In Love, Never Say Never Chapter 1616

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Probably unbeknownst to even Tobias himself, the boy was actually making a case for Camelia in his own childish way.

Still, I remained smiling at Tobias and did not mind his behavior.

After patting her son on the back, Camelia gestured at the door beside her. "He's inside. You can go in; I'll stay here."

I could understand Camelia would want to stay outside of the room. After all, no woman could bear seeing their beloved men reunited with the love of the men's life.

After taking a deep breath, I readied myself to push the door open and entered the room.

The smell of disinfectant was even more pungent inside the room than in the hallway. Once inside, I could see a pair of bony legs peeking out of the blanket. They were so skinny that one could almost see the bone underneath the skin.

I could not even recognize the man lying on the bed since Marcus looked like a completely different person then. Had it not been for the name on the door, I could never have figured out who the sickly man was.

Since Marcus had his eyes shut and was completely motionless, I could have easily mistaken him for a corpse if it were not for the ventilators and heartbeat monitor just beside him.

Suddenly, the man unconsciously turned to his side and opened his mouth to gasp for air.

The sight almost made me cry out loud, so I immediately covered my mouth to stop myself from making a sound. I did not want to wake the man up from his rest. Is this really Marcus? The man who girls all over K City swooning over him and who single-handedly protected me? How did he end up like this? The man looks as if he's about to pass away any second now. When I thought of what Camelia said about my wedding and the days Marcus had left, I hurriedly rushed out of the room. After closing the door behind me, I held on to a chair to support myself as I finally broke down.

So much had happened between Marcus and me. I even cursed the man and wished that he would vanish from the face of the earth because of my children, but when I saw just how vulnerable he was back in the room, I changed my mind.

At that moment, I wanted nothing more than to withdraw my curses from the man.

"Here, use this," offered a voice from behind me as a slender hand handed me a napkin.

It was Camelia, the one who loved Marcus the most. I could not believe how she managed to remain calm like that. She must've cried so many times when nobody was looking.

"Thank you." I knew I had no right to break down like that in front of the woman, and I also did not want my crying to wake up Marcus, so I quickly dried my tears and recollected myself. "How did it happen? Is there really no way to save him? Maybe you should try sending him to the hospitals overseas."

"That's not going to help him. The attending doctor told us not to waste any more time on treatments and that he should live out his remaining days in peace."

Camelia then walked over to the door and placed her hand on the small glass window as if she could touch Marcus that way. "You know, I only get to take care of him because he no longer has the strength to push me away. He has no choice but to let me tend to his everyday needs, even if that's not what he wants. But that's okay; at least I get to be by his side until the very end. I know he's only hanging on just so he can see you one last time."

I only realized how similar the two were when I saw Camelia's exhausted but happy expression.

Even though she never got Marcus to love her, she was willing to care for the dying man and enjoyed every second of it. I guess that

must be how Marcus felt when he took care of me while I was unconscious. Like Camelia, it did not matter to him if I could ever love him back or even talk to him. All he wanted was to be with me, and that was enough to make him feel like the luckiest man alive.

Still, I could not help but pity the two when I realized how their love would never be requited. No matter how hard they tried, they just could not get the other party to reciprocate.

Having experienced firsthand the dread of unrequited love in the years before I married Ashton, I knew exactly how horrible it could be and how it could utterly destroy its harbored. Since I had no right to tell Marcus who to fall in love with, all I could was let the man make his own choice.

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When Tobias noticed that his mother seemed off, he approached her to tug on her shirt. "Mommy, are you crying again?"

So that she would not worry her child, Camelia quickly wiped her tears away and took a deep breath before turning around to smile at Tobias. "No, I'm fine."

After embracing her child to assure him that she was okay, Camelia shifted her attention to me. "Scarlett."

The woman's tone was so stern that it stunned me for two seconds. "Yes?" I nodded at her to show her that she had gotten my full attention.

"You saw how Marcus is. Even though he never mentioned it, you and I both know that you're the one he wants to see. It has always been you, so I hope you can come to visit him for the next few days. He may have the necessary medications to keep him alive, but that's not all he needs. Marcus needs a reason to continue living, and you're the only one who can give it to him. Will you help?" requested Camelia somewhat helplessly.

In response to that, I nodded hesitantly. "I should..."

