

The More the Merrier Chapter 846

Chapter 846 Waking Arissa Up With A Call

“Get back to work!” Slam! Arissa shut the door forcefully. She was too embarrassed and avoided eye contact with the bodyguard. With her head hung low, she scurried into the lobby of the hospital.

Benjamin watched as she fled the scene. A low chuckle rumbled in his throat. Glancing at the bodyguard waiting beside the car, he ordered, “Let’s go!”

The bodyguard got into the driver’s seat and drove Benjamin to the company.

Arissa ran all the way back to the ward, and her racing heart finally calmed down.

“Mrs. Graham, why are you blushing? Did you do something bad?” Kingsley stuck his head out and shot her an inquisitive look as his eyes crinkled up.

Arissa gave a start.

“Why are you still here?”

Both Kingsley and Shaun, who was walking over to them, burst out laughing.

“Arissa wants to know why you’re still here,” Shaun teased him.

He then entered the ward to do his rounds.

“I was in his office earlier. Has Benjamin left?” Kingsley glanced around.

“Yep. He went to work,” Arissa told him after she regained her composure.

Kingsley observed her carefully and noticed that her lips were a little swollen. He shot her a knowing look. “Did you send him off?”

“Yes.” Feeling embarrassed, Arissa hurried into the ward to see Shaun examining Mary.

Kingsley grinned and entered the ward after her. However, he excused himself not long after.

“Arissa, Mdm. Mary is doing well. Don’t worry. You should get some sleep. I need to head back to my office now,” Shaun told Arissa.

“Oh, thank you!” Arissa nodded.

After Shaun left, she lay on the couch to get some shut-eye.

She had just slept slightly over ten minutes when her phone vibrated.

Arissa jolted awake and quickly answered the call.

“Hello?”

“Were you sleeping?” Benjamin’s mellow voice sounded at the other end of the line.

“Yeah.” Arissa’s lips curled. “You woke me up!”

Benjamin’s laughter sounded over the line. “You should go back to sleep after I hang up. I forgot to tell you that we’re heading out for dinner tonight.”

Arissa froze. “Is it a business-related social event?”

“It’s Kingsley. He wants me to treat them all to dinner,” Benjamin explained.

“Oh, all right then,” Arissa agreed readily. “Can we bring the kids, too?”

Benjamin let out a low chuckle. She never forgets about the kids, huh? “Sure! I’ll pick you up at the hospital after work.”

“Okay,” Arissa answered.

“Sleep,” Benjamin said and waited for her to hang up.

As he didn’t hang up, Arissa asked, “Is there anything else?”

“Nothing!”

Ethen had entered his office, so Benjamin had to hang up.

“Mr. Graham, everyone is here. We can start the meeting now!” Ethen reported.

Benjamin inclined his head and got up to join the rest.

Arissa had just placed her phone aside when Gavin’s call arrived.

She rose to her feet and answered the call at the balcony.

“Mommy!”

“Hey, Sweetheart. What’s wrong? Do you miss me?” Arissa asked gently.

Gavin's shy giggle sounded over the line.

Jesse and Jasper inched closer to him and called out, "Mommy!"

"Mommy, Tim misses you, too!" Oliver chimed in.

Arissa beamed. "I miss you all, too. Tim, do you miss your great-grandaunt?"

After the surgery ended, Mary woke up and took a few bites of food before falling asleep. Thus, she forgot to inform the kids.

Arissa said in an apologetic tone, "Sweetheart, I forgot to tell Great-grandaunt to give you a call. I'm sorry!"

"It's fine!" Tim chirped. He didn't blame her.

Arissa glanced at her watch. Are they all up?

"Did you wake up from your afternoon nap?"

"Yes!" five kids chorused except for Zachary.

"Sweethearts, where is Zachary?"

What is he doing?

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Chapter 847 Tim Cannot Get Used To Using The Toilet

"Mommy, Zachary is in the toilet!" Gavin reported. "Oh, I see." Arissa's lips curved into a smile.

She missed the kids, too. "Sweethearts, I'll hang up and video-call you."

"Sure!" Excited, the kids hung up swiftly. Before Arissa could video-call them, they video-called her instead. She quickly answered the call, and the kids' faces appeared on the screen. The five of them beamed at her. "Mommy!"

"Ms. York!" Arissa's heart softened when she heard their adorable voices. "Hey!" she greeted them happily. "Have you washed your faces?"

"Mommy, we have washed our faces!" Jasper answered swiftly. She glanced at the other kids, who nodded in unison. "Let me show you Great-grandaunt. She's still sleeping!"

