

Departure with a Belly Chapter 296

Departure with a Belly Chapter 296

Chapter 296

1/8

Seeing that Victoria finally agreed to eat, Terrance swiftly fetched the prepared meal. The lunch he prepared in advance was bought from a high-end restaurant where it was beautifully plated with even a heat preservation effect. When the lid was opened, the aroma wafted to their noses.

As she took a bite of the rice, she glanced at Alaric's plate and noticed that he also had rice.

She frowned slightly and instinctively said, "You're eating rice? Has your stomach already recovered?"

After she spoke, silence filled the surroundings.

Before he could look at her, Victoria quickly explained, "I asked because of our partnership."

It would have been better if she had not explained, but now it felt like she had unintentionally revealed her intentions.

A faint smile curved Alaric's thin lips when he heard her explanation. "Is that so? I'll consider it as your concern for me."

11 05 Man 3 Jul

DA

Chapter 205 18 Consider it as Your Concern

The negative emotions that had surfaced earlier due to her reluctance completely vanished now. There was only one thought in his mind. She cares about me

7/0

Although Victoria's behavior seemed awkward, this slight concern was enough to make him happy.

Her brows furrowed in disbelief as she had not anticipated Alaric being so shameless and opportunistic.

Seeing that she remained silent, he asked, "Isn't rice considered nourishing for the stomach? I thought having three regular meals would suffice."

She frowned at his response. "Having three regular meals is certainly fine, but didn't you have gastric bleeding recently? Your stomach is fragile, so it's advisable to avoid eating these types of food during the recovery period."

"So, what should I eat?" He appeared humble.

"Easily digestible foods like fluids, vegetables, and fruits. You also have to be mindful of the intake and not to overeat. It's best to have smaller, more frequent meals for better digestion."

During Victoria's time abroad, Tony suffered from gastritis for some time, and she was Mon,

Chapter 296 I'll Consider It as Your Concern for M
the one who took care of his diet during that period.

Therefore, she was able to bring him suitable food when Alaric had gastric bleeding and was hospitalized last time.

Pondering, he asked, "So, those food you brought to the hospital last time?"

As he suddenly brought up the incident from last time, she was not sure of his intentions but nodded. "Yes, something like that."

"Okay, I'll have Terrance take note of it."

3/8

Victoria took a bite of rice, but her eyebrows remained furrowed. Even if he doesn't know these things, Claudia surely does. And why haven't I seen her during this period? Could it be that she's unaware of his gastric bleeding? The relationship between them... Thinking about this, she forcefully interrupted the strange thoughts in her mind. Stop it! Me and him are entirely in the past now, and all these things have nothing to do with me. Why should I burden myself with unnecessary worries?

After she dismissed all those unnecessary thoughts, her mind regained clarity.

Later, Victoria focused on finishing her lunch and swiftly immersed herself in her work.

Remans que to the suffer mindset, there was a suble change in the aura surrounding her Aand could sense the distant and icy aura emanating from her and his expression arso turned serous. She seemed fine just a moment ago. Why did she change so succeny?

As his thoughts were easily influenced by her his gaze remained on her face even when she handed the finished proposal to him.

What's wrong?"

As he heard her question, a trace of confusion flashed in his eyes. "What?" Pursing his thin lips, he retrieved the spare laptop and remained silent. While Alaric reviewed the proposal, Victoria quietly waited beside him. He quickly skimmed through it, originally intending to find some issues in her written work to prolong her stay a little longer. However, she was a fast learner. Combined with the fact that he had observed the entire writing process, he genuinely could not find a single mistake. Finally, he managed to spot one wrong character. "There's a mistake here."

11:05 Mon, 3 Jul A

Chapter 296 Consider It as Your Concern for M

Upon hearing his words, Victoria did not think much and immediately leaned over, asking, "Where is it?"

As Alaric moved the mouse, her gaze followed until she noticed him pointing at a specific word.

At first, she was momentarily stunned. Unsure of what he was referring to, she asked, "What's wrong with this part?"

"Judgment is spelled without the e," he said indifferently.

