

# In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1541

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“Alright,” I nodded in agreement.

Regarding the matters of my flight, the schedule would be discussed on another day.

When I shifted my attention elsewhere, I realized that our casual conversation had garnered everyone else’s attention. A few of them even nodded solemnly in accordance with Cameron’s words. It seemed like they had taken this matter to heart.

Under their heavy scrutiny, my shoulders trembled with guilt. Yet, I chose not to elaborate any further.

Fortunately, the men had a short attention span. It didn’t take them long to shift the topic elsewhere. “How confident is everyone against Nathaniel?”

The question came from Louis. As John had brought up the topic regarding the oil painting materials, Louis took this matter very seriously. After all, he was a veteran officer with a strong background.

As soon as he spoke, a knock echoed from the door. “Mr. Hall is here,” the maid announced politely.

Hearing her words, Louis burst out in laughter. “Speak of the devil.”

“Why is he here? Is he looking to beg for forgiveness on behalf of Nicolas and his wife?” Emery guessed.

“He can try if he has the guts to do so,” John scowled and said in an angry tone.

“Come in,” Ashton called out calmly.

On the other hand, I didn’t believe that Nathaniel would act so generously. He wouldn’t have let them fall into Ashton’s trap if he

had genuine feelings for Nicolas and his wife. Nathaniel must have an ulterior motive behind his visit.

My suspicions were confirmed when I caught sight of Tiffany alongside Nathaniel.

Upon closer look, I realized that she had a very disheveled and unkempt appearance. Her hair was a mess of tangled curls, and her body was bound in countless coils of rope. Additionally, Tiffany was missing a high-heeled shoe. It was an utter shock to see her like this because Tiffany always maintained a dignified and elegant appearance.

“Bring the children upstairs,” Ashton instructed the maids. After delivering the order, he rose to his feet and strode towards the door. There, he blocked the path of Nathaniel and his henchmen as he kept them cornered near the stairs.

Hurriedly, the maids scurried to obey Ashton’s command as they rounded up the children. In the midst of the chaos, Gregory somehow managed to slip from their grasps. In the blink of an eye, he rushed towards Nathaniel.

“Uncle Nathaniel,” Gregory greeted him respectfully with a slight bow, “I’ve finished studying most of the books. Will you be able to teach me when you are free?” Gregory had an earnest expression across his face when he asked.

A young child like him was oblivious to the politics and complicated relationships between adults. In his eyes, he viewed Nathaniel as a wise teacher. Needless to say, he approached Nathaniel with an open heart.

How was this any different from Summer’s trust towards Jared?

Although wickedness was terrifying, seeing Nathaniel put on an act like a wolf in sheep’s clothing terrified me even more. At least I’d be able to respond to any imminent danger. If he ever decided to lash out, Nathaniel would cause irreparable damage.

Learning from my past mistakes, I refused to let my child fall for such deceiving traps again.

“Gregory,” I called out and beckoned him over with a crook of my hand.

When he noticed that I had called for him, Gregory jogged over immediately.

I held his hand in my own and patted his chubby cheeks. “The adults have something to discuss. Why don’t you head upstairs first? You can take care of Audrey with Summer, alright?” I told him gently.

In Gregory’s viewpoint, Mommy’s words were to be obeyed immediately. Furthermore, he was fiercely devoted to Audrey. With a determined nod, he trailed after Summer and went upstairs.

When they finally vanished from sight, Nathaniel made a move to enter. “I’m here to congratulate my brother for his splendid victory. Aren’t you going to let me in?” he smirked without any ounce of shame.

In response, Ashton raised his hand to halt Nathaniel’s path. Ashton had a stormy look on his face.

Despite the stony silence, it was clear that he would not entertain Nathaniel’s visit.

The two brothers locked gazes for a long moment as tension filled the air. Finally, Nathaniel backed down.

Nathaniel took a step back. At the same time, he gave his henchmen a look. Immediately, his henchmen yanked Tiffany forward and shoved her to the ground.

“Ah!” Tiffany fell to the floor with a loud thud. The pain caused her to inhale sharply as she struggled against her restraints. “Nathaniel, I am your sister! How could you mistreat me this way! All I did was take what I deserved in hopes of spending my future with my lover! What have I done to you?” she yelled.

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Nathaniel remained unruffled despite her outburst. He acted as if he hadn't even heard her. "In the few days that you left the company, Tiffany has taken advantage of the company's interests countless times through embezzlement. She even tried to sell the company's equity and attempted to transfer the properties for herself. Seeing that you were busy, I decided to step in and clean things up on your behalf. Now that I brought her here, I'll let you decide her punishment."