The kids nodded earnestly. Arissa went into the ward with her phone and showed them a sleeping Mary. After seeing Mary asleep, the kids were relieved.

Arissa then returned to the balcony. "Sweethearts, drink some warm water and eat some snacks. Do you still have food?"

The kids bobbed their heads. "Yes!" "Hurry, get something to eat. You have class soon. After school ends, I'll bring you to the hospital," Arissa told them.

"Mommy, you don't have to go to work today?" Gavin's eyes lit up. Arissa nodded. "Yes, I don't have to work today." "Is Daddy at the company?"

"Yes, he's at the company." "Mommy, why didn't you go to work today? Did Mr. Graham give you a day off?" Oliver asked cheekily. "Yes, he gave me a day off so I don't have to work today." Arissa grinned.

Jesse's eyes crinkled up in delight. "That means Mommy has time to play with us!" Arissa touched Jesse's face on her phone screen. "I'm free today!"

Jesse couldn't hide her delight. "Mommy, have you had lunch?" Jasper asked after squeezing his way between his siblings. "Yes. I've also taken a nap," Arissa responded.

"Ms. York, have you been keeping Great-grandaunt company in the hospital all the while?" Tim questioned. "Yes, I've been here all the while. I have some free time today and decided to keep Great-grandaunt company."

Arissa's eyes were glued on the kids' adorable faces, and she couldn't look away. "Is Zachary still inside the bathroom?"

"Mommy, I'll go get him!" Jesse ran to the bathroom and banged on the door. "Zachary, Mommy wants to talk to you!" Arissa was amused. "If he's pooping, let him be. Stop urging him!"

Jasper giggled. "Mommy, Zachary is pooping. I smelled something awful." Arissa was tickled. "Didn't he open the window?"

"Yes. I think Zachary hasn't pooped for a few days," Oliver reported.

"How many days?" Arissa paused before asking, "Why didn't he tell me about it? You need to poop at least once a day. What about the rest? Did you poop every day?"

Arissa felt guilty as she had recently neglected the kids. "Yes!" Gavin nodded profusely. Oliver and Jasper nodded, too. "What about you, Tim?"

"Me too!" Tim's cheeks turned pink. Arissa raised a brow. "Are you sure?"

The boy had just left Rutaceae Village, so she was worried that he couldn't get used to things here. "Yes. I used the restroom in Great-grand aunt's ward!"

Arissa was surprised. "We have bathrooms in our house. Did you poop in the ward every day?"

Tim flushed. "I-I'm not used to sitting down!"

Arissa nearly lost her composure. She touched her nose and assured him, "Sweetheart, you'll get used to it soon. You need to get used to it. Back then, I couldn't get used to sitting on the toilet bowl just like you. If you avoid it, you won't get used to it, ever!"

The bathrooms at home were equipped with toilet bowls. Every time Tim entered the bathroom, he would spend some time inside. Thus, she thought he had gotten used to it.

"Okay!" Tim bobbed his head.

"I don't like it, either. I don't feel like pooping when I sit down," Jasper said as his lips twitched.

Arissa was both amused and exasperated at their exchange.

Why did he suddenly say that?

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Chapter 848 Tell Me If You Cannot Poop

"Mommy, Zachary is done!" Jesse ran back to her. A while later, Zachary squeezed in and greeted Arissa cheerfully, "Mommy!" "Hey, were you in the bathroom?" Arissa's lips curled.

"Yeah." Zachary seemed embarrassed. Arissa smiled. "How did it go? Do you have constipation?" she asked worriedly. "A bit." Zachary chuckled wryly. He then changed the topic. "Mommy, are you at the hospital?"

"Yes. Drink more water. Everyone, drink more water, okay? Remember to eat more vegetables. If you cannot poop for the whole day, let me know. Don't hold it in!" Arissa reminded them. "Got it, Mommy!"

"Got it, Ms. York!" A smile flitted across Arissa's lips when she heard their answer. "Good. Go drink some water and eat something. You have class soon. I'll pick you up after school ends later!"

“Okay!” the kids chorused and dispersed to find their snacks. “Bye, Mommy!” Gavin said. The other five kids also bid Arissa goodbye. “Bye, Sweethearts!” Arissa responded sweetly before she hung up.

She chuckled lowly at the balcony and returned to the ward. Mary was still asleep, so she fished her phone out and replied to some emails.