Hearing his answer, Victoria realized that she had misspelled the word.

5/8

She glanced at Alaric and was amazed that he could spot such a small mistake among all the words.

"Sorry, my mistake." She retrieved the laptop to correct the word before handing it back to him.

"Are there any other issues?"

As he reviewed it again, she started to feel bored and had the urge to yawn. However, she resisted the temptation to yawn and covered her mouth and nose with her hand for

Chapter 296 11 Consider it as Your Concern for I

the sake of her company.

After an unknown amount of time, Alaric finally pointed out another mistake.

"Grammar mistake."

6/2

Dumbfounded, Victoria found it difficult to believe what she heard and glanced at him.

Upon reflection, she realized it made sense. Alaric was known for his strictness when it

came to work, so it was only natural for him to spot grammatical errors and typos in her work. She acknowledged that her carelessness allowed him to find those mistakes. Therefore, she corrected the grammar mistake and handed it back to him.

A few minutes later...

"This sentence also needs revision."

Victoria continued to make corrections.

A few more minutes later...

"This part should be broken into paragraphs. The text appears too dense, which affects readability."

11:05 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 2961 Consider it as Your Concery for M

Speechless, she bit her lip and endured it.

After several instances of reviewing minor details repeatedly and when Alaric started reviewing her proposal for the fifth time, Victoria could not help but ask, "Are there no more important matters to address?"

Why does he keep focusing on these minor flaws? What is he trying to get at?

Hearing her question, he paused and gave her a sidelong glance. "Do you think these issues are unimportant?"

"That's not what I meant. I just think..."

Alaric asked, "Think what?"

Facing his cold gaze, Victoria pursed her lips and answered, "N-nothing. Please, continue the review. If you find any issues, I'll make the necessary improvements."

He withdrew his gaze, and she waited beside him.

Perhaps due to her intense focus while writing the proposal, she grew increasingly tired. Although she had been able to suppress her yawns previously, she found it impossible to control them now.

7/8

7

11:05 Mon, 3 Jul A

Chapter 296 I'll Consider it as Your Concern for M

Victoria continued to cover her mouth and nose with her hand, but she could not help but let out a yawn this time.

Despite the soft yawn, it was audible in the quiet office, where only the sound of the

mouse scrolling could be heard.

8/8

Alaric paused slightly and looked at her, where he happened to catch a glimpse of her yawning with teary eyes.

His heart stirred slightly, and his voice unconsciously softened. "Are you tired?"

Victoria did not expect to draw his attention just by yawning and quickly waved her hand. "It's nothing. Please continue with the review. Let me know if you find any issues, and I'll work on the revisions accordingly."

"No need. When a person is tired, their brain tends to slow down. Even if they force themselves to come up with something, it's likely to be of poor quality." With that, he promptly closed the laptop.

Chapter 297

"What about my proposal..."

"It's approved," Alaric said.

"Approved? So, you mean it's now in effect?"

"Yes."

So, he pointed out my minor flaws because he found the proposal acceptable after the initial review? If I consider it from that perspective, it's not entirely unreasonable, is it?

"Since it's approved, I-" Before Victoria could finish her sentence, Alaric had already stood up with the car keys in his hand.

"Let's go. I'll drive you back."

Hearing this, she instinctively declined. "Don't bother. I came here by driving myself. I can go back on my own."

Besides, she came here to deliver the proposal, not to engage in any further interactions with him. How could she agree to let him take her back?

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

With this in mind, Victoria swiftly grabbed her bag to leave.

After a few steps, Alaric grabbed her wrist. "Denied cheating on the driver theory test, huh?"

She was taken aback by his sudden question.

He added, "Are you not aware of the prohibition on fatigued driving?"

"I just yawned a few times. How does that count as fatigued driving? It's different."

However, Victoria did not expect Alaric to directly refute her, "You're obviously exhausted. Stop making excuses. Let's go."

"I am not yawning anymore-" Before she could finish her sentence, she involuntarily yawned again.

Her yawn rendered her speechless.

Alaric sneered. "And you say you're not tired?"

Now she had no way to argue back.

