

Departure with a Belly Chapter 426

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Chapter 426

Alaric held Victoria's phone far away from her so that she could not get it back that easily.

She did not have the guts to fight with him over it either since she was afraid the exertion would only worsen his injuries and bring him more pain.

1/8

"What punishment? Even if you had said something bad, it has nothing to do with your wounds."

Unfortunately, all her pleas fell on deaf ears. He kept ignoring them as though he firmly believed he needed to be punished.

Staring at his blank face, she finally said, "Even if it's a punishment, you could be punished in another way."

Other punishments?

He finally looked up at her.

"What other punishments do you have in mind?"

She solemnly considered her answer before saying, "I have a punishment in mind, but it won't be happening now. We'll wait until you are all healed up."

12:05

Chapter 426 Of My Own Free Will

“Will you forgive me after the punishment?” he asked.

“We’ll see.”

His words had certainly angered her.

His eyes darkened once more, but he did not say anything.

“Give me my phone. I’ll call the doctor and have him clean and dress your wounds again.”

After a moment of silence, he returned the phone to her.

2/8

Deep down, she heaved a sigh of relief when she had her phone back in her hands. Due

to his abrupt behavior, she did not even have the chance to walk Summer out.

However, Summer had Erik by her side, so Victoria did not need to worry about her.

The doctor arrived soon after the call to freshen up Alaric’s wound dressings.

As the doctor cleaned and dressed the wounds, he asked in a confused voice, “What happened? The wound had closed up last night. Why does it look worse now? What did

you do?”

Victoria kept quiet.

12.05 Sa

Chapter 426 Of My Own Free Will

It was Alaric who answered. "I tripped."

His calm answer rendered the doctor speechless.

"Mr. Cadogan, this wound... You might not die from it, but it's still not something to wave off and laugh at. You have to take good care of the wound. What if something actually happens? You might think your body will be fine, but what if something goes wrong? What will Miss Selwyn do? What about Miss Nicole and Mr. Nathan?"

3/8

Alaric could not muster up any retort to that. His only response was an agreement to be careful in the future.

Every doctor wanted a patient to follow their instructions and behave so that they would recover faster.

Hence, the doctor eventually left the place, satisfied with himself after wrangling that promise from Alaric.

Once the doctor was gone, Victoria turned to Alaric and calmly said, "No matter what happens in the future, you are not to fool around when it comes to your life."

"I know. If I die, my children might end up belonging to another man," he said.

He had only thought that he could cheer her up by punishing himself. He had not expected to trigger her each time he did so.

Chapter 426 Of My Own Free Will

“You know that, but what does it matter? What if something happens?”

He was at a loss for words. True. What if...

What if he actually died? Regret would be useless then.

“I’m sorry.”

He did not know what to say except for that.

The remorse painted across his face made her hesitate about continuing her lecture.

In the end, she said, “Since you’re fine, I’ll be going now.”

She had just turned away from him when he grabbed her wrist.

“Where are you going?”

She paused. “I’m only going on a walk downstairs.”

“Do

you

hate staying in the same room as I am that much? Does it hurt for you to be with me?”

Her brows furrowed. He sounded unusually fragile right now.

She had only wanted to go on a stroll, yet he seemed to only want to cling to her side.

4/8

12:06 Sat,

Chapter 426 Of My Own Free Will

5/8

Every second she spent away from him sounded like it would be a second of him letting his imagination run wild.

She had not expected him to ever act this way.

She turned to look at him.

“That’s not it. You are hurt, so you need rest, right?”

“Yes,” he said, nodding. “I want you to stay with me.”

She sighed. “Didn’t I stay the whole night with you?”

I could not stay by his side all the time, could I? I have kids to look after!

“Snowball.”

He pulled her closer to hoarsely whisper into her ear. “I am ill. I need a long-term companion.”

She did not struggle, and he pulled her over to sit on his lap while wrapping his arms around her waist. She reflexively shivered. By the time she realized what was happening, she was sitting on his lap while being hugged.

He tilted his head down and leaned in to greedily sniff at her neck.

The hot bursts of air brushing against her exposed, sensitive neck made her our back in surprise

As though he had lost control, he soon pressed his soft lips against her skin. The sudden wetness pressed against her neck finally made her snap back to her senses, She instinctively reached out to push him away.