His words sent a chill skittering down my spine.

Nathaniel's wickedness had no bounds. Even after sabotaging Nicolas and his wife, he still harbored such evil intentions towards his own sister.

Catching Tiffany red-handed must have been a scheme that he plotted for a long time. After all, it was impossible that he managed to expose her on a whim.

Despite her cautiousness, her own brother was the one who stabbed her in the back.

This must be Tiffany's worst nightmare. She finally managed to elude Ashton and had a chance to achieve her goals. Yet, her path to success was blocked by her meek and gentle-mannered younger brother. It was no wonder that she seethed with resentment and reluctance from the moment she stepped foot inside the house.

Ashton glanced downwards; he seemed to disregard Tiffany's existence entirely. Instead, he locked gazes with Nathaniel. "At this point, we should learn to get along with each other. If we don't, the consequences of our falling out will be severe."

"What are you talking about? I can't seem to understand what you're saying," Nathaniel laughed despite Ashton's cold gaze.

"Oh, I get it now!" he exclaimed after a brief pause, "From now on, we should support our family business to the best of our abilities! After all, we are brothers; we should watch each other's backs. Am I right? You can relax. Blood is thicker than water. We will never be separated." Sarcasm dripped off his every word.

Not only was he unashamed of his actions. Nathaniel even dared to blow his own horn.

Despite his goals to obtain revenge, Ashton had not acted out of the line by harming innocents. On the other hand, Nathaniel was willing to sacrifice his family and friends without mercy. Not to mention, he might have even dabbled in human experimentation.

How could such a revolting person like him hold a candle to Ashton?

Although Ashton's broad back was facing me, the gloomy atmosphere that hung around his figure was easy to read. He must have a troubled expression on his face.

Nathaniel was aware that he wouldn't be able to enter by force. With that, he decided to take the initiative and retreat. "Since I'm not welcomed here, I'll take my leave."

"Ashton, you should appreciate both of my gifts. You shouldn't hold back on behalf of me, alright? I believe that you'll show me satisfactory results," Nathaniel reached out his hand and straightened Ashton's suit.

After giving me a knowing look, he turned around and left.

Now that a huge crowd had disappeared from the magnificent living room, it seemed much emptier than before. The sudden emptiness amplified Tiffany's presence.

Just as Ashton took a step away, he paused and turned around again. "Give me a reason to forgive you," he uttered with restrained patience.

After several years of experience, Ashton had become more cautious when he was faced with picking a choice.

Although Tiffany had nearly lost her life to Ashton in the past, she seemed to hold no regard for it. "There's nothing much for me to say. If you and Nathaniel wield the same ideals, you must see me as nothing more but a woman who isn't worthy of receiving my share of the property. Why don't you report me to the police? I have contributed to the Hall family countless times. Thus, I don't

see why there's anything wrong with me taking away what belongs to me," she replied stubbornly.

"Your parents have been kidnapped. Even until now, there is no trace of them. Despite their disappearance, you have been busy transferring money into your own account. Your greedy actions have revealed your true colors. It seems like you've inherited the wonderful trait that the Hall family shares," Ashton said nonchalantly as his eyes narrowed.

"They are missing?" There was a trace of surprise evident in her tone. Yet, she refused to believe his words. "There's no way that's true. No one is smart enough to defeat Dad's tricky schemes and sly wit."

She shook her head in an attempt to clear her thoughts. "Are you saying the truth? Is father never coming back?" she questioned Ashton again.

Ashton's sharp gaze narrowed as he remained rooted firmly in the spot. An aura of fury seemed to emanate from his figure when he took a deep breath to regain his composure.

Although he did not comment any further, the tense silence that filled the air confirmed her question.

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Tiffany seemed to have a clue after scrutinizing him for quite a while. The next second, she burst into laughter and yelled gleefully, "Hahaha! It must be retribution! Retribution indeed! See how he ends up paying the price for his heinous deed!"

The smile of schadenfreude on her face seemed to indicate that she had been expecting this moment long ago.

As a member of a prominent family with higher social status, Nicholas had his nose in the air. He was very particular about the excellence of the Halls' new generation in order to maintain the prestige of the family. Ever since he discovered that Ashton had a genetic defect, he straight away treated him as an inferior who would be a stain for the Halls. Somehow things had turned the other way round. The so-called descendants of the excellent

genes had betrayed him by adding insult to injury. I wonder how he feels being betrayed by his outstanding children whom he had nurtured throughout all these years!