As Victoria did not want him to escort her, she tried to find a compromise. She said,

2/9

11:06 Mon, 3

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

“Alright, I won’t drive. I’ll call a designated driver to pick me up, okay?”

With that, she took out her phone to call for a designated driver but was stopped by him.

She looked up and unexpectedly met Alaric’s pitch-black eyes. “Are you that repulsed by me?”

Startled, she quickly averted her gaze to avoid his intense stare. “Mr. Cadogan, you must be joking. We are business partners. There is no reason for me to have any aversion toward you.”

“Is that so? Since that’s not it, what’s wrong with letting a business partner give you a ride? Or are you intentionally avoiding me, afraid that I’ll discover something?”

He deliberately provoked her with his final remark.

Victoria’s gaze flickered slightly. I just want to maintain a boundary with him, but it doesn’t mean I’m intentionally avoiding him. However... I can’t disregard the possibility that he may perceive it that way. Perhaps being more accommodating will alleviate some of his concerns.

With this in mind, she turned her head back. “You really insist on accompanying me
3/9

11:06 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

back, don’t you?”

Before Alaric could answer, a set of car keys flew out of her hand. They gracefully arched through the air before landing securely in his palm.

He glanced down at the car keys resting in his hand. Attached to them was a keychain, and it appeared to be newly purchased.

Lifting his eyes, he found Victoria looking at him provocatively with a faint superficial smile.

“Well then, I appreciate you being my designated driver today, Mr. Cadogan.”

He withdrew his gaze and replied with a deep voice, “Okay.”

With that, he left the office first and led the way.

Victoria’s suggestion for Alaric to drive her was actually intentional. Given his position as the president of Cadogan Group, she anticipated that he would not willingly agree to it. However, to her surprise, he agreed.

Biting her lower lip, she followed him reluctantly.

The two entered the elevator and stepped out as it reached the parking lot. Before

11:06 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

5/9

them was her modest car, worth less than 30 thousand dollars. She chuckled lightly.

“Mr. Cadogan, I apologize for the humble sight. My car isn’t anything impressive. I doubt you’ve ever driven a car worth less than 750 thousand, right? The handling isn’t great.

So, perhaps you should-

Before she could finish her sentence, Alaric swiftly opened the car door and settled himself inside.

As he fastened his seatbelt, Victoria remained there in stunned silence.

Seeing her reluctant and astonished expression, he felt a secret satisfaction. He smiled mischievously and reminded her. “What are you waiting for? Or are you perhaps too

exhausted to get in?”

Victoria gritted her teeth and entered the car. Instead of taking the passenger seat, she sat in the backseat to treat him as the driver.

Once settled in the backseat, she glanced at Alaric’s face through the rearview mirror and was surprised to notice that he was not angry at all for being treated as a driver.

After a while, the car drove out of the company.

While the car was inexpensive by his standards, his driving skills were excellent. He did MON,

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

not mind the car’s value as long as it was in working condition.

6/9

Victoria leaned back in the back seat with her arms crossed. She originally thought he would retort a few words, but he drove in silence as if his sole purpose was to send her home.

The car was quiet.

After approximately two minutes, the car merged onto the highway, and the ride became much smoother.

Alaric glanced at her through the rearview mirror.

“Take a rest if you’re tired.”

Victoria pursed her lips and averted her gaze to ignore him.

It would take approximately 20 minutes to return to the company, and she was starting to feel a bit sleepy.

Maybe I can take a short nap? Nah, don’t want him to think I feel safe sleeping while he’s driving. We’ll reach the company soon anyway. Besides, the proposal is settled, and there isn’t much to do in the afternoon. I can rest later.

11:06 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

7/9

As much as she entertained this thought, the car ride was incredibly smooth. Her mind was too relaxed from the previous intense focus that she felt exhausted now. In the end, she leaned against the seat and unconsciously drifted to sleep.

Hearing the steady sound of breathing, Alaric glanced in the rearview mirror and noticed she had fallen asleep. He subtly slowed down the car and looked ahead at the road. After a brief thought, he decided to make a detour.

