

## The More the Merrier Chapter 531

### The More the Merrier Chapter 531 What A Warm and Loving Hug

Arissa was not sure what he was talking about. "Boss?"

Tim nodded. "Quick, call him back; otherwise, your boss will be mad at you!"

Arissa glanced at him before taking over the phone.

Arissa could not help but chuckle after seeing the name on the phone.

She then pulled Tim over to the bed, carried him in her arms, and explained in a serious voice, "This boss is your Daddy, so don't worry!"

Tim froze for a moment. What? Mr. Graham?

Arissa grinned and explained further, "I work in your Daddy's company, so technically, he's my boss too."

Tim nodded in response.

"Come, sweetheart. It's time to sleep!"

After getting the boy to lie in bed, she lay beside him and tucked him in.

Tim snuck a glance at her, wanting to remind her to call back. But before he could open his mouth, Arissa's phone rang. It was a call from Benjamin.

Arissa answered the call and put it in speaker mode.

"What?"

"Why didn't you pick up my call earlier?" the man questioned her.

Arissa rolled her eyes. "I was in the washroom and left my phone elsewhere. What do you want?"

Benjamin kept mum for a moment before continuing, "Is Tim asleep?"

"He's about to sleep soon."

Arissa turned around to look at Tim, whose eyes were still wide open and smiled at him.

“How about Gavin and the rest?”

“They just fell asleep!”

Benjamin responded with a gentle grunt. “All right. You should sleep early too. Shaun will take care of Mary.”

“Oh. You have a good rest too. Bye.” Arissa then ended the call without hesitation.

Benjamin knitted his brows and was bewildered by her response. Why is she so eager to end the call?

Arissa put away her phone and started coaxing Tim to sleep. “Would you like to listen to a bedtime story?”

Tim looked at her and shook his head. “It’s all right, Ms. York. You should sleep early too!”

The little guy then shut his eyes.

Arissa could not help but sigh in secret. How she wished she could make up to Tim by showering him with motherly love, but it seemed he was trying to maintain a distance from him.

She was unsure if Tim did this because he was uncomfortable having a family member around him or if he still bore a grudge against her.

Arissa gently stroked his cheek, leaned forward and gave him a peck on his forehead.

Unlike the other children, Tim gave out a more down-to-earth vibe.

Once again, Arissa leaned forth and kissed him on his cheek.

She then refrained from doing it again when she realized how stiff the boy’s body was.

“Sleep tight, Sweetheart.” She gently patted Tim’s back and coaxed him. Minutes later, she fell into a deep slumber.

Yet, the boy was still awake.

Tim felt a little uneasy as he was not used to being embraced in such a manner.

He opened his eyes to check on Arissa. When he realized she had fallen asleep, he mustered up the courage to study her face closely.

Upon noticing how tired she was, Tim pressed his lips.

Ms. York must be exhausted since she woke up at four o'clock in the morning.

He felt like stroking Arissa's face but was afraid of waking her up. He then retracted his hands and decided to let her rest.

Tim blushed in an instant when he took a whiff of Arissa's fragrance.

That's what a Mommy's hug feels like. It's so nice and warm!

Tim looked at Arissa, and his lips curled into a smile.

Tim gradually fell asleep as he listened to Arissa's steady breathing.

Meanwhile, Arissa had a nightmare. She dreamt that Tim held grudges against her and refused to return home with her.

"I'm sorry, Sweetheart. It's all Mommy's fault. You had a rough childhood all because of me. I'm sorry. I'm sorry-"

Arissa burst into tears as she was overwhelmed with guilt.

Tim up woke up from his sleep when he heard her cry.

"I'm sorry, Tim. Please forgive Mommy. Please forgive Mommy-" Tears rolled down Arissa's cheeks. She hugged the little boy even more tightly because she was afraid he might run away.

Tim's heart skipped a beat when he heard she was calling his name in her dream.