“Don’t..”

However, she did not aim as well as she wanted and nearly shoved at his wounds once more. Just before her hands touched his chest, she swiftly moved her arms down so that she was shoving against his abdomen instead.

“Mo

While she did not hit his wounds, the place she touched drew an unrestrained moan from his lips.

He moaned....

Her cheeks were burning bright red as soon as she heard it.

“W–Why did you let out that noise?”

Unfortunately, Alaric did not find his reaction shameful. He pressed his hands against her fiery hands and hoarsely said, “Am I at fault? If you had been more careful with where you at these, I would not have done that.”

Flustered she usedly pulled back

2.89%

7.8

His les carved in a beautiful smile when he saw a pink flush spreading across her face.

Shy?’ he asked.

She immediately shoved him away. ‘I’m going to check on Nathan and Nicole.’”

She had only taken two steps when he called out to her once more.

“I will help you do what you wish to be done.”

Hearing that, she paused. What she wished to be done?

She could not resist turning around to look at him.

“What do you mean by that?”

“You want to know how Bane is doing, right?”

There was a bland look on his face as he calmly continued, “I’ve launched a thorough investigation into the matter. I’ll let you know when I have confirmed information on him.”

1205 Sat, Ju

Chapter 425 Of My Own Free wid

53

The entire time he spoke, she had been silently watching him, patiently waiting for him to finish speaking. She only spoke after he was done. “You don’t need to do that.”

She wanted to know if Bane was okay, but that did not mean she really wanted Alaric to

tell her about Bane. If their roles had been swapped, she would be in agonizing pain if

Alaric had asked her for news of Claudia.

It was the same logic.

“You don’t have to worry about that. I’m not doing this solely because of you.”

He stood up and walked over to her. “The two of us used to be friends. You are right.

Perhaps he has only turned into this twisted version of himself because of an

experience we do not know about. As an old friend of his, I can choose to look into that.”

He then held her hands. “I know that he has been the one to take care of you over the last five years. If possible, I don’t want to leave you disappointed.”

“I’m doing this out of my own free will.”

12:00

Chapter 427 Well Rescue Him Somehow

Chapter 427

Alaric swore to look into Bane’s situation for Victoria, including Ethan’s injuries.

His men worked fast.

The next morning, she received the latest update on Bane’s condition; he was hurt whereas Ethan had vanished.

“Vanished?” Victoria had a bad feeling when she heard that. Back when she was with Bane, Ethan had vanished for a few days and only reappeared when she asked after him. He had been severely injured back then.

She knew he was suffering from multiple injuries, but she did not know the details of those injuries.

It was not like she could pull his shirt up to check his wounds.

Later on, he let her go and even brought her to freedom. He would be met with no mercy from Bane when he returned.

I wonder how is he doing now?

1/7

Bane was also injured. Would that infuriate Bane further? Would he end up venting out

his anger on Ethan?

Chapter 427 Well Rescue Him Somehow

We are not in our home country. What if...

When that possibility popped up in her mind, she instinctively shot to her feet.

Alaric grabbed her hand. "Don't panic just yet."

His reminder made her pause and bite her lip. He was right. There was no use panicking. What could she even do to help?

"What do we do now?"

Her only option was to seek his opinion.

He pressed his lips together. "He helped you, so that means he helped me. Don't worry.

I'll rescue him somehow."

Terrance forced a smile on his face.

"Yes, Miss Selwyn. Don't worry. We'll keep finding a way."

She glanced at them before nodding.

"I'll leave him to you."

Two days had passed, yet there was no news of Ethan.

217

Chapter 427 We Rescue Him Somehow

He seemed to have vanished into thin air.

Victoria lost her appetite due to her worry.

For the past five years, Ethan was a constant presence by her side.

377

'I've been instructed by Mr. Morison to drive you home, Miss Selwyn. When do you clock

off?’

‘Mr. Morison asked me to bring this to you. Let me know when you’re free so that I can deliver it to you.’

‘Miss Selwyn, please leave the items to me. I’m here to help. If you refuse to let me carry

anything, Mr. Morison will admonish me.’

‘It’s raining today, Miss Selwyn. Remember to bring an umbrella with you. It’s also a very

cold day. Please put on a few more layers.’