Victoria was awakened by the sound of a ringing phone. When she woke up, she instinctively checked the time and realized she had dozed off for over twenty minutes. Looking out the window, she found they were still on the road. Haven’t we arrived yet? As the phone in the front row continued to ring, Victoria glanced at Alaric. Their met just as he turned to look at her.

eyes

“Did I wake you up? I forgot to put the phone on silent.”

She rubbed her eyes and looked away. “It’s okay.”

Afterward, she ignored him.

As the phone persisted in ringing, Victoria noticed Alaric driving calmly with no intention of answering the call. It’s not my business anyway if it’s something important.

Chapter 297 In the Pocket

8/9

She could not be bothered to care about him and leaned against the window to silently watch the scenery outside.

The phone rang for a while and stopped briefly before resuming its persistent noise. The loudness annoyed Victoria and caused her to frown. Unable to ignore it any longer, she could not help but look at Alaric. "Aren't you going to answer it?"

"Are you sure you didn't cheat on the theory test? You shouldn't make phone calls while driving."

She replied, "Just put your phone on silent, can you?"

"My hands are full."

Victoria was rendered speechless.

Alaric raised an eyebrow and glanced at her. "If it bothers you, help me put it on silence."

She crossed her arms. "It's okay. I can just ignore it."

However, the phone continued to ring several times. Unable to tolerate the noise anymore, she sat up and leaned her hand on the backrest. "Where is your phone?"

Chapter 297 in the Pocket

Alaric glanced at her coldly and said calmly. "In my pocket."

Chapter 298

Initially, Victoria extended her hand to retrieve the phone but withdrew it upon learning that his phone was in his pants pocket.

She furrowed her brows. "Can't you take it out yourself?"

"My hands should be on the steering wheel."

Although she considered suggesting that Alaric take out his phone and put it on silent, she anticipated that he would use his knowledge of driving rules to dismiss her suggestion. Therefore, she decided to remain silent and reclined in her seat. I'll just endure it until we reach the company. We should be there soon, shouldn't we?

As she was deep in thought, his phone rang again and pushed her patience to its limit.

Unable to bear it any longer, Victoria leaned forward and reached into his pants pocket to retrieve his phone. However, she froze in place after she saw the caller ID.

As the phone continued to ring, Alaric, the driver, assumed she did not know how to put the phone on silent and reminded her. "Push the button on the side in the opposite

direction. It'll switch to silent mode.”

Chapter 298 Come With Me

His voice jolted her back to reality, and she swiftly silenced his phone as per his instructions before silently handing the phone back to him.

Afterward, she reclined in her seat and gazed out of the window with a cold expression.

He had a vague feeling that something was off, but he did not pay it much attention as she had always been resistant toward him.

When they finally arrived at her company, Victoria stepped out of the car and indifferently requested the keys from him. “The keys.”

Pursing his lips, Alaric looked at her and contemplated whether her attitude toward him had worsened, as she appeared to be even colder than before. What’s wrong with her? She seemed fine when we were in the car.

“Have I done something to offend you?” he asked.

Her expression remained unchanged. “It’s nothing, Mr. Cadogan. How could you possibly offend me? Thank you for giving me a ride, but the car is mine. So, get a cab or call your driver for your ride back.”

He furrowed his brows deeply as he felt her tone was unusually hostile.

Chapter 298 Come With Me

3/8

As he was about to say something, Victoria stepped back to create a distance between them. “I have a lot of things to attend to at the company. I should be going now.”

With that, she left without even looking back.

Her reaction caused Alaric’s thin lips to almost straighten into a line, and his gaze gradually turned cold and displeased.

It was not until his phone in his pocket vibrated that he took it out and answered it without even glancing at the screen.

“What is it?”

As she disrupted his state of mind, he grew extremely irritated at that moment, and his tone even carried a hint of impatience.

There was a brief silence on the other end of the phone for about five to six seconds before a gentle voice finally sounded. “Al, it’s me.”

Alaric was momentarily stunned by the familiar voice. “Claudia?”

“Yeah, you sound a little angry. Did something unpleasant happen? I called you earlier, but you didn’t answer.” Claudia expressed her concerns.