This was indeed the typical materialistic phenomenon as observed in most of the well-to-do families. Clinking glasses with each other jovially at the feasts did not really mean anything. It was common that whenever any of their family members encountered financial crisis or other issues, the others who were self-centered would choose to ignore them and even cut their ties with them so they would not be affected.

Ashton looked at her with complex emotions in his eyes. After a while, he instructed Joseph, "Head straight for the Hall family's villa in the western district."

Upon hearing his words, there was a change in Tiffany's expression. Her complacency was utterly erased by her agitation all of a sudden. "What's your intention? How did you find out about the place?"

She seemed to have lost her mind and shrieked hysterically. There was even a ferocious look on her face.

On the other hand, Ashton remained nonchalant at all the time. He turned calmly and gave Joseph a meaningful glance, hinting him to take her away immediately.

The next moment, Joseph gestured to his subordinates in order to drag Tiffany who was still rebuking non-stop out at once.

After they had left, the living room was finally back to peacefulness again. Ashton turned and glanced at me before shifting his gaze away hastily. As we locked gazes momentarily a while ago, I could sense that he was troubled by something at the moment. However, he was pretending as if there was nothing amiss and moved back to sit beside me.

Throughout years of striving hard for survival under crucial situations, he was sort of well-trained to act indifferently under any type of circumstances. Hence, he could easily hide his feelings from me most of the time. Yet if I could still sense something awry

at the moment, it indicated that he was actually not intending to hide it from me. It was just not the time for him to pour out everything to me yet.

I bet it was something related to Tiffany, and Ashton would surely share it with me when it was time. Thus, I decided not to pressurize him into telling me at the moment.

As for Louis and the others, Tiffany was a nobody for them. They were more curious about the motive behind Nathaniel's sudden emergence.

"Nathaniel is indeed a chip off the old block. In fact, he seems to be more scheming and ruthless than Nicholas Hall. It still makes sense for him to set his parents up due to his abhorrence toward them. Yet it's really too much since he has the heart to put his own sister at risk. Even beasts don't inflict harm on their own flesh and blood. Imagine how cold-blooded he is," Louis commented. Staring off into the distance, he suddenly felt down.

He really had a point on this. So far Nathaniel did not express his hostility toward us or provoke us in any way. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that he was a pain in the neck. It was as if he was a fishbone stuck in our throats, invisible yet causing great discomfort to us. At the same time, we could not easily let our guards down, fearing that he might strike and put us in deep water at any moment.

As long as Nathaniel did not initiate any provocative act, it was inappropriate for us to make the first move. We could only continue to stay alert so we could retaliate at once when he struck the first blow.

To my surprise, Zachary was really confident and commented casually, "Anyway, K City is still our turf and we know every corner well. No matter how mighty he is, he's solely on his own. I bet it's a piece of cake for us to bring him down at any time."

Cameron chimed in, "I truly agree with your Dad. Talking about Nathaniel, it's just like holding a hand grenade which will go off at any time. I really feel uneasy whenever I think about that. Why don't we just make use of this chance to get rid of this fellow once and for all?"

I shook my head as I disagreed with their point of view. "I see it in a different way. I suspect that Nathaniel was the one manipulating the previous explosion case. If he's really the one, he's definitely not a simple person whom we can easily deal with. We would only put ourselves at risk if we act recklessly."

I had talked to Ashton about this earlier. Even though he did not comment on anything, he actually saw eye to eye with me that Nathaniel was no ordinary man whom we could easily get rid of. It was really risky if we acted impulsively without proper planning.

Upon hearing my words, Louis was infuriated and raised his voice, "So do you mean that there's nothing we can do to him now? I can't accept that! Even those high-ranking son of b\*tches like Ezra Grant and the others were managed to be pulled down. Anyway, Nathaniel hall is just a greenhorn and can't be as mighty as them, right?"

Unable to hold in his temper, he paused and unleashed his frustration by striking the table. "After all, I still have the connection with the department. I'll pay them a visit tomorrow and seek their help to investigate Nathaniel Hall. I don't think Nicholas Hall's children can turn out to be any better than him!" he scoffed.

There was a momentary silence. After a while, Louis finally realized that he had unintentionally offended Ashton as well when he criticized Nicholas Hall's children. He stuttered in embarrassment, "I-I'm sorry. I don't mean that..."

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"No issue," Ashton cut him off and held me up. "Let's eat first. Letty has gastric problem and needs to have meals on time."