Her memories of Ethan swam before her eyes, making them go red.

While he would always say he was doing it because Bane told him to, he had frankly helped her a lot. The last time they saw each other, the help he provided was the greatest ever.

If not for him, she would still be locked away.

The sight of her red rimmed eyes made Torrance nervous. He began to panic. “Don’t be upset, Miss Selwyn. Since he rescued you, he must have been ready for whatever would happen to him. He knew what the consequences would be, so…”

His voice drifted off. The more he spoke, the worse his words seemed to sound,

The air suddenly felt heavy.

Alaric was annoyed to see her upset over someone else. The hands hanging down by his sides clenched into fists before eventually relaxing once more.

“Don’t worry. Sometimes, no news is good news. At the very least, it’s not bad news, right?” Alaric said.

“Mr. Cadogan is right,” Terrance promptly agreed. “No news is actually the best news.

Don’t worry. We’ll keep up the search and rescue him the moment we find him. We’ll do our very best!”

Despite their fervent attempts to reassure her, her mood did not improve at all. She continued to lean against the window to blankly stare out into the distance.

She just did not get it. How did everything change so drastically? Everyone had been going about their days as usual. The situation was now worse than hell.

“What is it, Mommy?”

Chapter 427 We'll Rescue Him Somehow

Her children's voices pulled her mind back to the room.

She turned around to find the kids staring at her with worried eyes.

“Nate. Nicky.”

The two of them immediately darted over to cling to her sides.

“You've been very sad lately, Mommy.”

5/7

Yes... I am free now. Why am I still so upset? Well, it's likely because I do not have any closure yet.

However, there was no way she could let her distress show in front of her children.

Thus, she forced a smile on her face. “Oh, it's nothing. I was merely lost in my thoughts.

I'm not upset. Did I worry you?”

The children glanced at each other instead of answering her.

Nicole shuffled closer to her and softly asked, “Will we never see Mr. Bane again, Mommy?”

Victoria froze from shock at the sudden question. “What?”

Her heart skipped with fright when she heard that. She had not expected the children to mention Bane's name.

Chapter 427 Well Rescue Him Somehow

Thinking Victoria had not heard her, Nicole repeated her question.

“Mommy, will we never see Mr. Bane again? Did Mr. Bane do something bad to Mommy?”

Victoria was at a loss for words.

She looked down at the girl leaning against her. For a moment, she did not have an answer in mind.

Nathan was a smarter kid. When he heard Nicole repeat her question, he immediately dragged her away from Victoria.

“Nicole, let’s not pester Mommy about her business,” he said.

He then moved as if to drag her out of the room.

Victoria stopped them.

6/7

“The two of you are my precious babies. You only need to ask if you wish to know about something. There is nothing I won’t answer. Nate, I know you’re always being considerate of my feelings, but you are a child. You don’t have to prioritize my feelings every time, okay?”

“Mommy...”

Chapter 427 Well Rescue Him Somehow.

7/7

“All right.” She pinched their cheeks and gently continued, “I now have an actual answer for the question you asked just now. I do not know if we can ever see Mr. Bane again, but I can tell you that he has fallen sick. Perhaps we’ll see him again when he gets better.”

Sick?

“When will he get better, Mommy?” Nicole asked.

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Sick?

“When will he get better, Mommy?” Nicole asked.

Her innocent question was another difficult question for Victoria to answer.

“I’m not too sure, but I know he will get better,” she eventually said.

One

had to have hope, right? She personally wanted Bane to get better soon. That way,

life would be normal once more.

12:06 Sat, 8 Jul GO

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

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12:06 Sat, 8 Jul GO

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

Chapter 428

After Victoria’s explanation, Nathan and Nicole now believed that Bane was sick. Still, he would get better. When that happened, he would still be their Mr. Bane.

Their newfound knowledge clearly cheered them up. Just then, Alaric walked into the room. The children swiftly moved over to pester him.

1/8

Of course, their name for him had not changed due to the time spent together. To them,

he was still Mr. Night.

Nathan was still understandably restrained, but Nicole had no restraint at all. She immediately held her arms out in a demand to be carried.

Alaric did not think much of it. He promptly kneeled down before her.