Chapter 298 Come With Me

He reluctantly listened to her until the end, and his eyes flickered as he heard the latter part. “What did you say? It was you who kept calling me just now?”

“Yes, I called you a couple of times, but you didn’t answer, I got a bit worried, so I kept calling. Are you mad at me? I’m sorry, I was just concerned about you.”

Alaric’s brows furrowed deeply as he suddenly figured out why Victoria had gone quiet for those few seconds when she had his phone and why her attitude toward him had changed after putting it on silent for him.

Although her previous attitude toward him was not particularly good, Claudia’s call must have added insult to injury.

Realizing this, Alaric pursed his lips and coldly warned, “Refrain from making consecutive calls in the future.”

His voice was chilling like a wintry mix of rain and snow.

There was a moment of silence on the other end, followed by a remorseful and weak

voice. "I'm sorry, Al. I-I was just worried that something might happen to you. That's why I-

"Worried about what?" he harshly interrupted Claudia. "Even if something did happen to me, what good would these consecutive calls do other than drain my battery?"

Alaric's words were direct and sobering, which left Claudia unable to argue. She could only offer a soft apology and promise not to do it again.

As he was not interested in listening to her apologies, he mentioned that he had something to attend to and abruptly ended the call.

After putting away his phone, he swiftly went in the direction where Victoria had disappeared.

Upon reaching the company and stepping out of the elevator, Victoria planned to head straight to her office. However, she unexpectedly bumped into the same bespectacled male employee, Shawn Harrington, she had encountered earlier at the corner.

As soon as Shawn saw her, he blushed and greeted, "M-Miss Selwyn."

Despite her initial displeasure, she swiftly composed herself upon encountering her employee and greeted him with a smile, "Well, what are you doing here?"

He had only intended to say hello to her, but he did not expect her to take the initiative to ask about his situation. Her unexpected interest instantly ignited his excitement.

Chapter 298 Come With Me

He observed her simple winter attire—a light-colored sweater paired with ordinary high-waisted jeans and complemented by a light gray cardigan. Her waist-length hair was pinned back with a hairpin. Despite the simplicity of her attire, she emitted a radiant, captivating, and gentle aura that made it difficult to look away.

Shawn's glasses gleamed, and his ears turned red. "I-I came to submit a report."

“A report?”

“Yes.”

He handed over the folder in his hand. “This was meant to pass through Mr. Poole, but

“Let me take a look.” Victoria reached out and took the folder.

Afterward, she quietly stood still and flipped through the documents. About a minute later, a realization dawned upon her, and she glanced up at Shawn. “If you’re busy, feel free to go ahead. I can deliver this report to Mr. Poole for you.”

“No, it’s fine.” He blushed and declined. “I’m not busy. I’ll wait here for you.”

Ding!

6/8

Chapter 298 Come With Me

Exiting the elevator, Alaric witnessed the interaction between Victoria and Shawn.

She flipped through the documents in her hands while Shawn stood across from her, his face slightly flushed as he gazed at her.

7/8

As she had her head lowered, he unabashedly gazed at her. His admiration for her was so intense that he might just as well confess his feelings directly.

Alaric’s expression darkened, and he approached them with strides.

Shawn was the first to notice and recognize Alaric. He widened his eyes in astonishment and stammered, “M-Miss Selwyn...”

Hearing Shawn’s voice, Victoria lifted her head and noticed his expression of extreme surprise as he glanced behind her. Thus, she turned her head to see and was taken aback when she saw Alaric.

Before she could speak, he approached her and said with a gloomy face, “I need to talk

to you.”

As she recalled the incident that had just occurred in the car, she averted her gaze to show no intention of engaging in a conversation with him.

Chapter 298 Come With Me

Alaric narrowed his eyes before grabbing her wrist in the next second. “Come with me.”

pay of a plavud, peddats Mypeas wals tocanos aut Burees

200 of Bujjuued not eve cam rawo do say query, Sui66nus sam apcon

Tumeus petepilinu (quessa a pen Busodul ce saw ane BujewLEXO SILE

ae noun of op ou au dous ca Buy, wy be Bubbous pateaus query

equafouue su cu cape .claraja

Coincidentally, the gold-rimmed glasses that he wore reminded Alaric of someone else.