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The More the Merrier Chapter 532 Do Not Cry Miss York

Tim was unsure what to do when Arissa unexpectedly wept in her sleep.

The little boy wiped the tears off her cheeks as he had no idea how to console her. He also patted her back gently like how she did to him earlier. "Don't cry, Ms. York!"

"Ms. York, please don't cry!"

Tim repeated the same line over and over again because he had never comforted anyone before.

Arisa eventually calmed down and stopped crying when she felt the child was next to her.

“I love you, Sweetheart-” After mumbling a few sentences, she fell asleep once again.

Tim whispered with blushed cheeks, “I like you too!”

After making sure Arissa was out like a light, the little boy carefully crawled out of her arms and covered her in a blanket.

He then washed his face and went to the ward next door.

He noticed Mary had fallen asleep even though she was still on an IV drip. Shaun, who was supposed to accompany Mary, was sleeping like a log on the couch.

Tim sat by the bed and gently stroked the back of her hand with a catheter.

Mary woke up and was surprised to see the boy sitting next to her. “Tim? What are you doing here? Shouldn’t you be taking your nap?”

“I’ve taken my nap, Grandma!” Tim answered steadily.

He was not used to taking naps since he had to work during the day, but having Arissa by his side, he managed to sleep for nearly thirty minutes.

“Come closer!” Mary adjusted her position on the bed and gestured for Tim to sit closer.

“No, Grandma. I’m scared of knocking over the needle!”

“Come on, get up here now. I want to talk to you!” Mary looked at him and called him over.

Tim crawled up, lay next to Mary, and hugged her.

Mary smiled and embraced the little boy.

“Tim, Ms. York is your mommy, and she’s the woman who gave birth to you. You mustn’t blame her for dumping you. You have to understand that she didn’t do it on purpose!”

Mary lowered her eyes to look at the child in her arms. Though she was a little surprised to see how calm he was, she decided to explain to him what had happened.

Mary explained, “You see, someone sabotaged your mom, and there was nothing she could do back then. The woman, who wanted to marry your dad, locked your mom up because she wanted to snatch the baby after she had given birth.”

“Your mom eventually gave birth to six babies. That woman decided to take the first two babies away—and that was you and Gavin. She decided to dump you when she realized you were ill and believed you might not make it. That was why she only brought Gavin to your dad,” she added.

Mary continued, “Your mom and the remaining four children had a rough time, too, as that woman was trying to kill them. Your mom sustained a severe head injury, so that was why she couldn’t remember how many babies she had delivered.”

“Mr. Frank told me when your mom first learned about you, she suffered an emotional breakdown and was admitted to the hospital for quite some time. After she felt better, she started looking for you.” The elderly woman heaved a sigh as she could not imagine the pain and struggles Arissa had gone through as a woman.

She also could not believe how wicked the woman was. Not only did she snatch the children away from Ms. York, she even wanted to finish them off.

Tim was struck dumb. What Ethen told Mary was exactly the same story Benjamin had told him.

Mary gazed into Tim’s eyes and continued, “Your mom was utterly upset and felt it was all her fault when she told me about it. I’m a mother, too, so I could tell she loves you very much. But there was nothing she could do back then because someone sabotaged her. Please don’t blame your mom because it’s not her fault!”

“I’m glad I’ve rescued you and raised you. Otherwise, your mom will live in sorrow for the rest of her life. There’s no mother in the world who doesn’t love their children, Tim, because children are our flesh and blood,” the elderly woman added.

Tim felt he was about to tear up. “Grandma!”

“Your mom loves you very much. You can feel it, can’t you?” Mary held him even tighter.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 533**

### **The More the Merrier Chapter 533 I Do Not Blame Them**

Tim had always felt sorry for himself because he thought his parents had abandoned him.

But the truth was, it was all a misunderstanding. The little guy also felt guilty for the way he treated them.

I don't blame Daddy and Mommy anymore.

Tim sniffed, with beads of tears caught on his lashes. He nodded in Mary's embrace and whispered, "Ms. York is a very nice lady. She loves me very much!"