The housekeeper and caregiver entered the ward to clean up quietly so they wouldn't disturb Mary and Arissa. An hour later, Mary roused. “Issa!” Arissa put away her phone and hurried over to Mary. “Grandaunt, you're up. How are you feeling?”

“I'm fine, so calm down,” Mary assured her. “Didn't you get some rest?”

“I did!” Arissa helped her to sit up in bed and got a warm towel to wipe her face. Mary felt more energized now. “My body is aching after lying down for too long. I shall get out of bed to go to the restroom!” Mary said.

“Grandaunt, be careful!” Arissa helped her up carefully. “Okay!” Arissa waited outside the restroom until Mary finished her business and helped her back to bed.

“Grandaunt, after you finish the soup, I'll bring you downstairs for a stroll.” Arissa filled a bowl with the soup left from lunch.

Mary grinned. “Issa, you don't have to stay in the ward to keep me company. Go to work if you're needed there. If you are absent from work, your colleagues will be troubled.”

Arissa explained, “Don't worry, Grandaunt. I'm not going to work today. The kids are going to get off school soon. If I were to head to work, I'd still need to leave soon to pick them up.”

She blew on the soup to cool it off and confirmed it wasn't hot before feeding Mary some soup. “Is Benjamin at work?” Mary asked after glancing around her empty ward.

“Yes.” After Mary filled her stomach, Arissa got a wheelchair and told her to sit in it. She then covered Mary's legs with a blanket and pushed her downstairs for a stroll.

Shaun happened to stop by. “Arissa, are you bringing Mdm. Mary downstairs for a walk?” “Yes!” Arissa nodded. “It isn't good for her to lie in bed all day, so I decided to bring her out for a walk.”

“That sounds like a good idea. Let me do it. The kids will finish their classes soon, right? You should go pick the kids up. I'll bring Mdm. Mary downstairs for her walk.”

Shaun took the wheelchair from her. Arissa glanced at her watch and realized it was almost time to pick the kids up.

If she were to depart now, she would get to pick them up immediately after classes end and bring them here. That would save her a lot of time.

“Issa, go pick the kids up. Dr. Bailey is here!” Mary missed the kids, too.

“I’ll go pick them up now.” Arissa nodded and bade them goodbye before leaving the ward.

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Chapter 849 Is It A Candlelight Dinner

Arissa arrived at the school just in time. Before she could get out, the bodyguard said, “Mrs. Graham, wait a minute!” He got out and glanced around the area to make sure no danger was lurking around before allowing her to get out.

“Thanks!” Arissa thanked him gratefully. They are so careful, aren’t they?

She recalled what happened this morning and asked, “Has the woman been released?” “Yes, this morning. She just had to record a statement in the police station.”

Hearing that, Arissa relaxed and went to the school gate. The children were standing in a line. They were dressed in their smart school uniforms and were carrying backpacks.

Arissa immediately spotted them. “Gavin, Tim, Zachary, Oliver, Jasper, Jesse! This way!” she exclaimed and waved her hand. Spotting her, the kids ran toward her happily.

“Mommy!” Arissa wrapped her arms around them and ruffled their hair dotingly. After saying goodbye to their teachers, she brought them to the car. “Bye, teachers!” the kids bade their teachers goodbye.

The teachers beamed and waved at them. “Bye! See you tomorrow!” “Mommy, I got a sticker today! My teacher praised me!” Jesse showed her sticker excitedly. Arissa chuckled and stroked her cheek. “Good job, Jesse. Why did the teacher reward you with a sticker?”

The corners of Jesse’s lips curled up into an impish grin. “Mommy, Jesse helped to clean up in class. She was the best, so the teacher gave her a sticker!” Jasper explained.

“Luckily, I often told you to clean up at home,” Arissa responded cheerfully.

“Mommy, Tim did a good job, too. But he did it slowly as he wanted to make Jesse happy,” Zachary shared his observation with Arissa.

Arissa gave Tim a grin. “Good job, Tim!”

"I-I did nothing of the sort." Tim lowered his head shyly.

Squatting down to his height, Arissa held his shoulders and asked gently, "I'm glad to see you showing love to your sister. Tim, tell me. Did you really give way to her?"

Tim lowered his head and replied softly, "Not really. Jesse did a great job!"

Pleased, Arissa patted his head lovingly.

Tim's lips curved. "Ms. York, we should go visit Great-grandaunt now!"

"Okay!" Arissa gave them each a kiss before urging them into the car. "Come on. Time to head to the hospital!"

"Hurry!" Gavin urged his siblings.

Zachary led Oliver, Jasper, and Jesse into the car. Tim then hopped into the car, followed by Gavin.