The combination of his intense gaze directed at Victoria as soon as Alaric exited the

by eded ELS ANBU But be pekool que

Badjao DUESS 01 CUENdy pauso foro pue perseas Meny Levels fel

puling her forward

Apo Sulousand ay on peau au pied que cafoule ceap caees quay Carewol

ground

velayu sota el hadde cand saw ecoy suco noi ee BLM

Chapter 299

Chapter 299 There’s Nothing Between Us

“Get lost!” Alaric angrily shouted, “Don’t force me to take action.”

With that, he forcefully pulled Victoria along and left.

2/7

It took Shawn a moment to react. He contemplated chasing after them, but Alaric’s intimidating demeanor held him back. In the end, he hurried toward Henry’s office. “Mr. Poole! Mr. Poole!”

Henry was on a phone call with a client when Shawn barged in and made a scene.

Realizing that he was on a call, Shawn immediately quieted down.

He could only apologize to the client before hanging up and asking Shawn, “What’s the matter? Why are you kicking up a fuss in the office?”

“Mr. Poole, a man came in just now and forcefully took Miss Selwyn away.”

As soon as Henry heard about Victoria, his expression instantly tensed up. “What? Took her away? A kidnap?”

“Kidnap?” Shawn recalled carefully for a moment. “I don’t think it’s a kidnapping, but there was definitely an argument, and that man is-”

“Who is it?”

Chapter 299 There’s Nothing Between Us

“I-It seemed to be the president of Cadogan Group.”

As he said this, he began questioning whether he had misinterpreted what he witnessed moments ago. How could he be involved with Miss Selwyn? Why was he grabbing her like that?

Initially filled with worry, Henry breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing that it was Alaric.

“Why didn’t you mention that earlier? There’s no need to worry.”

“Huh? No need to worry?”

“They know each other, so stop worrying and get back to work.”

“But...” Shawn remained vigilant and scratched his head, continuing, “Mr. Cadogan’s behavior seemed off. Shouldn’t we do something? What if something happens to Miss Selwyn?”

Henry had instructed Shawn to get back to work but did not expect him to persist and continued asking. Speechless, he looked at Shawn. “Have you ever been in love? Why are you so oblivious? He likes her, so it’s natural for him to act strangely.”

“L-Likes her?” Shawn froze as he was surprised by Henry’s response. He likes Miss
11:07 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 299 There’s Nothing Between Us

Selwyn? Does that mean he...

AΠ

“Stop dwelling on it. Even if it wasn’t Mr. Cadogan, you wouldn’t stand a chance. There’s a line of people pursuing our boss, and not just anyone can get with her.”

Although Shawn was already aware of this inevitable outcome, witnessing it with his own eyes and hearing it with his ears left him feeling disheartened. “I-I understand. I never thought about her that way.”

“It’s natural to have thoughts. After all, who wouldn’t be attracted to a beautiful and intelligent woman? Now hurry up and get back to work.”

Dejected, Shawn walked away with dragging steps.

Henry shook his head and returned to his work.

Alaric led Victoria to a secluded corner before finally stopping.

Although she tried to resist at first, she soon recognized the firm grip of his large hand was akin to an unyielding iron chain. She realized that struggling would only be futile.

Eventually, she decided not to waste her energy and allowed him to guide her away.

11:08 Mon, 3 Jul A

Chapter 299 There’s Nothing Between Us

5/7

As she grew quiet, her demeanor seemed to gradually influence him and prompted him to stop walking. He turned his head to gaze at her.

For a brief moment, the two locked eyes in silence before Victoria’s gaze shifted toward the spot where Alaric tightly held her wrist.

“Can you

let
go

now?" Her voice was calm, clear, and devoid of warmth.

Her demeanor caused him to furrow his brows. Rather than releasing her, he tightened his grip on her wrist and took a few steps closer. "There's something I want to talk to you about."