Mary responded with a delightful smile. "Yes. I've never come across a woman as perfect as your mommy. She took great care of me and has never complained about how dirty and troublesome I was. If she could treat an outsider with such kindness, I'm sure she loves you with all her heart because you're her precious baby!"

Even nurses paid to look after the patients are not as meticulous as Ms. York!

"Ms. York is a nice lady!" Tim nodded admittedly.

Mary stroked the back of his head and gave him a doubtful look. "Ms. York? Your mom will feel sad if she hears that. You should start calling her mommy!"

Tim pressed his lips. He still could not bring himself to call Arissa his mommy.

Mary decided not to force him as she knew the boy needed some time to process his thoughts. But she believed he would do the right thing.

Mary wiped away his tears with her fingers. "Don't cry anymore, okay? Mommy will be upset, too, if she sees you crying!"

Tim also wiped away the tears and snot on his face.

Mary gently pulled his hand to stop him. "Go and get yourself a piece of tissue!"

Tim sniffled and got down from the bed. When he was about to retrieve tissues from the box on the table, someone gave him a few pieces from behind.

Tim tilted his head and blushed when he saw Shaun smiling at him.

"I didn't hear a word you said!" After passing the tissues to Tim, Shaun turned around and stepped out of the ward. "I'm going to give Kingsley a call!"

Kingsley? Who's Kingsley?

Tim glanced at Shaun before wiping the snot and the tears with the tissues he gave.

"Come and take a short nap, Tim!" Mary said.

"No thanks, Grandma. Go ahead and take a rest, okay? I'll keep an eye on your IV drip."

Mary reminded the little boy, "Don't run around, okay?"

"Okay!" Tim nodded.

When Shaun was about to call Kingsley to kill time, he saw Benjamin walking over with Gavin and the others.

"Why are you so early?"

"They all wanted to come!"

Benjamin took a sidelong glance at the five children, who had just taken a thirty-minute nap.

Gavin rolled his eyes. "Don't blame us when you yourself wanted to come. We can always come without you!"

"Yeah!" Zachary echoed. He then gestured for his other siblings to go and look for Tim.

"I wonder if Mommy and Tim are up."

"Tim is awake and is now in Mdm. Mary's ward. I think your Mommy is still asleep!" Shaun said to the little ones.

"Let's go and look for Tim then!" All five children ran toward the ward.

Benjamin reminded them, "Make sure all of you don't disturb Mdm. Mary!"

The children entered the ward without giving him a response.

"How is Mdm. Mary's test results?" Benjamin turned to Shaun and asked.

"We have yet to receive her blood test results from the lab."

"How about her other tests?"

"Mdm. Mary has the three highs. She's suffering from gynecological inflammation, and her heart and lungs are not functioning well. Oh, she also has kidney stones. We'll need to schedule an appointment with the doctor to have them removed."

"Are these conditions serious?" Benjamin frowned upon hearing all the medical issues.

"These are not severe problems on a case-by-case basis, but since Mdm. Mary is suffering from all these conditions all at once, the doctors might have a hard time prescribing the right medicines for her," Shaun explained.

“Let’s start with the most severe problem first then,” Benjamin responded in a deep voice.

Shaun nodded. “It would be much easier for the doctors to customize a treatment for her if there are no issues with her blood.”

Benjamin looked in the ward’s direction and asked, “Is Mdm. Mary ready to return to Dellmoor?”

“I’ve given her an injection. She can leave in two days when she feels better.”

All the health problems that had plagued Mary had taken a toll on her general well-being. Even a young person might not be able to endure the pain that she, an elderly woman, was going through.

Benjamin nodded and left for the lounge.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 534**

### **The More the Merrier Chapter 534 Take Him For Her Son**

Shaun looked over. “Are you going to see Mrs. Graham?”

Benjamin merely hummed in response without turning his head around.

Shaun could not help but chuckle. Is he acknowledging it already?

