated.

"Are you dizzy, Grandaunt?"

"Not anymore," the old lady replied with a smile. After experiencing it once before, she found it much more bearable this time.

A sudden loud roar of the plane's engine as it accelerated made Mary jump.

Arissa chuckled. "Not to worry! It's just the plane picking up speed."

"Mmm, so that's what it was." The old lady grinned abashedly.

"It wasn't just you, Grandma," Jasper piped up as he giggled. "I jumped too!"

Arissa shot him a glance.

"I was scared as well," Tim admitted to Jasper.

The children exchanged glances before bursting into peals of laughter.

The adults could not help smiling at the sight of the raucous children.

Arissa covered Mary with a blanket as she called out to her children. "Aren't you cold, children?"

The six of them shook their heads.

"No we're not, Mommy."

Arissa fed Mary some water.

"You don't have to fuss over me, my dear," the old lady said. "Get some rest."

"In a minute," Arissa replied with a smile and drank a little water herself.

“Have a sip, children!” she said as she handed them the jug.

Benjamin’s eyes were fixed on her. “Aren’t you cold?”

Arissa glanced at him. “Not at all.”

Benjamin nodded.

After the children had their fill, they squeezed against the window and watched the scenery outside curiously with Arissa in their midst like a hen with her flock.

“Do you think that mountain looks like a man lying down, Mommy?”

“It does, doesn’t it?”

“Look over there, Mommy! That cloud is beautiful!”

“Wow! You could see all the colors in the rainbow!”

Arissa was even more excited than the children as she scrambled to take pictures with her phone while calling out to them.

“Look over there! There’s another rainbow cloud!”

Even Kingsley, Shaun, Ethen, and Mary craned their necks curiously.

“It’s beautiful!”

“The clouds must be sending their regards for locating our brother, Mommy!”

Hah! That’s very kind of them.”

“Have you seen a cloud more beautiful than this, Tim?”

“I’ve seen a double rainbow!”

“You have? I’ve never seen two together!”

From time to time, the warm conversation between Arissa and Tim reached Benjamin’s ears and made him smile with genuine pleasure.

His deep eyes, tinged with a rare instance of tenderness, fell on her beautiful face brightened with child-like excitement.

Kingsley caught Benjamin staring at Arissa. He bumped his elbow against Shaun’s arm to signal the latter to take a look.

Ethen noticed it as well. The sight of Benjamin's soft spot made him smile.

"Mr. Graham appears infatuated," teased Kingsley despite the envy in his eyes. "I get goosebumps just looking at him!"

"Don't you want Mr. Graham to be happy, Mr. Watts?"

"Oh, I'm sure Mr. Graham will be thrilled after getting lucky!"

Kingsley grinned slyly and placed a heavy emphasis on the final two words.

Grasping his meaning within seconds, the corners of Shaun's mouth twitched.

"Not too loud, or Benjamin will drop you out of the plane without a parachute. I won't be able to help you then."

Benjamin turned his gaze at them at that moment and caught Kingsley's eye. The latter's lips immediately gave way from a mocking smile to a flattering one.

"Would you like something to eat, Benjamin?"

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Chapter 644

Chapter 644 A Flying Demonstration

Benjamin's eyes darkened a little.

"Leave some for Gavin and the others."

Kingsley smiled. "I will. Are you afraid that I would finish everything and leave Arissa hungry?"

Shaun and Ethen snickered.

After glaring at Kingsley, Benjamin turned his gaze toward Arissa and the children. Upon seeing that they were indulged in their own amusement, he took out his laptop and began attending to work.

Shaun gave Mary a drip which soon put her to sleep.

Finally tired of seeing nothing but clouds, the six children returned to their seats.

Except for Tim, the other five were already drowsy.

“Close your eyes for a bit, Sweetheart. Home is still a couple of hours away.”

“Yes, Mommy.”

Tim nodded obediently and settled into his seat. Too excited for sleep, his gaze danced about restlessly before finding the door to the cockpit.

Arissa tucked in the edges of Mary’s quilt and covered the children with a blanket. Noticing Tim’s curious stare, she squatted in front of him.

“Would you like a tour of the cockpit, Sweetheart?”

Tim’s eyes lit up.

“Oh, may I?”

“Of course you may.”

Arissa nodded as she undid his buckle and picked him up in her arms.

Catching her quiet movements out of the corner of his eye, Benjamin shut his computer before getting to his feet to take Tim from Arissa’s arms. He then headed for the cockpit ahead without a backward glance.

“I’ll take him!”

Arissa shook herself out of her startled reverie and strode up after them, who were already engrossed in a deep discussion on aircraft mechanics as they made their way toward the cockpit.

The corners of her lips curved upward at Benjamin’s patience in explaining the structure of the plane to her son, and at the rapt attention on the latter’s face.

The man’s low voice held her spellbound. So intent was her concentration that Arissa had even learned something new.

The pilots turned to greet Benjamin when they arrived at the cockpit, who gestured at them to carry on as he continued his discourse with his son.

Tim pointed at something. “What does that do, Mr. Graham?”

Benjamin turned to the direction the child indicated. "That's the brake valve."

Tim stared at him. "Can you fly a plane too, Mr. Graham?"

The boy was fascinated with the way Benjamin seemed to know everything.

Benjamin nodded. "I do indeed."

Tim's bright eyes sparkled in admiration.

Benjamin tousled the boy's hair and had the pilot give up his seat before handing Tim to Arissa.

She took his son and asked with a smile, "Are you going to fly the plane?"

Benjamin glanced at her. "For several miles, yes."

Without waiting for her approval, he put on his headphones, got into the pilot's seat, and took the yoke in his hands.

Tim's curiosity was so intense by that point that nothing could make him tear his eyes away from Benjamin.