Seeing that, Victoria hurried over.

“Nicole, he’s still hurt,” she said.

That made Nicole freeze in place. She dazedly stared at Alaric before shrinking back,

pulling away from him.

She even took a few steps back just to make sure he did not touch her.

Her reaction stunned Alaric. After a few moments of staring at her, he helplessly

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

chuckled. "It's only a minor wound. She's just a little kid. How would she hurt me any more than I already am?"

2/8

Victoria disagreed with him as she sternly declared, "No way. Nicole is a playful kid who loves to fidget."

While Nicole was not a heavy child, she still weighed something. Moreover, she loved to move around and fidget. What if she accidentally kicked his wound?

His injuries were so serious. Although they had healed nicely over the last few days, it would still be very painful if the wounds were reopened.

Victoria's explanation had Nicole maturely holding back from demanding to be carried by Alaric. When he continued to insist that he was fine, she kindly spoke up. "Mr. Night, I think it's better to wait until you're all healed up."

There was an obvious look of helplessness on his face as he remained on his knees.

"Very well. I'll carry you in a few days."

They were his children, so he wanted to spend more time with them.

While they still called him Mr. Night and might not even know that they were his kids, Nicole had been rather friendly to him. That was not the case with Nathan.

At that thought, Alaric turned to look at Nathan.

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

This boy had more thoughts lurking in his mind than Alaric had expected.

Just when would Nathan finally open his heart to Alaric?

Had he ever done so with Bane?

Alaric decided to have a proper chat with Nathan when he had the chance.

3/8

The moment he thought that, Nicole suddenly demanded Victoria go with her to check out the new clothes the servants had prepared for her the night before.

As Nicole was a girl, Nathan did not follow her as she led Victoria to her room.

Now, the only ones left in the room were Alaric and Nathan.

The chance had arrived.

Alaric gestured for him to come closer. "Nate."

Nathan was familiar with Alaric now. The wariness from before had slowly faded away until they could act naturally around each other. Otherwise, he would have left the room with Nicole and Victoria.

Thus, Nathan approached Alaric and obediently greeted, "Mr. Night."

Alaric patted the seat beside him, telling him to sit.

12:06 Sat, 8 Jul G

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Chapter 42B Rivals in Love

Nathan did not reject the suggestion and immediately sat next to Alaric.

He might be a young boy, but he was a smart kid. He could sense that Alaric had something to say to him.

"Nate," Alaric said.

He looked down at Nathan. His voice was calm and relaxed as though they were only

engaging in small talk.

“Can I ask you something?”

Nathan nodded and asked back, “What would you like to ask?”

“Do you think I am worthy of being your and Nicole’s father?”

The question was if Alaric was worthy, not if Nathan was willing to accept him as a father.

Nathan was a very knowledgeable child despite his age. Hence, he swiftly understood what Nathan meant by that. It took him a while before he finally responded, “Th–That depends on Mommy.”

“I am asking about you. Putting your mother’s opinion aside, what do you really think? Do you think I am good enough?”

4/8

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

Nathan silently stared back.

“Don’t be scared,” Alaric said, placing a hand on Nathan’s shoulder. His voice was unusually warm and sweet. “Just tell me the truth.”

What Nathan wanted to say would absolutely be offensive to Alaric. Yes, Alaric had done a lot for them and even watched the children’s streams.

5/2

The name “Silent Night” held a lot of influence over the kids. If a stranger had admitted to being their biological father but was not “Silent Night,” would they have accepted that man into their lives so soon?

They would not since the man would feel very distant from them.

The psychological distance was a very vital part of any relationship.

Getting used to something was also a life-changing matter for most people.

For example, Nathan and Nicole were used to having a man named “Silent Night” who would watch every single one of their streams, rain or shine. He would always shower them with donations and gifts.

They had grown used to that life and the presence of that name in their lives.

Hence, the moment Alaric appeared and made himself known as “Silent Night“, he had carved for himself an irreplaceable spot in the children’s hearts.

12:06 Sat, 8 Jul GO

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

However, that was exactly why...

Nathan shook his head.

“If I have to tell the truth, then it’s a no.”

Alaric had expected that answer.

89%

6/8

As he had expected Nathan’s answer, he did not feel disappointed or anything negative.