Ashton was never a vengeful man who really minded about petty matters. Louis was relieved at the sight of his casualness and said joyfully, "Alright, let's eat!" Within seconds, the slightly tense atmosphere in the living room was replaced by the liveliness again. Calling the kids to come down for their meal, we headed slowly for the dining room.

We let the seniors make their ways first and trailed behind them slowly.

I grabbed the opportunity and asked Ashton tactfully, "What's your plan for Tiffany?"

When it comes to his own flesh and blood, I believed that Ashton would tend to be more forgiving and tolerant. What's more, Tiffany was apparently not as insidious as Nicholas and his wife. Hence, I bet Ashton would be more lenient with her.

With a look of nonchalance on his face, Ashton continued to move forward by holding my hands and replied casually, "As her elder brother, of course I will bear the responsibility for the sake of her wellbeing."

I was puzzled at his words and knitted my brows.

Those who had crossed paths with Ashton previously knew well about his temperament. He was a prideful man who would not easily let anyone who had provoked him off easily. Tiffany had deceived Ashton and tried to match him up with Thora previously just for the sake of her own benefits. I don't believe that he is able to put aside his wrath within such a short span of time!

This man really loves to twist his words and confuses me! There must be some hidden meanings behind his words!

Pfft! He's overpowered by his so-called pride and self-esteem, just like all the other men. I'm not surprised that he refuses to pour out everything to me at the moment. He surely has some plans in his mind and is waiting for the ideal time to unveil the truth. By then, he would be able to show off his intelligence in getting things resolved!

Ah! Even an outstanding and mature man like him has such a childish mind! Pursing my lips, I could not help feeling amused at the thought. Even so, I decided to let him be and continued to be supportive of him.

It was common for the elderly to lead a systematic lifestyle and have an early bedtime. Even though Louis looked as fit as a fiddle,

he was on medication as well. When the clock struck eight at night, he took his medicine and went to bed right away.

The rest of us accompanied the kids while they were having fun among themselves.

Summer was analyzing her favorite mathematic sums as usual; Gregory was attending an online class with earphones plugged in. Audrey and Drew were actually the only ones playing among themselves. Both of them got along well with each other as they both had similar characteristics and grew up in a similar environment. Meanwhile, we were casually chatting while watching the two of them have fun.

When the clock was about to strike nine, Ashton told me that he had to go outside after receiving a call. He explained briefly, "It's regarding the orphanage. After double confirming with the police station, Joseph found out that nobody has ever lodged any police reports for some of the children. Thus, he doesn't know how to get the matter resolved. I'll go have a look and will be back soon."

In a split second, Audrey tossed her toy aside and dashed toward Ashton. She asked excitedly, "Daddy, where are you going? I want to go as well!"

Ashton stroked her hair affectionately and replied placidly, "You just stay at home and help to look after Mommy."

"I don't want!" Audrey yelled instantly and pouted her lips with furrowed brows. "I want to go out for some fun. Uncle John used to bring me to his working place too. Daddy, you haven't brought me out for a long time! I don't like you anymore!"

She snorted and stomped as she turned her back toward Ashton. At the sight of her crossing her arms over the chest like an adult, I could not resist chuckling.

Glancing at John who was seated quite a distance away, there were helplessness and resentment in Ashton's eyes. Oh! Looks like someone is jealous! I bet he's blaming John for spoiling Audrey all this while. He must be cracking his head at the moment on how he can win her heart again!

Nevertheless, the culprit of the dispute was still adding fuel to the already burning fire by saying, "My dear Audrey, you'd better don't make things difficult for your Daddy. Not everyone can treat you as lovingly as your Uncle John!"

Upon hearing his words, Emma pinched him hard on his arm and snapped, "Just zip your mouth and stop driving a wedge between them. Both of them are getting upset because of you!"

"Ouch!" John gasped exaggeratively and said jokingly, "How nice if I can have a sweet little princess like our little Audrey! How about we have another baby girl?"

"Stop!" Emma straight away pressed her index finger on John's lip and snapped at him, "Go ahead to have one by yourself! I would never go through the horrible process and endure the excruciating pain again!"

John leaned closer to her with his smiling face and coaxed her, "Cool down. Think of how adorable Audrey is! Oh! If we could have an adorable little princess like Audrey who can keep you company and be your best helper at home. By then, you won't be grumbling about feeling bored again since you're the only female at home."

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Emma glared at him in displeasure. "Are you sure you get what I mean when I grumble that I'm bored?"

"What do you mean?" John was baffled.