Arissa watched the man in the pilot's seat and thought privately about how handsome he looked when he was frowning with attention. A haze of infatuation made her eyes appear more watery than usual.

The bodyguards tactfully stood aside and did not interrupt the moment.

"You will learn to fly a plane when you're a little older, Sweetheart," Arissa said softly to the boy.

Tim stared at Benjamin longingly. "Is it difficult?"

"I'm sure it's not," Arissa assured her son. "To be a good pilot, however, you would need lots of practice and a professional certificate."

Tim nodded earnestly. "I will study hard!"

Arissa kissed his cheek proudly. "I know you will be an excellent pilot in the future."

Tim stared at Benjamin's hands as if trying to commit every movement to memory.

After a stretch, Benjamin stood up and had the bodyguard take over.

“I’ll give you lessons when I have some time freed up,” he declared as he tousled the boy’s head.

Tim was beside himself with excitement. “I can’t wait!”

Noticing that his son was still keen on exploring the cockpit, Benjamin took the boy in his arms.

“Go back for some rest,” he said to Arissa, “I’ll show him around.”

Arissa pouted. “I want a tour too!”

Benjamin raised his eyebrows. “Do you really?”

Flustered by the intensity of his gaze, Arissa froze for a moment before staring pointedly ahead.

“We should leave the flying to the professionals.”

Benjamin’s eyes flashed. This woman sure knows a lot.

“We should have a competition one of these days.”

Arissa looked at him in astonishment. “Over what?”

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Chapter 645

Chapter 645 Back To Dellmoor

Benjamin’s eyes flashed. “Over who’s a better pilot.”

Arissa laughed. “I don’t even know how to fly a plane!”

“You are suspiciously humble about it. Are you afraid I might find out how good you actually are?”

Benjamin stepped closer as he spoke. His warm breath brushed over her ears and made them numb.

Arissa's cheeks flushed against her will. She edged away as little as she dared and smiled awkwardly upon meeting Tim's curious gaze.

"Enjoy yourselves, boys. I'm heading back." She turned to return to the cabin.

Tim blinked. Could Mommy be shy?

Benjamin's deep eyes followed Arissa. They only lowered to the boy in his arms after she disappeared from sight.

"Shall we return as well, Tim?" Benjamin asked in a slightly raised voice upon noticing that his son was also staring at Arissa.

Tim nodded. "Yeah, let's head back!"

Benjamin lifted him as they went in Arissa's wake. Spread luxuriously across his father's broad shoulders, Tim gazed longingly at the cockpit.

Upon returning to her seat, Arissa shut her eyes for some much-needed rest.

Sensing Benjamin's return, she opened them again and found the man seated next to her with their son in his arms.

"Give him to me!" She reached out with both arms.

Benjamin glanced at her. "Weren't you just about to take a nap?"

Tim glanced at Benjamin. "I can sit by myself, Mr. Graham," he whispered.

Benjamin looked down at his son. "As you wish, then," he said before getting up and placing the boy in the seat he had previously occupied before buckling him in.

When he turned around, he saw Arissa craning her neck to gaze at their son.

Benjamin reached out and playfully rapped her forehead with his knuckles. "What are you looking at? Go to sleep!"

Arissa rubbed her forehead and glowered angrily at him.

"Cover Tim up with a quilt."

Benjamin went away to procure a quilt to drape over the boy. "Get some sleep, Tim," he murmured. "It'll be over another hour to get home."

Tim nodded obediently and burrowed himself further in his seat before looking around.

Benjamin caressed his head lovingly and covered Arissa with another quilt before resuming his seat.

She was touched by his gesture.

Arissa stole several glances at the man throughout the plane ride. When Benjamin began to work, she became even more emboldened to stare at him.

Look at those cheekbones. Even axes aren't as sharp as they are. However, his regal presence is even more exciting than his appearance.

The longer she studied his cheeks, the hotter hers became.

Benjamin felt her gaze and turned his head in her direction. His gaze deepened at the sight of her flushed cheeks.

Returning to her senses abruptly, Arissa was horrified to find the man's fiery gaze catching her in her act.

Her heart throbbing with panic, she hurriedly looked away while ignoring her burning ears.

Benjamin's thin lips curled into a smile at her embarrassment.

Arissa's pulse quickened further still at the man's unrelenting gaze.

Instinctively reaching for her phone for something else to do, she was dismayed to find it turned off for the flight.

Detecting a movement in her peripheral vision, Arissa looked up and saw Benjamin waving a tablet at her.

"You can watch a movie!" he mouthed.

Arissa reached outward and took it from him. After a quick glance at the children, she found them all, Gavin and Zachary included, sound asleep.

Even Tim's eyes were beginning to droop.

Allowing the child to succumb to his drowsiness, Arissa put on earplugs and watched a movie alone, with Benjamin lost in work next to her.

At some point through the movie, Arissa fell asleep.

Benjamin noticed that she was cramped in her seat in such a way that would guarantee a neck cramp when she woke up.

Without hesitation, he leaned her body against his and rearranged the quilt over her before resuming work.

Arissa's steady breath tickled him from time to time as it brushed against his chest through the gap in his shirt buttons.

Benjamin's dark eyes narrowed as he felt his own breathing instantly disrupted.

Glancing at the soundly sleeping woman and her peaceful expression, he could not help noticing how attractive her cheeks looked with their natural pink tinge when she became excited. He was so mesmerized by her beauty that he could not take his eyes off her.

Benjamin did not look away until a sudden sound of Gavin getting up to use the washroom roused him from his reverie.

He watched as his son unbuckle his seat belt and walked toward the bathroom.

"Do you need me to come with you, Gavin?" Benjamin asked in a low voice.