"No," interrupted Ashton suddenly before I could finish my sentence. Right there at the entrance stood the man with a cold visage.

Since he knew that Marcus had feelings for me, there was no way he would ever agree to let me see the man every day, even though the man only had very little time left.

Worried that Ashton would make a scene, I hurriedly darted over to calm him down. This is not the right place to have a heated discussion. Whatever it is that Ashton wants to say, it'll have to wait until we get home.

After giving me a reassuring look and placing his hand firmly on my shoulder, Ashton turned to look at Camelia. "You're almost as crafty as Marcus himself, so I would say that you two are a match made in heaven. If he fails to see that, it's his loss."

Somehow, what Ashton said to the woman sounded oddly puzzling, but before long, I realized that he was belittling Camelia.

The man had always been a gentleman, but when facing someone as unreasonable as Camelia, he would not hesitate to speak his mind.

"Mind your words," I reminded Ashton because I did not want him to take his anger out on Camelia when Marcus was the one that he had a beef with.

"Tell me. Was I wrong?" Ashton continued to glare at the woman without even blinking. "You're smart; I'll give you that. You knew that Letty would never come here with you, so you deliberately requested that she meet you at the gate alone. You also knew that she was a softy. That's why you fed her the sad stories."

"I don't know what you're talking about." Refusing to meet Ashton's glare, Camelia quickly turned aside to avoid the man's hostility.

To that, Ashton scoffed condescendingly before continuing, "Okay, let's assume that you have no idea what the man's been up to all these years just so I can tell you how unoriginal I find his schemes to be. That man is either pretending to be sick or purposely going MIA. So, I'm going to be as straightforward as I can with you. The answer is no."

Without giving me a chance to say anything, Ashton then grabbed me by the shoulders and forced me to enter the elevator.

"Wait! I'm not done here yet!" I writhed and struggled to go back to Camelia, unwilling to end our conversation like that. Ashton has a point because Marcus did try many tricks on me, but I saw the corpse-like man lying almost lifelessly on the bed myself. There's no way anyone could've faked that. I took a total stranger under my wings just so the child could have a bright future. What makes Ashton think I can just turn off my compassion for a dying man?

Still upset, Ashton refused to listen to anything I had to say and continued to hold me so that I could not leave his side, but while waiting for the elevator, the man gave Camelia and her child another cold glance.

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"Remember this. Even though Marcus had done a lot for Letty, the man also tried to hurt our family, so I would say that we're even now. We don't owe him anything. Come anywhere near us again, and I'll make sure you pay for it."

Ding!

When the elevator door opened, Ashton almost lifted me off my feet to carry me inside.

Only after the elevator started going down did the man loosen his grip. Angry at Ashton for what he did to me, I distanced myself as far away as the space allowed me to.

Ashton had his reasons for being so jealous, and I could understand what he was going through. After all, Marcus had made a move on me on more than one occasion. However, I knew I could not live with myself if I pretended like I had no idea that Marcus was dying.

With both my hands on the elevator handrail, I suddenly thought of an idea to get the best of both worlds. With it, not only would I be able to sneak behind Ashton's back, but I could also reignite Marcus' will to live.

"Don't even think about it." Suddenly, Ashton's harsh words severed my train of thoughts.

Embarrassed by how easily the man managed to see through me, I bit my lower lips defiantly before defending myself. "I don't know what you're referring to because I wasn't thinking about anything."

The man then narrowed his eyes at me and made a strange suggestion. "Why don't you turn around?"

Baffled, I hesitantly did as Ashton said, only to find absolutely nothing behind me. All I could see was my own reflection on the metallic elevator wall.

"I don't get it."

"Take a good look at yourself," demanded Ashton as he walked over to stand beside me. "You think that I'm incapable of being rational when it comes to anything related to Marcus, but what about you? Think about it. When have you ever not given in to your sympathy for the man?"

Every single word from Ashton was delivered so objectively that it immediately cleared things up for me. He's right. I've been so wrong all this time, and I never realized it. Marcus and Rebecca are practically the same kinds of people. If I could treat Marcus the way Ashton treated Rebecca, Ashton wouldn't even have to worry about me that much. I just couldn't help myself. I kept thinking about how Marcus saved me when I lost my first child. Even though I always complained how Ashton was partial to Rebecca, I somehow failed to remain objective whenever it came to Marcus. How could I have been so blind? "Have you calmed down yet?" asked Ashton with a much softer tone. "I understand that you can't act like nothing had happened, and I'm not trying to force you to, but I won't allow anything bad to happen to you."