With a calm look on his face, he gazed down at Nathan.

“Can you tell me what I need to do to change that?”

Nathan’s eyes darted up to look at him before looking away. He shook his head. “I don’t know.”

“You don’t know?”

“Yes.” Nathan nodded. “Mr. Night, I think that when you are good enough, Mommy will absolutely accept you into the family.”

His response stunned Alaric.

Why did he not think of that? The moment he was worthy of being their father, Victoria would naturally ask the children to accept him.

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

Still...

“That means you are still keeping your mother’s opinions in mind, right?”

In the end, they were back to the same point.

“Mommy is the only family member Nicole and I have. Of course, we care what she thinks.”

7/8

That was also true. Victoria raised them by herself. It was natural for them to only care about her opinions.

“Hm,” he hummed in response.

Alaric was unwilling to give up just yet. “What do you think then? What if you compare me to... Mr. Bane?”

Despite being only five years old, Nathan finally realized what was going on.

This was the actual question Alaric had wanted to ask.

Back when he was in school, he once witnessed two men get jealous over a female teacher they liked. They would constantly compare themselves against each other.

Finally, they would fight each other with their fists.

Mr. Night wants to get together with Mommy, and so does Mr. Bane. Thus, they are

Chapter 428 Rivals in Love

rivals in love. It is normal for rivals to compare themselves against each other, right?

8

Chapter 429

1/6

Those thoughts... If I told Mr. Night I prefer Mr. Bane over him, would he... While thinking

of that, Nathan replied frankly, "Mr. Bane has been with us for longer."

At that, Alaric felt his breath hitch. "So-"

"But you frequently watch our live streams and always send us rewards."

The last sentence made Alaric, who had just calmed down, become nervous again. He thought he was already out of the game when Nathan first spoke but did not expect Nathan to change tones again. It was agonizing for him.

"So?" Alaric was a nervous wreck when he asked that question. He would never have guessed he cared so much about a kid's thoughts, afraid the kid would choose someone other than him.

"So..." Nathan deliberately dragged his words because he was intrigued when he saw Alaric's breath hitching. Then, he tilted his head and continued, "So it's a tie between you *and* Mr. Bane."

A tie? Alaric was stunned. "How could it be a tie?"

▯

"Mr. Night, do you think you will lose to Mr. Bane?"

Alaric pursed his lips and said nothing because that was indeed his thoughts. After all,

Chapter 429 Why Would She Force Him

he had not been a part of their lives for several years. Companionship was the key to lasting emotions and the most heartwarming thing to a family.

2/6

After thinking about it, he smiled slightly as he patted Nathan's head, gently cooing, "I'm

very happy to hear that.”

Once he finished, Nicole had already finished changing and returned with Victoria.

Therefore, the conversation between the two males ended.

wh

A tie was already a very satisfactory answer for Alaric at the moment because it meant he would soon overtake Bane’s position in the two children’s hearts. He was suddenly grateful for his decision to keep watching the children’s live stream.

That afternoon, Victoria received news that her passport and other documents were ready, which meant she could buy flight tickets and prepare to return home.

However, there was still no news of Ethan, and Bane was also injured. She was reluctant to leave those matters hanging and return home.

Noticing her internal conflict, Alaric assured her, “You return home first while I stay here to deal with those matters. The children have to go to school.”

“You’re going to stay here?” Victoria frowned. “Why are you staying here? Aren’t your matters almost settled?”

Chapter 429 Why Would She Force Him

promised you I would help you save Mr. Hudson, so I will keep my promise.”

At first, Victoria was already feeling somewhat guilty when she saw Alaric helping her deal with her matters while still injured, but now that he mentioned he was going to stay for longer, she felt even more uneasy.

“Come on. I’ll buy you tickets for tonight. Terrance will be returning with you, and he’ll be personally protecting you before I return. Also, don’t stay in your previous home anymore. Move into my home. Terrance will arrange for bodyguards to protect your safety twenty–four–seven.”

Although he would not be returning home with them, he had already arranged for everything.

3/6

Meanwhile, Victoria listened to his every piece of advice, and the more she listened, the

more distraught she felt. She couldn't help but bite her lips and ask, "Can't you leave the matters here to someone else?"