Arissa got into the car and shut the door. She made sure the kids were buckled up before telling the driver to head to the hospital.

"Mommy, why are you early today?" Jasper asked curiously.

"I didn't go to work today, so I came over earlier than usual." Arissa pinched the boy's nose and got them some water. "Drink some water!"

"Thanks, Mommy!" The kids passed the cup around and drank the water.

Arissa gazed at them affectionately. When the cup was empty, she refilled it for them.

"Mommy, you should drink some water, too!" Jesse reminded her.

"Sure!" Arissa accepted the cup from her and took a few sips of water.

"Are you hungry?" she asked.

"Mommy, we had a baking class this afternoon and ate a lot. We're not hungry," Oliver replied.

Arissa nodded. "I won't buy any snacks for you, then. We're going out for dinner tonight."

The kids were surprised. "We're going out for dinner?"

"Yes!" Arissa smiled.

Jasper giggled and teased, "Mommy, is it a candlelight dinner with Daddy?"

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Chapter 850 Jesse Shows Her Concern For Mary

The other kids burst into excited giggles. Arissa pinched his cheek. "Your daddy is treating us all to dinner!" "Mommy, is it just us? Or will other people be there too?" Gavin stared at her curiously.

"Mr. Watts and Mr. Bailey will be there too," came Arissa's answer. Gavin smiled from ear to ear. "I can't wait for dinner!" As the other kids were fine with it, Arissa brought them to the hospital straight away.

Shaun and Mary were still strolling downstairs. When their car arrived, he pushed Mary to the entrance. "Great-grandaunt!" The kids hopped off the car and ran to her. "Great-grandaunt, are you feeling better today?"

"Yes, I'm feeling so much better!" Mary beamed. "What did you learn in school today?"

The six children began sharing everything they had done in school that day. Arissa told Shaun, "Mr. Bailey, you can leave if you're busy. I can take care of them."

"I have nothing on, so I can play with them now." Shaun's lips curled as he gazed at the children. Mary was delighted to be surrounded by the kids. "Grandaunt, do you still want to stroll around the garden? Let me push you around!"

The weather was cool, so it was perfect for a walk.

"Okay. Let's spend some time here. They had just come back from school, so let them play here for a while before we head up," Mary responded. She didn't want the kids to spend all their time cooped up in her ward.

The kids pushed Mary's wheelchair happily as Arissa walked after them. Shaun was about to catch up with them when his superior summoned him. He had no choice but to get back to work.

The kids were sharing their day with the elderly woman happily. As Mary was holding her stomach as she laughed at their antics, Tim got worried and asked, "Great-grandaunt, does your tummy hurt?"

"I'm fine." Mary patted his head to comfort him. "Grandaunt, don't laugh too hard," Arissa reminded her cheerfully. She told the kids, "Sweethearts, your great-grandaunt just had surgery this morning, so don't make her laugh too hard."

Surprised, the children immediately showered their concern on her. Gavin asked, "Great-grandaunt, why did you get a surgery?"

Zachary chimed in, "Great-grandaunt, are you unwell?"

Tim seemed anxious. "Great-grandaunt, why didn't you tell me about the surgery? Do you feel better now?" Both Jasper and Oliver asked, "Great-grandaunt, are you sick again?"

"Great-grandaunt, where did you get cut?" Jesse inquired.

Mary flashed a smile and patted their heads. "My stomach often hurts, right? It's because I had kidney stones. I had surgery today to get rid of them so I won't have tummy aches anymore!"

"Does your tummy still hurt now?" Zachary asked carefully.

Mary was touched by their concern.

"No, it doesn't hurt anymore. Otherwise, I wouldn't have come down for a walk in the garden."

Arissa bent down to pull the blanket up to cover Mary's legs.

Mary shot her a smile and turned to the kids. "Go have fun!"

"Great-grandaunt, we want to keep you company."

Tim was holding Mary's hand and felt bad to see the needle mark on the back of her hand.

He blew on her hand. "Great-grandaunt, there's a bruise here. I'll get you an egg later to rub over your bruise."

"Sure!" Mary agreed with a smile.

Arissa got the water bottle and poured Mary a cup of water. She blew on it and waited for a while before giving the cup to Mary.

"Grandaunt, have some water!"

"Okay." Mary bobbed her head.

"Drink more water, Great-grandaunt!" Gavin beamed at her.

Mary replied, "I will. You have to drink more water, too!"

“Mommy gave us water earlier in the car ride!” Jasper told her.