Seeing how serious the man was, I was well aware that there was nothing I could do to change his mind.

Even though my subconscious wanted me to fight back, I was restrained from doing so by reason. Ever since I married Ashton, I seemed to have become softer toward the man.

"Marcus still has some time left, so you can wait till I confirm his condition. If the man really is dying, I won't stop you from going to him. Heck, I'll even take care of him with you if you want."

After hearing that, I widened my eyes in shock at Ashton, but he had already turned to face the elevator door. The man's deadpan expression made it difficult for me to tell what was going through his head. Did I hear that right? Did Ashton just offer to take care of Marcus?

Ding!

After the door opened, Ashton naturally turned around to take my hand before walking out of the elevator.

When we drove out of the hospital parking lot, Ashton turned in the opposite direction instead of heading home.

"Where are we going?" I inquired, still struggling to come back to my senses.

"Audrey just called and said that she wants dessert tonight," answered Ashton with a half-smile while his eyes remained on the road.

I then thought about everything the man said to me back in the hospital. Although Marcus had been in many life-and-death situations, he somehow always managed to come through. Besides, it's not like my sympathy will change the man's fate. There's nothing wrong with sympathizing with others, but that doesn't mean I should neglect those who love me. I'm so fortunate to have such lovely children and a loving husband. Therefore, I tried my best to forget about Marcus for the moment and played along with Ashton. "Are you trying to fatten her up with late-night desserts? Not to mention how all that sugar is going to ruin her teeth. You really shouldn't spoil her like that."

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I believed that it was important for anyone, regardless of age, to look out for their own health.

"Desserts soothe the soul. If you don't want Audrey to have them, maybe you should have them yourself. After all, my wife deserves the best."

To that, I gave the man a look to show him that I could see right through him. "You think I don't know what you're up to? Don't try to pacify me, Ashton. I know you're only doing this for Audrey."

Ashton chuckled in response. "So, does that mean you don't want any?"

"Of course I do!" There was only one thing I could not turn down at that moment, and it was dessert.

After parking the car, Ashton took me by the hand again and led me to a bakery named Black Angle.

Inside were all sorts of desserts displayed in glass boxes, and each box had its own lighting and thermostat to regulate temperature. Under the lights, the pastries shimmered like art pieces in a gallery.

As expected, whenever Ashton paid for something, he usually wanted more than just the quality of the products because he also valued the overall experience in making the purchase.

I stopped in front of a newly released Napoleon Cake and thought it was the perfect dessert for Audrey and me, so Ashton had the storekeeper approach us. "Hello, sir. What can I help you with?" Not only did the storekeeper have the body of a supermodel, but she also had the voice of a radio host.

"I'm so sorry, sir, but this one is all sold out at the moment. Our White Swan series desserts are also quite popular. Would you like to try those?"

"It's sold out already? But it's not even noon yet." Even though I was disappointed, I could understand why the new product was snatched up so quickly. Since I did not make a pre-order, I never really had a chance at getting one.

Sighing, I looked around while the storekeeper continued to shower us with recommendations.

"Mr. Hall, welcome," greeted the storekeeper suddenly as she looked to someone behind us, so Ashton and I curiously turned around and realized that she was talking to Nathaniel.

Unexpectedly, standing next to the man was my doppelganger, who happened to dress very similarly to me. Even the storekeepers turned their heads back and forth to make sure their eyes were not playing tricks on them.

Nathaniel, who did not seem surprised to see us at all, held the woman's hand and quickly walked over. "I see that you two like the desserts in this place too, huh?"

With a friendly tone like that, anyone else would have easily mistaken the situation as a pleasant coincidence. Nothing more than two twin sisters bumping into each other with their boyfriends.

Ashton and I did not respond to Nathaniel but simply shifted our attention to my doppelganger.

When the man noticed how odd we were acting, he chuckled and placed his hand on the woman's shoulder. "What? Don't you recognize her anymore? You're old pals!"