Emma was enraged and almost stretched out her hand to pinch John on his arm again. Nevertheless, she put down her hand as something crossed her mind. "Forget about it. Anyway, don't ever dream of having another baby girl again!"

In an instant, John felt dejected like an inflated balloon. Besides, he could not catch what Emma was thinking at the moment. Shrugging his shoulder, he was silent and did not persist to talk her into accepting his request.

My goodness! John is still as simple-minded and can't read Emma's mind after so many years!

It seems he never gets to understand women. Women are the same in general. Other than being tough on the outside and soft on the inside, we yearn for everlasting affection, attention, and care from our beloved partners!

When John tried to track down my whereabouts by all means around the world previously, he had sacrificed his family time for Emma and their son. Since they could eventually reunite with each other, Emma would definitely hope that they get to have more romantic moments with each other.

Nonetheless, John was never a romantic and sentimental man. As a computer expert, he was a bit too realistic in a way. Poor Emma, it' seems like there's a long way for her to go before my dumb brother learns about romance!

Looking at how the two of them were bickering with each other, Ashton turned slowly toward me, hinting me to speak up for him.

I used to be really protective of my children, and was reluctant to let them be exposed to any potential challenges of the outer world. As time went by, I gradually understood that the problems could not be resolved by hiding ourselves forever. The exposure to the hardships could be considered as intensive training sessions for ourselves. In other words, we tended to become mightier through the endurance of obstacles in life.

Therefore, I agreed to let Audrey go to the orphanage with Ashton. I decided to reveal the other side of the real world to her, giving her a picture that life was not just solely about beautiful moments all the time.

"Just let her go this round. I'll accompany her," I said gently as I stood up.

No doubt kids are innocent and lack courage. We as parents should play our role well and help them in boosting their courage.

Both Ashton and I could foresee that our children would never lead a free and easy lifestyle. Hence, I felt that it was practical to

expose them to the outer world earlier so they would be able to experience the uncertainties and adapt better to the various types of challenges in life. Even though Ashton and I would try our best to be their all-time mentor and protector, we had to give them space to be independent.

The moment Audrey heard that I allowed her to follow Ashton out, she was over the moon. Before Ashton could open his mouth to say anything, she was already trotting toward the main door as she yelled jubilantly, "Hurray! I can go out to play now! Time to go out to play!"

I could not resist knitting my brows. Both Ashton and I have a cool temperament. How on earth does she have such a lively characteristic?

Glancing obliquely at Ashton, I was surprised that he actually looked calm and approved it silently. Stretching out his hand instinctively, he gestured to me to hold his hand.

My lips lifted into a smile as I walked toward him. The moment I grabbed hold of his hand, both Summer and Gregory stood up and gazed at us seriously.

"Both of you want to go with us as well?" I asked tentatively.

"Yeah." Gregory nodded and replied firmly, "I'll follow wherever Audrey goes. As his elder brother, I'll protect her well!"

His words really warmed my heart. I was really proud of him.

"Oh! How sweet! Audrey is really lucky to have such a caring brother!" I complimented Gregory and patted his shoulder as a token of encouragement.

I was thankful that Gregory played his role well as an elder brother and was protective of his sister at such a young age. At the same time, I could not help letting out a deep sigh as the dispute between Ashton and his siblings flashed across my mind.

Later, I raised my head and gazed at Audrey. As we locked gazes, both of us smiled knowingly at each other. "Needless to ask, Gregory offers to protect Audrey, and you need to protect both of them, right?" I asked jokingly.

“Hehe!” Summer giggled shyly. There were sparkles in her smiling eyes.

In the end, we agreed to be fair and bring along all three of them.

Drew was the youngest among them, yet he was very observant and smart like John. The moment he saw Audrey and the others step out, he also stood up in an instant and tried to catch up with them.

As expected, both John and Emma tagged along with us as well since Drew was clingy to Audrey.

Both families ended up heading for the orphanage together. It was as if we were on a special family outing at night.

When we finally reached the orphanage, it was already ten at night.

Most of the children there had gone to bed, except those who were brought back from overseas by Joseph. At the moment, they were all gathered in one of the classrooms.

I started to feel uneasy the moment Ashton told me earlier that those children were rescued from the illegal lab involved with human genetic modification. Initially, I thought that those unfortunate children who were abducted for the experiment might be disfigured or even in a gory mess after being ill-treated. Hence, I kept telling myself to stay calm so as not to scare my children a while later.

Nevertheless, I was surprised at what came into my view when I stepped into the particular classroom.