As he drew nearer, his familiar crisp breath enveloped her.

Almost instinctively, Victoria turned her face aside to avoid his gaze. "Fine, go ahead and say what you need to say."

Her impatience and indifference only fueled the frustration building up in Alaric's chest, but there were certain things he wanted to clarify. "When you silenced my phone earlier, did you happen to see the caller ID?"

Hearing this, she paused and was caught off guard by his inquiry. She sneered. "I just silenced it. I have no interest in your privacy."

Chapter 299 There's Nothing Between Us

"Is that so?" He stared at her intently. "You didn't see it?"

Victoria nodded. "Yes, I didn't. Now, can you let go of me?"

67

The next moment, Alaric pressed her against the cold wall, gripping her hand tightly and gritting his teeth. "You didn't see it? And you didn't notice how your attitude toward me changed afterward? Victoria, do you think I'm a fool?"

It was initially a simple approach, but now he held her wrist and pressed his body against hers. The proximity between them suddenly became intimate.

If it were not for the thick fabric of their winter clothes, it might...

Even so, there was a noticeable contrast between their bodies. Under the squeeze, Victoria could discern the distinct contours of his masculine physique against her own.

"Even if you don't believe me, I want to tell you there's nothing between Claudia and me." Due to their proximity, Alaric's warm breath brushed against her face as he spoke.

As she could not hold her breath, the closeness made her feel their breaths intertwining. Despite her struggles, her hand remained firmly held.

She could only breathe lightly and say, "Why are you telling me all this? I don't care

11.08 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 299 There's Nothing Between Lis

about any relationship between you and her. Just let go."

6

"I won't let go." He stubbornly stared at Victoria. "If you don't care, why did your attitude suddenly change?"

"Who said my attitude changed? I've always been like this."

"It's different."

She found it amusing. "What's different?"

Alaric pursed his lips and looked at her with a complex gaze. "Although your attitude toward me has always been terrible, it became even worse after you found out."

Victoria was taken aback by his remark.

"That's the difference. Do you think I can't see it?"

Chapter 300

Victoria never anticipated that someone would bring up the worsening in her already bad attitude to discuss her emotional transformation. “So what? What does it even signify?”

Alaric remained silent and stared at her.

Upon seeing his continued silence, she tried to make him free herself from his grip.

“You should let go of me first.”

1/7

With no response from him, she attempted to push him away. However, her vision went dark as he suddenly leaned down toward her.

“Let me ” Before she could finish her sentence, he embraced her completely. His warmth instantly enveloped her and left her stunned in place. She thought he was going to forcefully kiss her.

“Yes, maybe it doesn’t mean anything in your eyes, but it carries great significance for me.” Alaric’s voice was low and heavy in her ears.

“I don’t have much left. This subtle shift is all I have to gauge if you still hold even the tiniest trace of affection for me.”

11:08 Mon, 3 Jul

A

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

Regardless of its authenticity or impending disappearance, he wanted to hold onto it tightly.

2/7

At that moment, Victoria believed she was hearing things as those words sounded too

humble to be true. They were so humble that it did not sound like something Alaric would say.

She also began to question what Alaric was doing. Five years ago, he was the one who wanted a divorce and didn't want the children. And now he's saying he can only determine his feelings based on my slight change?

What does that mean?

What has happened in these five years? Could he have regretted divorcing me during this time, which is why he's saying this now?

Is he feeling remorse? No, that can't be right. I saw him at the auction last time with Claudia. They attended the auction together and left together like a perfectly matched couple.

With these thoughts, the emotions in Victoria's eyes grew even colder. Despite being held by Alaric, it felt as if she was being held by a stone. So, she deliberately provoked him. "What do you mean, Alaric?"

11:08 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

At this, he slowly loosened his grip and looked at her humbly. "What do I mean? Isn't it obvious?"

She raised an eyebrow. "Obvious? Well, I'm sorry to say I can't figure out what you're trying to imply."

She wore a mocking expression. "Or let me guess, could it be that *you* regret divorcing me? Are you suggesting that you want to reconcile with me?"