The woman kept a straight face the whole time until Nathaniel mentioned her. Then, as if she had finally received the permission

to talk, the woman looked at Ashton and asked with a wry smile, "Do you remember me, Mr. Fuller?"

For some reason, her voice sounded strange. It was as if there was something stuck in her throat, and despite our similar appearance, anyone could easily tell us apart just by listening to that voice.

Why would that woman say something like that to Ashton? Do they know each other?

As much as I wanted answers, I knew it was not the right time to question Ashton. What mattered more then was to show the other party that Ashton and I got each other's back. I'll be damned if I let anyone besmirch my husband's honor like that!

I then intentionally got closer to Ashton and wrapped my arm around his. "I'm sorry to disappoint you, miss, but all my husband ever thinks about is me, so I'm afraid he doesn't recall who you are."

In response, the woman glanced at me before sneering, "My, my. You've changed, haven't you, Scarlett?"

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The woman's rhetorical question left me completely stunned. Who the heck is this woman? Not only did she seem to know Ashton, but she also sounded like she knew me well. Besides the face, there's nothing about her that looked familiar to me. No matter how hard I try, I just can't figure out who she is.

"Who the heck are you?" There was no way I could keep my cool any longer at that moment, so Ashton patted me on the shoulder to assure me that he had got the situation under control before chiming in, "You'll have to excuse my wife; Letty has always been a hothead. Please forgive her straightforwardness."

"You saw how rude she was, so how can you simply ask me to forgive her? Does that sound reasonable to you?" Obviously, the woman got a little upset because of what we said, but Nathaniel quickly pinched her back to remind her to watch her manners. "I'm going to have to ask you to do the same for Nora's bluntness. She's been abroad for quite a while, so I guess that's where she picked up the character. She doesn't mean to offend you, of course. Actually, I planned to introduce her to you the next time I visit, so imagine my surprise when I bumped into you here," explained Nathaniel disingenuously.

There was only one person that I knew named Nora, and that was Nora Oberick. I thought she was killed in the explosion, wasn't she?

Even though I was looking straight at the woman's face, I could not confirm if she was the Nora I knew.

Suddenly, the storekeeper brought a well-designed box over to Nathaniel. "Here's your order, Mr. Hall."

Instead of taking the box, Nathaniel turned to smile at us. "You should take the cake. My treat."

Because of the man's offer, the storekeeper, too, turned to us with the box. "Here's your cake, sir."

"You don't have to do that. I did nothing to deserve this." With that, Ashton unceremoniously turned down Nathaniel's generosity.

Still stuck with the box, the storekeeper found herself in an awkward position.

"You worry too much. It's just a cake," reminded Nathaniel nonchalantly.

Ashton remained silent for what felt like forever before finally breaking the ice. "This is just the way I am. You don't know Letty, just like you don't know me."

The man then turned to me and put his arm around me. "Now that I think about it, the desserts made in a bakery have way too much sugar in them anyway. Come on, let's go home. I'll make some for you and Audrey myself." Since we drove all the way there only to end up not buying anything, I suspected that the cakes in the bakery were never the reason why Ashton wanted to be there. With a look, the man gestured for me to leave empty-handed with him.

However, as if he could not understand what Ashton was insinuating, Nathaniel continued to pretend that he was a close friend. "I know how much you love your kids, so I'm not going to take up more of your time. Since Audrey likes desserts so much, I'll be sure to remember to bring some over when I visit."

Ashton only gave the man a half-smile in response before walking out of the bakery with me.

"You knew Nathaniel was going to be there, didn't you? Is that why you brought me there?" I questioned Ashton as soon as we stepped into the car.

"Not exactly," replied Ashton as he fired up the car with one hand and placed the other on the steering wheel. "I knew he was going to be there today but not the exact time. We just got lucky."

"We should've tried to find out who that woman is. We left too soon," I stated while fiddling with my fingers anxiously.

Even though bumping into my doppelganger saved me a lot of trouble, it also meant that I would face plenty more in the future, so I had to be vigilant.

"You already know who she is. She's exactly who you think she is," informed Ashton confidently.

Shocked, I stared at Ashton for a few seconds before finally breaking the silence. "Nora Oberick? Could it really be her?"

"You'd rather she be someone else?" asked Ashton rhetorically.

"No, of course not. But you and I both know that she was at the center of the explosion that day. There was no way she could've survived."