When Benjamin entered the lounge, a sleeping Arissa came into view. She was in a deep sleep, and her mouth was wide open.

As Arissa rolled over, the blanket fell to the side.

Seeing that, Benjamin walked over and placed the blanket over her. Just as he was about to turn around to deal with some work at the side, his clothes were tugged at by Arissa.

He cast a gaze downward to look at the woman who was sound asleep.

“Don’t leave.” The gentle voice sounded pitiful. Anyone who heard it would surely feel bad.

Benjamin’s gaze softened. He sat down and tapped on her nose. “Ah, you look cute only when you’re asleep.”

When she was awake, every word she uttered had the potential to drive him up the wall.

Thinking he was her son, Arissa stretched out her arms and hugged him.

She wrapped her arms tightly around his waist and even rubbed her face against his body, feeling a sense of blissfulness.

Benjamin narrowed his eyes as his gaze darkened.

His Adam's apple bobbed as he swallowed hard, trying his best to suppress the reverie in his mind. He then gently leaned beside the bed.

"Sweetheart," Arissa murmured.

The corner of Benjamin's lips lifted, feeling delighted.

Unfortunately, that feeling only lasted for a few seconds. After hearing Arissa's next words, he froze instantly.

"Mommy really loves you!"

He glared at the sleeping woman, not realizing the jealousy that was displayed all over his face.

Her words would have sounded better without the word "mommy."

How dare she take me for her son?

Benjamin snorted inwardly.

However, when he saw her rubbing her face against himself, his displeasure dissipated, feeling comforted by her actions.

He then pulled the blanket over her and started looking through the documents using his phone. Perhaps it was Arissa's snoring that affected his work efficiency.

After forcefully reading through one document, he tossed his phone aside and lay down as well.

When he brought the children back to the hotel, he barely had any time to take a nap.

Benjamin pinched Arissa's nose gently, causing the latter to grumble defensively and turn her head away.

Shortly after, she turned her head back and hugged him tightly.

Her familiar fragrance entered Benjamin's nostrils, which gave him a calming effect. Not long after, he fell asleep, too.

Meanwhile, the children wanted to see if their mother was asleep or not. To their surprise, they saw them hugging each other to sleep.

Looks of surprise were displayed on their faces.

"I'm going to take a picture as proof!" Oliver took out his phone cheekily and took a picture of the scene before him.

"It's Mommy who's hugging Mr. Graham!" Jesse told her brothers.

"Mr. Graham is also hugging Mommy!" Jasper stared at the two adults on the bed without blinking.

Seeing Arissa was still sleeping, Jesse gestured for his siblings to go out. "Let's go out first. Mommy's still sleeping."

"We'll come back later." Gavin, too, pulled Tim out of the room.

Tim gave Benjamin and Arissa a glance. "Is it weird for Mr. Graham to sleep with Ms. York?"

Immediately, Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse looked at him.

Tim did not understand why they were so surprised.

Nathan's parents sleep on the same bed in the village, too! Mr. Graham and Ms. York are our parents. Of course, they should be sleeping together, right?

"Tim, Mr. Graham and Mommy's relationship aren't... very close," Zachary explained while walking out. "Mommy didn't know him in the past. She didn't know him even when she gave birth to us. She only came to know him when she came looking for Gavin and you."

Tim was dumbfounded when he heard that. "If they didn't know each other, then why would they have..."

He stared at the rest of the children.

Jasper cleared his throat, his face turning slightly red. "They were set up and made a mistake. That's why we're here."

"Huh?" Tim was puzzled, not sure if he understood it correctly.

Nonetheless, Gavin continued pulling him out of the room.

Once the six children sat on the bench in the passageway, Gavin and the others took turns explaining Arissa's relationship with Benjamin to Tim.

## **The More the Merrier Chapter 535**

### **The More the Merrier Chapter 535 You Even Called Me Sweetheart**

Soon, Arissa woke up. As she opened her eyes, a handsome face came into view.