"What if that someone can't deliver? If it hadn't been for that guy, I might need to exert even more effort to find you."

Even though he would find her eventually, who could guarantee what might really happen before it happened?

"Alright." Seeing her biting her lips, Alaric hugged her frail body. "Stop thinking about it.

Chapter 429 Why Would She Force Him

Since I've decided to stay behind, it means I have confidence that I will succeed."

"But... you shouldn't be doing these things in the first place."

4/6

"Snowball." Alaric coaxed her, "No one should or should not do something. It's always whether they are willing to do it. If you feel sorry that I have to stay behind, why don't you consider giving me a proper identity after I return?"

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Victoria immediately understood that he was referring to how the children addressed him. He wanted the children to call him 'Daddy' instead of 'Mr. Night.' Does it mean he did all this just to realize that tiny wish?

When she thought of that, she was surprised. "Aren't you going to tell them?"

However, Alaric smiled and did not answer her question. Instead, he coaxed, "I won't be seeing them later, and if they want to see me, they will have to wait until next time. When we do see each other again, I hope you've decided to give me preferential treatment, and they won't call me 'Mr. Night' anymore." As for what they would be addressing him, he thought he had made his intentions very clear.

"Go on."

Before Victoria could contemplate further, Alaric ushered her back to her room to pack her things.

Chapter 429 Why Would She Force Him

Afterward, Alaric left. Perhaps the thought of separating made him feel sad, so he did not stay with her.

5/6

She was alone in the large room. While looking around the empty space and thinking about how he would be staying here to continue the search for Ethan, she gradually felt lonely and desolate.

When the two children found out they were about to return home, they cheered excitedly and even started discussing visiting Fiona once they returned and how much they missed school.

Since the plane was due to depart at 9.00PM, they had four hours left. Therefore, they had dinner together as usual, but when Victoria and the children came downstairs, they did not see Alaric anywhere. They were the only ones there.

Victoria couldn't help but ask, "Where is he?"

Terrance replied respectfully, "Mr. Cadogan went out to deal with some matters, and he asked that you eat without him."

He went out? And it just has to be at this moment? The children and I are leaving tonight, yet he pretends he's fine this afternoon. Victoria felt it was fine if he did not return with them, but skipping dinner with them made her feel at a loss.

99

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Chapter 429 Why Would She Force Him

The innocent Nicole could not help but ask after hearing that, "Why did he leave, Mr. Levane? What is Mr. Night up to? Doesn't he need to eat?"

When faced with the child's innocent question, Terrance did not know how to lie, so he looked away and pretended not to know anything. "I'm not sure about that. He did not tell me anything when he left."

Victoria looked at him and watched as he touched his nose after explaining, seeming very guilty. It seemed like he was not a good liar.

After secretly sighing, Victoria ignored Terrance and continued eating. Since he did not want to be with them before they left, why would she force him to do so?

Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave

Chapter 430

Like what Victoria expected, Alaric was still a no-show even when they were almost done with their meal, and the food had gone cold.

Also, there was only one hour left before they had to leave for the airport.

After Victoria led the children upstairs and into their room, Nicole asked, "Mommy, where's Mr. Night? When will he be returning?"

But when Victoria answered the question, she mimicked Terrance and said, "Like Mr. Levane, I have no idea. He didn't tell me where he was going and what he would be

doing either, so I would not know when he would return.”

Hearing that, Nicole let out a gentle “Oh” while frowning, seeming frustrated. “Then would Mr. Night not show up at the airport either? Does that mean we will not see Mr. Night at all today?”

1/6

Not wanting to give the children too much hope, Victoria said, “Yes. There’s a possibility that it will happen. Mr. Night is a busy man, and once he’s done with his work, he’ll visit us at home.”

If she put it that way, the children would not be hoping to see Alaric before they board the plane and would be looking forward to returning home instead. That way, they would not feel disappointed.

Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave

Indeed, Nicole was convinced and did not ask about it again.

An hour later, Terrance knocked on the door. “Miss Selwyn, it’s time to leave for the airport.”

They had to leave early because they were far from the airport and there might be heavy traffic on the way, so Victoria immediately responded after hearing Terrance’s voice. “We’re coming.”

After that, she grabbed her suitcase and beckoned the children. “Let’s go.”