As Victoria spoke, her eyes filled with sarcasm. It hinted that if Alaric were to admit it, she would unleash a verbal assault.

After finishing her words, she maintained a cold smile on her lips. Being an intelligent person, he could certainly perceive her dismissive attitude. If he dared to admit it, he would undoubtedly be verbally assaulted.

At this moment, she was curious if he would admit it despite the potential consequences.

With these thoughts, she even lifted her chin.

Alaric looked at Victoria in silence as he understood what she planned to do next with this expression.

3/7

11:08 Mon, Jul

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

“Why aren’t you saying anything?” She smiled. “Mr. Cadogan, are you perhaps afraid to admit it?”

“Why do you insist on provoking me?” He sighed. “I’ve already made it so obvious. Yes, you’re right. I do regret it.”

As Alaric finished speaking, he suddenly leaned in closer to Victoria. With a swift movement, his thin lips almost touched her moist and red lips while his hot breath caressed her face.

His eyes were deep as his body inched closer and closer to hers. As he was on the verge of finally kissing those lips that had haunted his dreams and driven him to madness for the past five years, a faint scornful laughter escaped from between her lips.

In that instant, his movements abruptly halted.

“So?” Victoria looked at him with amusement. Her slender white finger poked at his

chest as her voice dripped with disdain. “Just because you regret it, am I supposed to reconcile with you? Alaric, who do you think you are? What gives you the right to come and go as you please?”

“I don’t have any right,” Alaric admitted with a frown.

11:08 Mon, 3 Jul A

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

“Oh? You sure have a short memory. You were the one who initiated the divorce back then, remember?”

57

As Victoria mentioned this matter, Alaric gritted his teeth. “Fine, *you* can blame me for initiating the divorce. But what about you? You didn’t care at all whether I brought up the divorce or not back then, did you? Getting a divorce was exactly what you wanted.”

Hearing this, she furrowed her delicate eyebrows. “What do you mean by that?”

He pursed his lips while his gaze became intense. “You told me it was merely an accident and nothing more, remember?”

As Alaric spoke, he seemed to recall something that angered him and gritted his teeth.

“And you even demanded 14.5 million from me.”

She fell silent before questioning, “And if I remember correctly, I repaid you that 14.5 million a long time ago.”

When Victoria left back then, she left everything behind and settled all matters cleanly with him without taking anything with her.

“This isn’t about repayment.”

11:08 Mon, 3 Jul

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

“Then, what is it, Alaric? I don’t owe you anything.”

617

“Yes, you don’t owe me anything. That’s why you can leave so calmly and without any concerns. You even refuse to look at me.” Alaric looked at her and added in a deep voice, “What bothers me is the statement you made about it being just an accident. Do you think it’s about that 14.5 million?”

Victoria was taken aback as she had initially thought he was referring to the 14.5 million. Now that he mentioned it, she carefully recalled that she had said how it was an accident because they were both drunk.

Seeing her expression, he gritted his teeth. “So, you finally remember? You said it was an accident.”

How could I forget? We were both drinking that night. I wasn’t even sure who initiated it, but it happened.

I didn’t want him to feel like I was a burden, so downplaying it as an accident and a mere biological need was all I could do. It was just my attempt to avoid any further awkwardness between us. I never expected that he would bring this up against me today.

With these thoughts, Victoria lifted her gaze and looked at him calmly. “You dare say

11:08 Mon,

Chapter 300 Ulterior Motives

that it wasn’t an accident?”

Alaric was caught off guard. “I—”

“What? Or perhaps you’re going to suggest that you had been plotting against me all along, and that’s why that happened?”

Pursing his thin lips, he stared at her in silence.

7/7

Before he could speak, she let out a self-deprecating chuckle. "Would you even believe

such nonsense? Is it even possible? It's utterly laughable is what it is."

After a prolonged silence, Alaric finally spoke up. "Why do you believe it's impossible?"

Victoria was taken aback.

"What's so unbelievable about it?" His hand gently caressed the back of her head while their lips nearly touched once again. "Have you never considered that I might have had ulterior motives toward you?"