She was stunned. Why is my son suddenly all grown up?

Unable to grasp the situation, she blinked a few times. Immediately, she met a pair of dark eyes that caused her to jolt back to her senses.

This is not my son. It's obviously Benjamin. But wasn't I hugging my son to sleep? Why has he turned into Benjamin?

She exclaimed, "Why are you here?"

Benjamin stared intently at her shocked expression. "That's what I want to ask you."

Arissa was taken aback. Ask me?

Realizing his arms were wrapped around her waist, she immediately raised her arm to push him. "Let go of me!"

Benjamin raised a brow, locking his eyes on her with a devilish gaze. "Shouldn't you be the one who should let me go first?"

His breath brushed against her face, leaving a ticklish and numbing feeling on her skin.

Hearing that, Arissa quickly withdrew her hand and turned around to lie on her back. Her face grew hot.

At the same time, Benjamin continued staring at her with an intense gaze.

"Why are you sleeping here?" Arissa looked elsewhere, refusing to meet his eyes.

Benjamin rested his head on an arm, casting her teasing glances. "You pulled my shirt and made me come up here."

Stunned, Arissa turned around to rebuke, "That's impossible!"

Benjamin arched a brow charmingly. "You even called me Sweetheart."

His words left Arissa speechless.

I tugged at his shirt and even called him Sweetheart? Is he lying to me?"

"I don't believe you!" Arissa insisted.

Looking at the woman who refused to admit it, Benjamin sniggered. "I should've recorded it. That way, I'll be able to play it for you."

Arissa eyed him. Did I really call him that?

Right then, she recalled having a dream. Maybe I really did take him for my son.

"I had a dream. Maybe I thought you were Tim," she said.

When Benjamin heard her words, his face darkened instantly.

So, she really took me for her son because of a dream.

"Where's Tim?" Arissa sat up and looked around the room in search of Tim.

"He's next door." Benjamin, too, sat up and went into the restroom.

After getting some sleep, he felt much more energized. Even his mood had improved.

Arissa gave him a glance before getting off the bed. She rubbed her face and went out to look for her children.

In the meantime, the six children were keeping Mary company by chatting with her. It was a lively atmosphere.

Seeing that, Arissa smiled. Just as she was about to return to the lounge to wash her face, the children spotted her.

"Mommy, you're awake!" Jesse ran faster than anyone, leaping onto Arissa and hugging the latter.

Arissa held her up with affection and planted kisses on Jesse's face. "When did all of you come here?"

"Mommy, we've been here for almost an hour!" Jesse grinned as she looked at Arissa, returning the latter's kisses. "Did you get a good rest?"

Arissa nodded. "Yes! I've gotten enough rest now."

“Mommy!”

Gavin, Zachary, Oliver, and Jasper approached her. They lifted their heads to look at her with happy expressions.

Tim was staring at her from the side as well.

Arissa patted the children’s heads. “Why did all of you come so soon? How long did you sleep? Don’t tell me you didn’t sleep at all?”

“We slept, Mommy. We slept for half an hour!” Jasper piped up.

“All of us slept, but Mr. Graham didn’t.” Oliver grinned.

Arissa flashed them a faint smile. No wonder Benjamin came here to sleep.

After scanning the children, she smiled at Tim, asking, “Tim, how long was your afternoon nap?”

“I slept for half an hour, too,” Tim replied softly.

Arissa smiled in response, bending over to place Jesse down.

She went over to talk to Mary before saying to the children, “Don’t disturb Mdm. Mary, okay? I’ll go freshen up and come back in a while.”

“Got it, Mommy!” Gavin and Zachary replied in unison.

When Arissa arrived at the lounge, Benjamin had stepped out of the restroom and was sitting on the couch, looking at something.

“Go get washed and have some food,” he said.

She turned around and caught sight of some food for tea time on the coffee table.

“Okay,” she responded. Before leaving for the restroom, she called out, “Go get the children to come over and have some.”

Benjamin did not respond.