The children towed their mini suitcases and followed behind her.

216

Once the door opened, Terrance came forward to help Victoria with her luggage before helping the children with theirs.

It was not something special, but Victoria immediately associated this scene with the

times Ethan helped her.

During those times, Ethan would help her and her children with their luggage whenever he was around. It had been several days, yet she knew nothing about his situation. She did not expect to leave without any news of him and hoped he was doing well. At least... She hoped he was still alive.

After taking their suitcases, Terrance suggested to the children, "Do you want a ride on

12:26

Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave

the suitcase? I can push you around."

Children usually loved that, so the two immediately let Terrance help them onto the suitcase and let Terrance push them around.

3/6

Terrance had to push the suitcase with the children on top and grab another suitcase with his empty hand, so Victoria was left with one suitcase. It was Nathan's mini suitcase, so it was not heavy. Victoria easily towed it behind her while slowly following behind the others.

Since she was walking fairly slowly, she gradually fell behind the others.

Seeing that she was growing further away from them, she wanted to speed up her pace

when a door in the hallway suddenly opened, and a long arm grabbed her shoulder. She

was pulled inside the room before she could realize what was happening.

At that instant, she felt her heart skip a beat, thinking that it was someone Bane had sent to capture her and bring her back. She unconsciously tried to scream, but that person seemed to have sensed what she was about to do and covered her mouth

before she could.

“Hmm.” Victoria’s scream instantly turned into a groan.

The lights were not on, so the room was in complete darkness. Also, the door was closed right after she was pulled inside, so she could only make out a tall figure with Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave the faint light coming in from the window.

Victoria could not determine who it was, and her hands and feet were restrained, rendering her unable to move until that man relaxed his grip on her mouth.

Then, Victoria seized the chance to scream, but the man before her was quicker and leaned in to kiss her. His rough, warm breath fell onto her cheeks, and she finally recognized the smell of his breath. It was...

Shock flashed across her face, and before she could react, she felt her lips being pried open to deepen the kiss.

While they were kissing, they could smell each other with every breath, and Victoria even noticed a strong nicotine smell.

Was Alaric... smoking? I thought he didn’t smoke. Why did he suddenly start smoking?

Feeling a sharp pain on her lips, she regained her senses and heard the man pinning her to the door complain, “Were you distracted just now? Don’t tell me you were thinking about him?”

Who is he talking about? Victoria was confused for a while and finally understood which “him” the man was referring to when she felt his thin lips touching hers again. However, she realized too late and had no chance to answer his question. Therefore, the kiss became harsher and more arrogant as he tried to take over her mouth.

Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave

5/6

In the end, Victoria's neck was raised high, and she was almost forced to accept Alaric's kiss.

"Uhm..." Feeling suffocated, she unconsciously groaned, reaching up to push his chest.

But the man before her seemed to feel like this was not enough and grabbed her wrist while she pushed him. Then, he pulled her hand behind him, making her hug his waist. After she was forced to hug his waist, they continued to kiss, and the temperature in the room gradually increased.

Once they finished, Victoria felt like her eardrums were filled with water, and her mind was dizzy as she felt exhausted, needing to lean against Alaric to stabilize herself.

Meanwhile, Alaric was currently gently panting into her ear. His breaths sounded more labored than the last, causing her to blush. It was just a kiss, but why was he panting like something else had happened?

At that thought, Victoria gently bit her lips and pushed him, asking, "Didn't you leave for work and decide not to return? Didn't you decide not to see me again? What is the meaning of this?"

It would have been fine if Victoria did not speak, but when she did, she discovered her voice sounded gentle as water with a hint of delicateness.

Once she was done speaking, she subconsciously pursed her lips, not daring to speak

Chapter 430 Reluctant to Let You Leave

again.

6/6

The man beside her did not respond and continued panting. It took him a while before

speaking up in his raspy voice. "I was afraid I won't let you leave if I see you off."

After saying that, he tightened his arms around her and dug his face into the crook of her neck, greedily breathing in her scent. "Just like this."

When Victoria heard that, she felt her heart skip a beat as her hands slowly crept up his body. She took the initiative to lean into his arms. Did he refuse to see me because he was reluctant to let me leave? Was it the same situation with the two children as well?

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